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IMB WOLLONGONG LIONS ROUND 3 NEWSLETTER 2008

SENIORS

Wollongong Lions 12.17 (89)
North Shore Bombers 9.9 (63)

YEAHHH BOYYYY. The boys got their first win up for the year against North Shore at the weekend. The Bombers were obviously spewing about the change of venue, which saw them hit the road and take us on at North Dalton Park. We came out firing from the first bounce and jumped away to a 4 goal to zip lead going into the first change. The next two quarters were a mixture of good defensive pressure and pure frustration as we kicked 5.11, which really should have been more like 11.5. Had we kicked straight the game would have been iced by 3-quarter time leaving the Bombers with little more than a sombre trip back up the hill. And despite conceding 3 goals within 5 minutes at the start of the final term, Graeme Batty got his kicking boots (and his creative side) out, kicking two brilliant banana goals from the south western pocket, one from a set shot and another on the run! That was enough to kill off the Bombers chances paving the way for the loudest version of the Lions song heard in many years. However, the fact remains that the margin should never dropped below 10 goals after half time.

From our perspective, Troy Bartlett recaptured the work rate he produced all pre-season providing the focal point our midfield needs. Michael Dombroski and Adam McConnochie were superb through midfield, as was Pete Murphy in his first game of the year. Sam Dowling also returned to form across half forward along with Michael Toussis who hit the ball hard and with purpose. And the man mountain that is James Weavers got his leather addiction back, getting plenty of the pill despite sore ribs and a badly corked thigh. Tom Heath produced a workman like performance in the ruck, again proving that he was a handy pick up from St George. No doubt Tom will have his eye on a win against the Crows in two weeks time.

ROUND 4 PREVIEW

Now they say winning is contagious and momentum comes with confidence, so we can only hope the boys realise that despite being 1-2, the form line is actually quite good. Wests have started well, knocking off Pennant Hills to record their second victory for 2008, whilst Sydney Uni are the only undefeated team left after three rounds. Once again I must stress that the competition is shaping as quite even outside of



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Campbelltown and Balmain. That means the opportunity to play finals football is there if we can get our heads right. Anyway, I've been diagnosed with winning fever so I hope it catches on. UNSW/ES were looking hot heading into their game against St George but found themselves on the end of a 45-point touch up. So that's either the beginning of a form slump or a reason to be wary this weekend at Village Green. Either way, if we don't turn up with our heads well and truly screwed on, the 4 points may as well be a mirage.

RESERVE GRADE

Wollongong Lions	11.4 (70)
North Shore Bombers	14.8 (92)

A big congrats to Pete Veerhuis who racked up his 200th senior club game, ending the game with a limp and on the wrong side of an absolute nail bitter.

Fact is, the reserves didn't look anything like a football side until half way through the last quarter when without even realising it they had managed to get within a kick of the lead. Unfortunately close enough is never really good enough to get the four points against quality opposition. North Shore ran out the game better in red time, kicking three unanswered goals to get away with the chocolates. That left Pete V without a win to line the stomach in preparation for some celebratory shandies. The positive for new coaching duo Sam Lewis and Doug

Sweeney is that they have plenty of quality footballers running around, who are yet to gel as a TEAM.

That said, Harry Bown had another outstanding game playing across... well I don't know where H-Bomb was playing but I think the position suited him. New recruit Nick Mitchell had an excellent game in defence showing off his impressive foot skills and leadership ability. Justin Ayre had taken his angry pills before the first bounce, always a good sign, having a destructive game through midfield where he was supported by the left footed wheeler and dealer himself, Drew 'RIG' Holmes. That old war horse Brad Ainsworth made the most of his chances in front of goal slotting 4 majors. But the best performance came from Chris Maidment who in his first EVER game of football banged through two of the best, impressing the coaches and onlookers with his awareness. UNSW/ES are always strong in the two's so the lads will need to bring a more co-ordinated team effort to be in with a shot come go time in the final quarter.

U18's

Wollongong Lions	10.7 (67)
North Shore Bombers	10.8 (68)

There's nothing more disappointing than being close enough, good enough and having enough chances to bury the game without registering a win. The seniors tasted it against Sydney Uni



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and against North Shore, it was the young cubs turn to suck on those lemons.

