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IMB WOLLONGONG LIONS ROUND 6 NEWSLETTER 2008

SENIORS

Wollongong Lions	8.15 (63)
Balmain	19.13 (127)

In all honesty I don't really want to mull over what was an extremely disappointing loss. As a group, the players are being open and honest about what needs to change in order to move forward. There are two schools of thought; the first is that a team is only as good as its last game. The second is that a team shouldn't be judged on one poor performance, regardless of how poor it is. I favour the latter, which I think reflects the evolving nature of our club culture and our on field cohesion. With mistakes come lessons learnt and the boys will move on from this as better footballers.

I will mention the effort of Guy Bartlett, a reluctant first grade footballer to say the least who made the best of his first senior game with some excellent work in the ruck, basically winning every centre tap. Brad Patterson (team of the week) and Michael Dombrovski battled hard to generate movement ahead of them and Chris Hally-Burton enjoyed an extended crack on a half back flank.

With a truck load of players carrying injuries, the week off couldn't of come at a better time as the whole club looks forward to again seeing the type of football we're capable of against East Coast under lights at NDP on Saturday week.

RESERVE GRADE

Wollongong Lions	10.21 (81)
Balmain	10.8 (68)

Despite having 13 more scoring shots than their opposition the reserves managed to just scrape home with a 13 point win, clearly not good for the stress levels that would be tested later in the afternoon. In saying that, it was good to see the boys get a win after a swagger of near misses over the last three rounds. The midfield was able to get on top for most of the game, providing good service for a sprightly Brad Ainsworth who led all around the forward 50 and finished with 3 goals.

The midfield trio of Duane Jefferis, Jade Collyer and Drew Holmes all had season best games, extracting the ball well and delivering with composure. Jade Collyer especially produced a vintage display winning countless centre clearances. Down back Pete Veerhuis was again



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solid as a rock, providing excellent support for Nick Mitchell who took a number of quality marks when Balmain was looking dangerous.

Whilst the seniors have the weekend off, the reserves have got an intriguing game against Western Suburbs at Picken Oval. The league has not placed any restrictions on senior players being selected in reserve grade teams, meaning both teams could be significantly stronger than if their respective senior sides were in action. With a few players either coming back from injury or seeking some much needed game time, the reserves should be well and truly stocked with talent. Hopefully these players can give the lift the reserves need against quality opposition.

U18's

Wollongong Lions	19.20 (134)
Balmain	4.4 (28)

The U18's had another good win against Balmain, adding to their impressive tally of victories so far this season. And although they were wasteful in front of goal, that was more to do with the inevitable crowding that comes with simply having too much of the footy. A major positive was the performance of some of the younger brigade, who really stepped up to competition at the premier U18 level.

In this vein, Jack Mahony produced a dominant display in midfield, taking up the role of number one ball winner after Paul Balding was elevated

to the senior side. Jack gathered numerous possessions and his composure in contested situations bodes well for the future. In addition, Ben Hyndes and Luke Boatswain had their best games for the year, Luke getting lots of the footy and Ben taking some nice grabs up forward. Mitchy Thomson had another strong game in defence while usual backline bandits Chris Cook and Grant Stylianou snuck forward to kick a pair each.

With Ryan Wells and Aiden Riley due back from injury (although Mitch Daly has a sore knee) the U18's should be in a strong position to extend their run up the ladder against Wests, who are just sitting out of the Top 5.

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

Jade "Jado" Collier Profile

With H-Bombs player profile surprisingly side-stepping the axe from those running the newsletter for the 4th time I decided it was time to have a bundy with one of the older boys; meaning anyone over the age of 25 at the Lions. The man in the spotlight this week is well known for winning the hard-ball in the guts and 'trudging' around the ground picking up stacks of quality touches.

The bloke in question is of course club legend Jade Collier.



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Jade was born in Geelong, Victoria and attended Primary and Secondary schools in Rochester, a small town in the northern Goulburn Valley region of Victoria. Jade described himself as a bit of a deviant through his youth and fondly remembers “knocking off his old man’s ute a few times” and incidents such as “driving with an intoxicated friend, hitting a large truck head on then running into a paddock only to get away Scot free as the friend was taken away by police”.

Luckily for us Jade survived his childhood and went in to plumbing straight out of high school where evidently, “the money’s pretty good” says Jade, and this is why he remains in the profession to this day.

Jade moved to Grafton for a very short period of time after moving away from Victoria and then swiftly to Corrimal in the Gong where he still lives with his wife of five years and two kids. Jade has been an Essendon or “the mighty dons” (as my dad constantly reminds me) supporter his whole life, which ironically is also about the length of Kevin Sheedy’s coaching career at the club.

Jade joined the Wollongong Lions in 1996 (actually the same year as I joined the club in the under 10’s) and had played 193 first and reserve grade games predominately in the midfield which includes a grand final win and I’m told “a bloody lot of runner up best and fairest awards” for the club.

He fondly remembers the days when the Lions were an annual finals force (lets help him remember this again) and he remembers in particular the 2004 grand final win and a very bad preliminary final loss to Sydney University in 2002.

In 2008 Jade expects, like the rest of us, for Shermey to sit on someone’s head in a marking contest and has great admiration for the way both “Massive!” Macca and the Sherminator go about their business on the field. However as a few of the older boys would probably agree they have a lot of work to do before they are compared to a bloke Jade has a lot of respect for, Trevor Burnett, who I’m told was a hard nut and a straight up massive gun with a Sherrin in his hand.

Finally Jade’s ultimate meal would be a Lamb Roast with a cold can of gods milk, Bundy and Coke. Unfortunately since the introduction of the new liquor taxes this meal has gone up around 70%, Thanks K- Rudd.

Until next week I’m H Bizzle saying, “Get your umpire heckling on no matter what the situation is, it’s just one of life’s musts”. (H-Bomb’s views in no way reflect the views of the Lions committee or newsletter writer)

FOOTY TRIP

Reserve Grade assistant coach Douglas Sweeney would like to remind everyone that the date for footy trip has been set for the October long



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weekend. So if you've got a thesis due or elective surgery or a hot date you'll have to put it on hold or miss out. Proposed locations include Airlie Beach, Byron Bay and Surfers. Douglas needs all punters planning to attend to pay a \$100 deposit to him before the game against Pennant Hills on 15th of June. Doug organised a great trip last year so if want a piece of the pie, get in early and confirm your place!



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