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IMB WOLLONGONG LIONS: Round 7

Congratulations to everyone involved around the club as we celebrated victories in all three grades over St George on Saturday night. Hopefully it is the first of many successful days for the Lions in the near future!!!

Premier Division Seniors

Wollongong Lions	7-10-52
St George	5-13-43

After narrow defeats in the previous two rounds, and armed with the knowledge that St George were not at their strongest, the senior boys were well aware that the match against the Dragons presented an excellent opportunity to notch up a win and kick-start the season. What followed was four quarters of tight, aggressive, and determined football culminating in a fantastic victory in difficult conditions. A swirly, unpredictable wind greeted us as we took to the field, but we negated it successfully by running the ball hard and playing intelligent footy. By quarter time we had opened up a 19-point lead, which was extended to 22 by half time. St George came out firing after the break, and we were slow to respond. The Dragons kicked the first 3 goals of the quarter, and levelled the score

with a minute to play. Duane Jefferis' wonderful running goal from the forward pocket gave us a narrow 6-point lead at three-quarter time. It was wonderful to see the combined efforts of all players in the final quarter, as we managed to kick out to a 15-point lead, hang on for dear life, and eventually record a 9-point victory. In a very even team performance, Chad Ewen-Chappell and Shane Davis were the standouts, as they racked up possessions across the ground and won numerous clearances. Daniel McClure, Graeme Batty, and Duane Jefferis provided good forward line options, whilst Adam McConnochie and Alex 'Axe' Mackenzie were excellent off half-back. Our commiserations to Matthew Adamson who sustained a serious knee injury; good luck in rehab Matty!! Well done to all involved in what was a gritty and extremely satisfying victory!

First Division

Wollongong Lions	8-15-63
St George	7-8-50

The first division made it back-to-back victories after a hard-fought win over the Dragons. After a slow start, the boys began to adapt to the conditions in the first quarter. Somewhat amazingly, we opened up an 11-point lead by quarter time despite having noticeably less of the ball than the opposition. An even second quarter into the breeze saw the boys 13 points ahead at half time. A spirited third quarter effort saw the lead extended to 28 points by three quarter time,



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which appeared to be safely enough. However, the boys managed to give the spectators a few nervous moments in the final quarter, before steadying to win by 13 points. Mitch Daly, who almost made his senior debut this week, was again wonderful in and around the packs, and once again will push hard for senior selection. Adam Patterson returned to Lions colours and was creative off halfback, whilst Matty Brunton was excellent in the clinches. Tim Robb got out of the goal square for a change and kicked a couple of goals, whilst Douglas Sweeney continued his upward trajectory in defence. Congratulations to Toucs and the boys; back-to-back victories have eased the relegation pressures somewhat, but it is vital that this effort is maintained in the coming weeks.

Under 18s

Wollongong Lions 11.6 72
St George Dragons 6.9 45

A great start to a great weekend for the club. This was the match of the round in 18s football with fourth playing fifth and both sides wanting to cement their place in the top 5. The young Lions started well and with a fluky breeze lead by three goals at quarter time kicking 4.1 to 1.1. The second quarter was a seesawing affair which saw an even spread of scoring with the young Lions in front 6.2 to 3.4 at the long break. The half time speech by coach Siely emphasised a need for players to take responsibility for their

positions and show toughness. He didn't care whether the boys won ugly as long as they stood up. The third quarter saw the young Dragons determined to gain superiority but the boys responded to Mark's instructions and showed toughness and good defence to deny the opposition and winning the quarter 3.2 to 1.4 giving them a handy 26-point lead going into the final period. Once again the Dragons attempted to apply the pressure and once again the young Lions responded running out 27-point winners at the bell. Some fine efforts including a five-goal haul by Josh Mason playing at Centre Half Forward, a position Malcolm Blight has publicly declared doesn't exist anymore. We're glad nobody told Josh. Stephen Tibben chipped in with three of his own at Full Forward. Whilst games are officially won on the scoreboard, toughness over the ground and good defence allows this to happen. On the weekend Taylor Bell showed all of this and was integral in setting up the platform that gained the victory. Other good efforts were from Brendon Potter at fullback ably assisted by Blake Schneider and Nathan Kenny in the pockets. Luke Rutter also had a great game at Centre Half Back. The young lions now stand at 4 and 2 from 6 games and are presently in fourth position. However, next week they take on East Coast who are 6 and 1 and in second place. It will require the same determination shown in this game for the boys to prevail. Best on ground: Josh Mason, Luke Rutter, Taylor Bell and Brendon Potter.



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The boys would like to thank senior's coach Trevor Burnett for attending the pre match luncheon and his words of encouragement.

Lions News and Reviews

Off Field Competition

The off field competition for the game day raffle revenue record is hotting up. Team Domma/Macca set a magnificent new club record of approx \$360 for the North Shore game for the prize of beautiful basket of goodies prepared and donated by Judith Ferguson. Kenny/Cam's Team lead this week by Dave Goodley smashed this record last week against St George with the proceeds exceeding \$400 for the footy donated by Silvana & Pete Patterson. Also the Dockers game 3 weeks ago with possibly the smallest crowd we've had for some time was just short of the previous record of high \$200's. The value of the game day group's undertaking the raffle selling at each of the 3 planned times is self evident from the results above. Well done to all who have got involved on match day over the last month!

Fees

It is great to report that the last couple of weeks we have seen a considerable number of the outstanding fees paid up. Thanks for those who have fixed up these. It is disappointing that we have to report that we still have a significant amount outstanding to be settled. We look forward to these being settled within this month

so that by early June we'll have no outstanding fees. Do it so Col will get off my back!!

Weekly Award Winners

Round 7 award winners were:

Volunteer of the Week - Shane Davis who was the first player for a very long time to clean the shed out.

Seniors- Shane Davis, Daniel McClure

1st Division- Mitch Daly, Adam Patterson

Thursday Night BBQ

Thanks to all who heeded Steve's advice and brought along a donation for Thursday's BBQ after training. These donations will allow these events to become a more regular occurrence. Remember also that help is required afterwards with cleaning etc. Please get involved at some point this season!

Illawarra Under 16s Representative Squad

Congratulations to Brendan Hogan, Mark Mura, Rufus Picken and Nathan Kenny who have all been selected in the Illawarra Under 16s representative side that will compete in the Greater Sydney Juniors Under 16s championship that will be held at North Dalton Park on June 6. Well done to the boys!

Lions Ball

The Lions Ball will be held at the Wollongong Tennis Club after the home game against



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UNSW/ES on June 20th. More details will be available in coming weeks, but please try and keep the date free to help make the ball a success this year.

Uni Holidays

The Lions rely heavily on university students every week, so with uni holidays fast approaching it is vital that all players who intend to return home for the break inform the club. Boys, please let Trevor, Toucs, Siels, or Steve know in the next week or so regarding your availability for this period. By doing so, you will help ensure that we field our best possible sides in these weeks.

Footy Trip

Just another quick reminder to all players intending on coming on this year's trip, that Wooma is taking expressions of interest now! Flights to Cairns are quite steep at the moment, so the destination has not been 100% confirmed at this point in time. Regardless of where we end up travelling, the trip is always a hoot, so if you have no plans for the October long weekend, I urge you to consider joining us. Nothing quite like a dozen or so Red Bears on angry Sunday to reflect on the footy season!

GO LIONS!!!

Jimmy Weavers, F.O.T (ask Miaggi)



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