After playing some impressive but rather patchy football, the boys went into the final change with a slender two point margin. A tense last quarter was guaranteed as the wind picked up and North Shore looked to come home with a wet sail. A number of chances went begging and despite the opposition bricking most of their chances to win the game, the final margin was only 1 point. Despite the loss Grant Stylianou was at his bullocking best, taking every opportunity to palm someone off or even kick an uncharacteristic goal. Ryan Wells played another controlling game across half forward where he was supported by Brendan Potter who got in and under like a champ. In the guts, Mitch Daly ran about a thouuusand km's racking up numerous possessions both inside and outside. Down back one of the other 15 Mitch's, Mitch Thomson had an excellent game, taking the points against his opponent by the length of the straight. Both Mitch's are light on kilograms but strong on heart which should stand them in good stead as they mature into senior footballers.

The Lions head up to the north shore on Sunday to take on St Ignatius Riverview who are often unpredictable but always hard at the footy. Good luck lads, hopefully you'll be the third leg of a Wollongong Lions Anzac weekend treble.

NOW FOR CAKE AND A CHAT WITH ...THE H-BOMMMMMMMBBBBB.

TARGET: Shane Davis

It was a massive weekend for the club celebrating its first win in 1st grade for the home and away season and a big occasion in reserve grade with Peter Veerhuis celebrating his 200th game for the club. In a chat I had with him before the game I learnt that since coming to the club and debuting in the under 20's he has played predominately first grade his whole career. So big ups to the man I like to call 'Peter VVVVVVVVVV'. After Pete dogged training like a dog I pondered who I would profile instead and a man who had caught my eye since coming to the club over the pre-season was 21 year old Shane "Nolesy" Davis who thankfully agreed to have a word and some cake.

Shane was born and bred in Condobolin, Central NSW. He attended both primary and high school there before moving to Canberra to play AFL for the Belconnen Magpies where he quickly moved through the ranks to 1st grade. Rumour has it, that he may of left Condobolin after getting word of a paternal nature from a woman of interest and feared the sight of "little Shane's running around". But then he remembered he only held hands with her so she was clearly kidding herself. Either way, Shane felt it time to make a move and relocated to sunny Canberra (not cold and depressing at all). In Canberra, Shane worked for the AFL as a development officer



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working at predominately school AFL clinics before securing a job at the IMB (not IBM!) in sales and marketing. Fortunately for us, his opinion of Canberra wasn't high and after reasoning that it was "a bit of a hole" he got a transfer to a Wollongong branch of the IMB. So now it's all suits, ties, mortgages and playing football for the Lions. Although only having seen limited game time from all our players his smokey to take a big hanger this year is none other than Jimmy Weavers and sees Troy Bartlett's all round effort on the field as a par for all the boys. In the AFL, he supports the mighty Sydney Swans and after growing up idolising Gary Ablett, now reckons that Chris Judd is pretty damn slick on the footy field.

His Ultimate meal would be a Jagerbomb (or 5) and steak and is a MASSIVE FAN of going 2 from 2 with newly found Lions buddy Brad Patterson's shirt. I'm Harry saying "GET MASSIVE" (like Macca).

ALL FEES WERE due prior to Round 1. A previous poor record of getting fees paid on time has forced the committee to crack down on serial offenders. Consequences for un-financial players will now be addressed via the weekly award eligibility rules. Basically, if you haven't paid yet it means two things. Firstly, you won't receive any club uniform until you do pay. Secondly, any money won via the weekly awards will be with held to pay off the debt you have to the club. The bottom line: **PAY NOW.**

USELESS TRIVIA

For no real reason other than to get people excited about celebratory drinks, Steve Rowland decided to compile a little club games played list. And in light of Pete V's 200th last weekend we thought we'd alert people of some upcoming milestones. So if I was Brad Patterson I might have an axe to grind but you only get a banner for 100 senior games Patto so keep battling (end of 2009 by my calculations if you stay injury free).

Total Club Games (including Under 18's, Reserves & Seniors)

Brad Ainsworth	266
Pete Veerhuis	200
Jade Collyer	191
Brad Patterson	101
Adam Patterson	92

Adam 'my glands are sore' Patterson started as a 14 year-old "manchild" and his total includes a whopping club record 53 games in the Under 18's.



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