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IMB WOLLONGONG LIONS: Round 12

Strange events indeed at North Dalton Park over the weekend; draws in **both** the Seniors and First Division games, and the U/18s playing with 14 players at one point in the early game. Well done to everyone involved for keeping the crowd interested!

Premier Division Seniors

Wollongong Lions **9-0-54**
Western Suburbs **7-12-54**

We headed into the match full of confidence after putting together a solid month of football. Western Suburbs had lost just one match for the season prior to the clash, so it was a wonderful opportunity to take on one of the powerhouses of the competition. We exploded out of the blocks and played a fluent, aggressive and disciplined brand of football in the first quarter, kicking 4.0 to 0.4 to open up a handy lead by the first change. Western Suburbs used the wind to their advantage in the second quarter and by half time they had whittled our lead back to 12 points. Despite this, we were confident that we could maintain the intensity we had shown in the first half and cause a major upset. The third quarter

was rather forgettable as we reverted to some of our bad habits; allowing Wests to kick 4.4 to nothing in the third quarter and establish a 16 point lead at the final break. In previous seasons this deficit may have been insurmountable, however, our newly acquired self-belief helped us to fight our way back into the contest in the first 20 minutes of the last quarter. With less than 5 minutes to go Graeme Batty let one fly from 55 metres, which sailed through to level the scores. An ensuing scuffle in the goal-square saw a free kick awarded to Tom Heath, who converted to put us 6 points in front. Wests levelled the scores with 2 minutes to go and after some amazing goal-line defence from Shane Davis and Adam McConnochie, the siren went and the scores were level. This was indeed a strange game of football. We can be very pleased that we outplayed a top side like Wests for most of the day, but also disappointed that a poor third term ultimately cost us a great victory. Having said that, we are the only side apart from East Coast to have taken any points away from Wests so far this season, which highlights the top effort put in by the boys. Clint Wells played magnificently on gun CHF Matt Withers all day, restricting him to just one goal. Indeed, the entire back line played well all day; Josh Lewis and Adam McConnochie played excellently off half-back, whilst Dave Goodley and Paul Balding provided some great run out of the defensive 50. Duane Jefferis and Tom Heath bobbed up for 3 goals each, whilst Kenny Ewen-Chappell played well off half-forward and in the middle. Also to the



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midfield led by Shane Davis and Mitchell Thomson who outplayed their highly-fancied opponents for most of the day. We now look forward to another great challenge this week at North Shore and a chance to move further up the ladder!

First Division

Wollongong Lions	6-6-42
Western Suburbs	6-6-42

Like the Seniors, the First Division boys probably had the best of the play all day and yet were denied by one ordinary quarter of footy. The first half was a fairly ugly affair, with both sides clearly desperate to come away with a win. By half time we had managed to carve out an 8 point lead on the back of some great run by Shane Morgan and Jade Collyer, and some great defensive marking by Tim Robb. By three quarter time the lead had been cut back to 4 points, and in a desperate last quarter, Wests managed to kick 2 goals to 1 to force a draw. A last minute mark and goal by Brad Ainsworth thankfully allowed us to level the scores and avoid what would have been a somewhat unfair loss. Shane Morgan won the mug, taking countless running bounces and setting up many forays forward. Tim Robb took plenty of defensive marks, and provided good delivery forward, whilst Erin Franklin showed plenty of promising signs as a roaming centre-half back. Youngsters Aidan Riley and Ryan Wells played

well, whilst ever-reliable Matty Brunton continued his great run of form. Our boys knocked off North Shore earlier in the year, and a repeat would almost guarantee our survival in the First Division for next season. This is a huge game and hopefully the lads will respond with a big effort at Gore Hill.

Under 18s with Ross Picken

Wollongong Lions	21-11-137
Western Suburbs	3-3-21

Wests are at the bottom of the 18s ladder and struggle for numbers at away games which they did against the young lions, initially fielding 15 players and finishing with 16. Whilst this may sound great for the young lions they had to revert to 16 a side which took a bit of adjusting to. The boys started brightly kicking the first two goals but then seemed to think it was all over. Poor decision making, poor delivery and a bit of selfishness turned what should have been a 10 goal quarter into a 4 with the score 4.0 to 0.1 at quarter time. A bit of a rev from coach Siely at quarter time saw the boys playing a non-stop running game which Wests could not match. We kicked 5.5 for the quarter but Wests managed two goals on the back of some over confident sloppy play from the young lions. However at the long break the boys had a handy 46 point lead. The third quarter was similar to the second with the boys kicking five goals to none and Wests starting to wilt from having no bench.



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Trent Hurst was in a goal scoring mood and showing dominance on the half forward line. The final quarter saw the boys score 7 goals to one to seal a good victory. There were nine goal scorers for the game with Trent Hurst nailing 6, Mike Pelda and Benny Hyndes (yes, true!) three, Simmo, Wellsy & Maso 2 each. Nathan Kenny and Jack Mahoney ran all day and gave us good thrust out of the centre. Big Jake Evans dominated the ruck with Mike Pelda doing a great job around the ground. The game saw Beau Black play his first game for the young lions and he showed the skills required to play at the Premier Cup level. Welcome aboard Beau and well done!

