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IMB WOLLONGONG LIONS ROUND 2 NEWSLETTER 2008

SENIORS

Wollongong Lions	11.15 (81)
Sydney University	14.11 (95)

Last weekend's loss to Sydney Uni showed a dramatic improvement on the effort put in against Wests, but again there were far too many chances to win the game that weren't converted. It was only inaccurate kicking that kept us from taking the lead up towards the end of the third quarter, getting to within one point with a thumping goal right on the siren from Kale Temple. However, Sydney Uni did what they'd done all day and got a jump on us early in the final term when the game was there to be won. A few dropped marks at crucial stages and a couple of posters didn't help either, with Sydney Uni effectively sealing the game when they went 5 goals up with 8 minutes left. It was pleasing that the improved showing had nothing to do with the way Uni played, it was simply ourselves picking up the pieces of the game plan we dropped the week before. So once the whole playing group realises that this year, they WILL beat anyone if they play good football, the wins should start flowing. Beating a side down back and in midfield and then failing to produce a winning score is disheartening but easily fixed.

One major positive was the quality signs shown by 16-year-old Kale Temple who tucked the ball under his arm and ran with confidence, kicking a team lifting goal and hitting the post with another shot on the run from 50m. Coach Jason Philp popped up everywhere getting plenty of the footy whilst Shane Davis produced another hard running and polished display. And as always, Clinton Wells was a rock at centre-half back, being rewarded with selection in the SFL team of the week for the second week in a row. Again our forward line didn't function as it did against Ainslie, but with an emphasis on getting numbers to forward line contests, this weekend at Gore Hill should be a different story.

North Shore are coming off a thumping from Pennant Hills and are looking to rebuild a young side which has seen many key players depart following last years grand final victory. The small ground will be a problem but should at least solve the problem of getting numbers at the feet of Scott Dennis and Troy Bartlett when the ball comes to ground. Here's hoping for a good win to make the bus ride home all the merrier.



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RESERVE GRADE

Wollongong Lions	6.0 (36)
Sydney Uni	20.12 (132)

Reserve grade got off to a disappointing start to the season under new coaches Sam Lewis and Doug 'Wooma' Sweeney. Both boys were looking for a more even display from a side that looked so good on paper. However it must be said that Sydney Uni were exceptionally well drilled for a reserve grade outfit, moving the ball through half forward within precision and confidence. In the end we were simply out run and out hustled.

In midfield Pete Murphy opened the account for season 2008 with his usual tenacity, gathering countless possessions. The same can be said for the bullocking Duane Jefferis and the less bullocking but equally hard running Josh Tier. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough support and run to convert the numerous hard balls won on the ground into goals.

It was fairly obvious that the height and randomness of Reilly Goodspeed was sorely missed, but newby Jarrod Nelson was impressive down back and Guy Bartlett was competitive in the ruck. North Shore won't be as strong as last year with many players moving up into the seniors, so it's as good a chance as any to get one on the board. GET YOUR BUS TRIP ON.

UNDER 18's

Wollongong Lions	15.13 (103)
North Shore Bears	9.12 (66)

At 9:30am it didn't look as though Mark Seily was going to put a side on the park. But as usual, Mr Juniors (I know that's lame) pulled about 6 rabbits out of his hat who all proved valuable contributors. It must be said, and I'm not exaggerating, that NO U18's side has ever played as well as these boys did on the weekend. And that was without Aiden Riley who was playing for the Swans Reserves and Kale Temple. The boys that did show up put in a very pleasing performance, moving the ball with the type of fluid motion that is needed from the senior side in coming rounds.

Ryan Wells didn't have a sparkling game by foot but attacked the football ferociously, not only winning the tough ball but also attracting multiple defenders and providing quality ball to outside runners. Those benefiting from the good work of Ryan and others were Shane Morgan and Paul Balding who attacked through midfield and Jack Mahony who did many of the little things that kids his age don't. Taylor Bell and Chris Cook were excellent down back (if a little errant with their disposal) whilst Mal Picken had his best game for the Lions, dominating in the ruck and sneaking forward to boot 3 majors. But the real hero of the day was Mitch 'The Bressinator' Bresser who got plenty of ball and tackled and laid shepherds like it was his last



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game of football. He's finally starting to reap the rewards of the effort he puts in on the track (we all remember you spewing in pre-season Bress). The U18's should be confident going into their clash with the other North Shore outfit who got a first up win against Pennant Hills. Good luck lads and kudos to Siels for getting such a well drilled side on the park.

