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IMB WOLLONGONG LIONS: Round 11

Premier Division Seniors

Wollongong Lions **14-13-97**
Balmain **12-11-83**

Our win on the weekend against Balmain dragged us off the bottom of the ladder for the first time in 2 seasons, so congratulations to everyone involved in this great win! The early signs weren't good as Balmain came out and played with greater ferocity and enthusiasm in the first quarter. Somehow we stuck with them and in fact had a chance to be in front at quarter time when Graeme Batty had a shot after the siren. Balmain continued their good form after the break and by half time we were 18 points down. After a rev up from the coaching staff at half time, we came out and played some of our best attacking footy of the year. The midfield, led by Luke Favetta and Duane Jefferis got on top; Shane Davis and Adam McConnochie gave plenty of drive off half back, whilst Graeme Batty bobbed up for 3 third-quarter goals as we eradicated the deficit and went into the final break 10 points in front. The contest was a see-sawing affair in the final quarter, with Balmain taking the lead from us with less than 10 minutes

to go. However, a Tom Heath purple patch saw us kick 3 goals in as many minutes to seal a great comeback victory. Luke Favetta was best on for the second week in a row, and he received great support from Michael Toussis and Shane Davis (particularly in the 2nd half). Graeme Batty kicked 5 goals up forward (after kicking 0.5 in the first half), whilst Tom Heath kicked 3. Mitch Hogan and Alex Perger were excellent in the back line, helping to nullify a couple of Balmain's key forwards. This weekend's match against the high-flying Western Suburbs presents another wonderful opportunity to cause a big upset. Go Lions!

First Division

Wollongong Lions **17-20-122**
UTS **3-3-21**

The First Division boys were given the unsavoury task of travelling to UTS to take on the competition's premier team. Due to scheduling arrangements, the boys also played on Saturday whilst the rest of the club got to play on the Sunday. Coupled with the short numbers that we seem to incur during every year's uni holidays, the job was made that much harder. By all accounts, UTS simply outclassed our boys, and in a somewhat unsurprising outcome, ran away with a 101-point win. Despite this, the First Division boys have been playing some good footy and I'm sure there will be a few victories to be had on the run home. Barron Hanson won



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the best on the ground mug, a well-deserved reward for all of his hard work on the track. The enforcer, Justin Ayre, played well all day, as did Brad Ainsworth and Harry Bomb. Shane Morgan and Ryan Woodward continued their consistent seasons with another couple of useful contributions. Western Suburbs presents the First Division boys a great chance to get back on the winners list this weekend, so get down early to cheer them on!

Under 18s with Ross Picken

Wollongong Lions 14.15 99
Balmain Dockers 6.5 41

Of the selected 22, 3 pulled out between Thursday and Saturday morning and Rufus Picken withdrew at the 11th hour not fully recovering from a thumb ligament problem. However, the game saw the return of Sandor Guggisberg, which enabled us to field 19 fit players, with young Ru kept as an emergency. With all this disruption and players forced to play out of position, the young lions began very ordinarily even though they won the first quarter 0.4 to Nil. This gave the young Dockers heart and in the second term they dominated the ball out of the centre and scored 4.5 for the quarter with our boys rallying in the latter part to reply with 3.1 and go to the long break 6 points down. Many people at this stage were thinking that if we did not start to play football, an upset was on the cards. Coach Siel remained calm, and

conveyed to the boys to keep concentrating and not panic. Mark made a few positional changes and the third quarter was where the young lions finally played good constructive football scoring 5.5 to 1.0. Trent Hurst was great, getting himself loose in and around our attacking fifty and setting us up for goal scoring opportunities. At the back Brendon Potter, BJ Hogan and Sandor were doing a great job and this dried up the Dockers scoring ability. The fourth quarter became a repeat of the third with the young lions dominating to score 6.5 to 1.0 and come away with a good 58-point win. Goal scoring was shared with Mitch Simpson nailing three, Trent Hurst, Richard Oehme and Ryan Wells two and 5 single goal scorers including Benny “the poacher” Hyndes. The game also saw the return of Mike Pelda after 5 weeks on the sideline and a stint with the Swans Reserves. Good to see you back Mike. Unfortunately this year will not see the return of Mal Picken who has been diagnosed with stress fractures on both sides of his lower third vertebrae. Commiserations Mal you will be sorely missed. At least we won’t have to listen to your “how great I am” stories! Overall it was not a good performance but the result keeps us on finals track.

Best on Ground: Richard Oehme, Brendon Potter, Sandor Guggisberg, Ryan Wells and BJ Hogan.



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Lions News and Reviews

Weekly Award Winners

Round 10

Seniors

1. Jimmy Weavers
2. Michael Toussis

First Division

1. Ryan Woodward
2. Scotty Hancock

Volunteer of the Week

None awarded by the Leadership Group.

Round 11

Seniors

1. Graeme Batty
2. Mitch Hogan

First Division

1. Barron Hanson
2. Justin Ayre

Volunteer of the Week

1. Graeme Batty for providing the raffle prizes at the Lions Ball.

Sydney AFL Volunteer of the Week!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Congratulations from the entire club to Silvana Patterson who has been named this week's SAFL Volunteer of the Week. Silvana is a legend, and this is some thoroughly deserved recognition for all the great work she does behind the scenes at the club. On top of her tireless efforts in the canteen, Silvana also helps

out at social functions, and makes numerous away trips to watch the boys play. People like Silvana help the Lions continue to operate and exist. Please get over to Silvana during the week and congratulate her personally!

AFL Raffle Books

Approximately 60% of the AFL raffle books have been returned, and we urgently need your assistance in collecting all outstanding books by **Saturday 4th July**, whether they are sold, partially sold or unsold. All raffle books have to be returned to the AFL by next week. There are also some books with non-recorded persons, so can you please let Doug Sweeney (0412721154) or Colin Bartlett (0418510554 or bartletts4@bigpond.com) know immediately if you have a book(s). Thank-you for your help!!

Bus Trips!!!!!!

Wooma has organised a large bus for the trip to North Shore on the 11th of July. This is always a great trip so get your names in over the next week. Cost will be \$15 a head, and a few cold ones on the way home should be included in the price. Wooma has also arranged a mini-bus for the First Division trip to Manly in the coming weeks. See him at training for more details.

Footy Trip



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The destination for the footy trip has yet to be decided, but this small fact is irrelevant, as the trip will be banging regardless of where we go. I'm still holding out hope for a trip to Table Top and I think Boony wants us to drop in at Galore. If you want to come, but don't want us to do a Riverina road trip, give any suggestions you may have to Doug Sweeney or myself in the coming weeks. Get involved!!

Tennis Club

Well done to the Senior boys who for the most part made it back to the TC after Sunday's win. It was a little disappointing that only 4 of us continued on to the Harp, but due to the nature of that establishment, I'm willing to let that slide!! Please continue to make it to the TC after games as we need to maintain a friendly relationship with the club into the future!

Until next time, Go Lions!
Jimmy Weavers



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