Best on ground: Jack Mahoney, Nathan Kenny, Jake Evans and Mike Pelda.

Lions News and Reviews

Weekly Award Winners

Round 12

Seniors

1. Clint Wells
2. Jimmy Weavers

First Division

1. Shane Morgan
2. Tim Robb

Volunteer of the Week

1. Josh Lewis: the only non-playing player to travel to the Balmain game to help out. Well done J-Lew!

Under 18s

An Under 18s weekly award system is in the pipeline. More details as they come to hand!

18s support the TC

Whilst the majority of the 18s are not of age, coach Siely organised a dinner at our major sponsor's venue the Wollongong Tennis Club on Thursday 2 July, with invitations to players and parents to attend. The event was attended by 44 players and parents and also some of the Illawarra Storm players. The cost was \$15 a head and the meal was a variety of chicken schnitzel, pasta, chips and salad. The food must have been good as Kale Temple made at least four visits to the buffet. It also meant with Kale attending the function, the Thursday night sausage sizzle at NDP would have had an extra eight sausages to distribute. The 18s are keen to support our major sponsor and I believe Mark is looking at a similar event later in the year: Ross Picken

NB: Well done to Siels for organising such a successful event. This initiative will help to further strengthen our relationship with the TC in the future!! JW

Sponsors Day at NDP: 4/7/09

Our annual sponsor's day was held at the Wests home game on the weekend. This is a great way for the club to showcase our home-ground and on-field endeavours to our highly valued sponsors!



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Thanks to those sponsors in attendance:

- **Wollongong Tennis Club:** John Hepper, Mark Johnston, Tony Godsen
- **Gordon MacDonald:** Bernie O'Neill
- **Mainteck:** Adrian Roberts
- **Keddies Lawyers:** Mark Johnston
- **KPMG:** David Willcocks
- **Asset Copiers:** Warren White
- Apologies from George at **Supporter's World** who could not attend.

Thanks to Barb Bartlett for the preparations and to Silvana Patterson, Judith Ferguson, and Barb for their help on the day. Special mention to Sarah Ferguson for preparing slices for the day!!

Game Day Thanks

Big thanks to Mark Simpson who ran the boundary for the U/18s and the first half of the First Division on the weekend. Simmo is always helping out the U/18s, and I extend my apologies for failing to publicly thank him before this edition! Thanks also to Hoppo for running the boundary in both games, and to all other players who helped out in some shape or form. Let's continue the good effort with the match day rosters at our remaining 6 matches.

Canteen Stock Clearance!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We have left-over stock from the \$1000 Draw and the Touch Carnival available at cost price!!

See the Bartletts (Barb and Focus) with your cashola: first in best dressed:

- Carlton Draught 24 stubbies: \$40/ctn
- Cruisers 24 packs: Pineapple, Raspberry, Guava: \$55/ctn
- Powerade 12 packs (mixed): heaps available, \$24/box

Call to Arms Day

The Round 12 raffle was the Lions planned fundraiser for the 2009 Men's Call to Arms initiative being run by the SAFL. We collected \$250 which will be donated to aid in the research of cancer prevention and treatment for men. The club would like to extend a HUGE thank-you to Jenny Hogan who donated a beautifully prepared and presented basket for the raffle. Thankyou Jenny!!! Well done to everyone else who got involved in this extremely worthwhile event!

Bus Trips!!!!!!

A message from Wooma:

A reminder to all that we have a bus booked for this weekend's game at North Shore. As mentioned by Trev at training on Tuesday night, the bus is COMPULSORY for all reserve grade and senior players. The bus will be leaving the TC at 9am so try and be there by 8:45am. It is important we arrive on time in order for Ray and Gavin to get everybody strapped (ie. the bus IS



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leaving at 9am, DON'T arrive at 9am). Anyone in Macca's group for game day jobs need to see him at training on Thursday, as those with a job for the 18's game will need to get a lift up with someone from the 18's but can get the bus back after the senior game. The cost of the bus is \$15 and we need 37 people to break even. Your bus trip is to be paid prior to boarding. Any additional numbers will pay for a few quiet ones on the trip home. We will make 1 stop on the way home and will be returning to the TC approx 8pm.

NB: Wooma has also arranged a mini-bus for the First Division trip to Manly on the 8th August. More details to follow.

Footy Trip

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 again to the folks who made it back to the TC after the Wests games. This week's bus trip should ensure all First Div and Seniors boys

make it back. But please get down if you're not on the bus or if you're in the U/18s to maintain our good recent efforts. This is a great sponsorship to have, so let's all work to ensure it continues in the future!

Lions Website

I thought I'd quickly mention the Lions website: www.wlions.com.au. There is plenty of info up there, with links to our results, fixtures and other stuff. There are also some great game-day photos up there, including some from the recent home game against UNSW/ES.

Until next time, Go Lions!
Jimmy Weavers



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