POWERADE AND A SHOWER WITH... THE H-BOMMMMMMBBBBB.

(Interview 1 featuring Matt Adamson)

After racking up kicks, seemingly at will on the wing in a disappointing loss to Sydney University on the weekend the fleet footed, highly skilled and all round nice guy Matt Adamson was kind enough to have a yarn with me in the rooms after the game. Mathew is a local product having grown up in Mangerton and attended Figtree High where throughout his childhood soccer had been his number one winter sport. Thankfully for my then under 16's team and now the Lions he was convinced to change from soccer to AFL by his Victorian born father and a few mates at school including our own Ben 'The Buffalo' Dunwoodie.

He has been a long time supporter of the North Melbourne Kangaroos and so it is no surprise that the footy player that most inspires him was Glen Archer. As far as dream team goes he considers himself a bit of a smoky in the Wollongong Lions League and recommends Matthew Pavlich for any player worth their crust.

This year Matt plans to dominate university where he is currently studying a degree in Engineering and hopes to earn enough money this year to live out the remainder of his degree on fortnightly government (Kevin 07) payments. But his main focus for 2008 has seen countless hours of time spent at the URAC gym apparently, "getting massive", however this process he says "has been a lot slower than expected".

Career wise, after finishing his degree Matt would love to excel in the engineering field and hopes to, "pull off an innovative feat of engineering brilliance" which may provide support for his overall goal of retiring at 30. Look out for the Matty at URAC pumping iron and using his silky smooth skills to contribute to the Lions plight this season.

I'm Harry saying "God save Barry Hall".

(maybe God should of saved you then Bomb – oh – low blow).

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**.



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PETE VEERHUIS' 200th GAME

Evergreen backman Peter Veerhuis will play his 200th club game for the Lions against North Shore this Saturday. The 33 year old joined the Lions in 1993 from Turvey Park while attending the University of Wollongong, and apart from a brief stint with Campbelltown, has been a mainstay at North Dalton Park ever since. Pete played finals footy with Wollongong early in his career but missed out on playing in the Lions losing 1st Division grand final side in 1994 due to injury. In 1999, and wanting to play his football at the highest level possible, Pete joined Campbelltown in the then SFL. Pete played every game of the 1999 season including the Blues premiership triumph over Balmain. After taking the 2000 season off to help raise a young family, Pete returned to the Lions in 2001, only to play in another losing grand final side. But he finally tasted success with Wollongong as the Lions won their only senior Sydney premiership in 2004, their last season in the 1st Division. During his career, Pete has represented the Sydney AFL 1st Division representative side on 3 occasions, captained the Wollongong side in 2003 and been awarded life membership of the Lions in 2005.

Everyone involved with the Wollongong club congratulates Pete on his 200th club game and hopes that he has a few more seasons to come yet.

JUNIORS REPORT

The Lions have got off to a great start to season 2008 with a great participation at the round robin two weekends ago. In particular, the U13's managed to win their age group, giving the players and parents plenty of excitement even before the season has truly began.

This year, the juniors are planning on mirroring the seniors by playing three night games at the wonderful North Dalton Park. Keep your eyes on the newsletter for confirmation of the date of the first of these games which will probably be held at the end of next month.

GAME DAY RESPONSIBILITIES

This weekend is the first test to our new policy regarding the contribution of players to the running of match days. This should ensure that the **workload is spread evenly** across the club, rather than being concentrated in the hands of committee members. On Saturday, players are required to:

If players take it upon themselves to contribute in some small way on game day, even if it's filling up some drink bottles or running the boundary for a quarter, a vast mountain of work will be turned into a molehill. In addition, **U18's are encouraged to stick around for the reserves and seniors.** This is a great way to feel



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