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IMB WOLLONGONG LIONS: Round 8

Premier Division

Wollongong Lions 8-5-53
East Coast Eagles 19-19-133

The Seniors boys travelled to Bruce Purser Reserve looking forward to the challenge of taking on the previously undefeated East Coast Eagles. We were met by cold and miserable conditions as a light drizzle set in during the final quarter of the First Division game. Our first quarter was not too bad as we kicked 2 goals into the wind and managed to play at a higher intensity than our more fancied rivals. The first 20 minutes of the second quarter saw the boys play some wonderful attacking footy as we got within 4 goals of the Eagles on the back of some great ball use by Michael Toussis and excellent forward line pressure from Duane Jefferis, Tom Heath and Jeremy McInnes. Unfortunately, injuries to Alex MacKenzie, Daniel McClure, Dave Gardner and Mal Picken left us with no bench half-way through the second quarter, and a couple of late cheapies to the Eagles seemed to take the wind out of the sails a little bit as we headed into the main break 37 points down. Predictably, our lack of manpower and a soggy

track led to a significant drop off in the third quarter, as the Eagles kicked away to a 71 point lead at the final change. Pleasingly, the boys stuck at the task admirably to maintain the effort until the final siren. The final margin was 80 points. As a spectator on the sideline this week, I can honestly say that the final margin did not honestly reflect the closeness of the game, nor did it do justice to the effort of the 18 fit guys we finished up with. Adam McConnochie was inspirational across half-back, as he racked up thousands of possessions. Michael Dombroski got back some of the form that saw him finish in the top 3 in last year's B&F, whilst Chad had another top game in the middle. Special mention to Guy Bartlett who manfully rucked for most of the day, and produced a fine display of tap-work. Hopefully the week off will see a number of boys return to the side, and we can take on Campbelltown confident of causing an upset. Thanks also to Doug Sweeney and Ryan Woodward for sticking it out in the cold to run water for the boys!

First Division

Wollongong Lions 2-3-15
East Coast Eagles 23-22-160

Unfortunately, the boys could not make in 3 in a row as they were mercilessly despatched by a red-hot Eagles outfit. Despite playing some good footy in patches throughout the day, the boys were simply powerless to stop an extremely



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well-drilled, and ferocious Eagles side. Again, a lack of fit players in the second half meant the result turned into quite a blow-out by the final siren, but the commitment shown at the contest throughout the day could not be faulted. The back six was constantly under siege, but stood up as well as could be expected, given the almost constant stream of quality ball being delivered by the Eagles' onballers. Kyle Prout, Nick Mitchell, Ryan Woodward, and Doug Sweeney were all named in the best, as they thwarted a number of forward thrusts. Matty Brunton and Scotty Hancock tried hard in the middle, whilst Sam Jenner did a good job on livewire forward Tim Kear. The boys need to regroup now and look to this week's challenging fixture against Manly as a great chance to redeem themselves. Good luck also to coach Sam Lewis who departs for a European adventure in the coming days, enjoy the trip Toucs! Pete Veerhuis and Michael Love will assume the coaching reins until Sam returns later in the year.

Under 18s

Wollongong Lions 3.7 25
East Coast Eagles 21.5 131

Mal Picken gets a senior's call up, Aiden Riley out, Michael Moss sleeps in and misses his lift, Blake Schneider ends up in Blacktown and Jake Barber is a no show. Things seemed ominous from the start for coach Siely. East Coast ran with the wind in the first quarter and absolutely dominated the young lions with their pace, skill

and commitment kicking 6.1 to our solitary 0.1. The second quarter started promisingly for the young lions with three quick goals however, the Eagles quickly regained their composure and replied with four. At the long break we were down 10.3 to 3.3. In the third quarter the Eagles put the game away kicking 7.2 to our solitary behind. The final quarter was a slight improvement but all in all we were totally outclassed. The game saw the return of Kale Temple from injury and he performed well especially as the loose man in the backline. Captain Ryan Wells worked hard all day as did the non-stop Jack Mahoney. Luke Rutter once again had a good game at Centre Half Back. Mark Mura was busy on the wing. Rufus Picken and BJ Hogan had their hands full at the back but the young guns stood up and did well. Ru & BJ are the youngest members of this club but their commitment and toughness are evident. The boys now stand at 4 and 3 but should finish the first round at 6 and 3 with games against Riverview at Henson Park on Wednesday night and Campbelltown at North Dalton on the 14th. Whilst saying that, the young lions are presently the top tier 2 side but 100 points a game behind the top tier sides. They will make the finals however; will they be contenders or also rans, something to think about boys. Best on Ground: Kale Temple, Jack Mahoney, Mark Mura and Rufus Picken.



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Catch Up Game : Under 18s

Wollongong Lions 7.14 56
Riverview 3. 3 21

The young lions journeyed to Henson Park on a wet and miserable Wednesday night to play a deferred Round 2 game against the lads from St Ignatius. It's been a long time since the boys have had to play wet weather football and coach Siely's instructions were numbers to the ball and go in over the ball. The Riverview boys were obviously given the same instructions as both sides went vigorously at a wet and slippery pill. Scoring was at a premium and any goal was worth at least three in the conditions. The young lions managed three behinds before the ever loose Trent Hurst nailed one and the boys went to quarter time having scored 1.3 to Nil. The second quarter started much the same as the first until Riverview scored three goals in about five minutes. However the boys steadied and kicked 2.4 for the quarter to take a six point lead to the long break. The third quarter was a war of attrition with both sides trying to bomb long in attack and flood their fifties in defence. The result was a lot of ball movement and very little scoring with the young lions kicking 2 behinds and Riverview 1. In the final quarter, coach Siely made the move that ultimately won us the game moving Mitch Thomson from Centre Half Back to the Ruck. Mitch gave us good clean ball and the boys did the rest kicking 4.5 to Riverview's one behind to seal a 35 point victory. Mitch

Thomson showed the strength and courage expected of a first grader and was ably assisted by the tough Taylor Bell and young Rufus Picken on the half back line. Jack Mahoney as usual ran himself into the ground trying to move us forward. Young Mark Mura showed great commitment and determination in the back pocket, a position he would not be used to playing. Best on Ground: Mitch Thomson, Jack Mahoney, Taylor Bell and Rufus Picken.

Thanks again to Ross Picken for these reports!!

Lions News and Reviews

Lions Ball 2009

The Lions Ball will be held in the function room at the Wollongong Tennis Club on June the 20th after our home game against UNSW/ES. This year only 100 tickets will be sold, so it is hoped that all the boys can make it along (with a friend) to help sell out the night. Tickets must be paid for before reservations on tables can be made, so get your money in this week to ensure that you get the table you want!! See Christian Milky Van Reede or Doug Sweeney during the week to buy your tickets. Super-rad DJ Dave Gardner will be supplying the music on the night, which no doubt will involve various renditions of Nickleback songs and calls for Kenny to get up and bust a few out!! Also, the night marks the return of prodigal sons Troy Bartlett and Harry



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Bown, another reason to make sure you're paid up and involved.

Footy Trip

Flights to Cairns are at an all time high, so footy trip convenor Doug Sweeney is now taking suggestions as to alternative venues. My calls to take the trip to Albury (specifically Table Top) seem to have fallen on deaf ears!! Other suggestions so far include Gold Coast, Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide, Coffs, or as a roughie, New Zealand somewhere. I'm sure Doug would love any suggestions, and also expressions of interest if you plan on joining us on this wonderful trip in October. Always a guaranteed laugh, and it proves to be a great way to finish off the footy season!

Uni Holidays

With uni holidays just around the corner, it is imperative that students inform the club of their availability for upcoming matches. This time of year always sees the club short of a few players, so do the right thing and let Trev, Sam, and Siels plan ahead with team selections.

Go Lions!!

Jimmy Weavers



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