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# IMB WOLLONGONG LIONS ROUND 7 NEWSLETTER 2008

## SENIORS

<b>Wollongong Lions</b>	<b>10.10 (70)</b>
<b>East Coast</b>	<b>13.13 (91)</b>

It was another case of the one that got away. And whilst it's frustrating not to be recording 4 points on a regular basis, the wins will come with time. Everyone has bagged Carlton over the last 5 years, but they've already racked up 4 wins from 9 appearances this year. It takes time to build the experience needed to play consistent football and unfortunately for the playing group, they're caught in the middle of that time right now.

Obviously the first half proved our potential to play pressure football. East Coast never looked comfortable with the football, especially in midfield where their classy on-ballers are used to gathering uncontested ball. This pressure (and the space created by turn overs) led to many transitions of play resulting in scoring shots from the corridor. And our sharp conversion early on matched our on-field pressure with scoreboard pressure. Ben Griffen had his best half of the year running hard down the grandstand wing. Graeme Batty and Scott Dennis were excellent in defence; Graeme in particular was reading the ball beautifully through the air. Meanwhile

Adam McConnochie was working hard forward of centre and eventually finished with 3 goals including a nice left footer on the run.

However, the second half was a different story. East Coast started to match our defensive pressure, causing us to stagnate coming off halfback. Once the confidence to play on and create was lost, we reverted to bombing away most of the ball we earned. Whilst this was frustrating to watch on the night, it is a problem that can be fixed. If we can ALL adhere to the game plan for 4 quarters we should not only play consistent but winning football.

## RESERVE GRADE

<b>Wollongong Lions</b>	<b>1.11 (17)</b>
<b>East Coast</b>	<b>13.14 (92)</b>

As always, East Coast came down to NDP with a classy reserve grade side, littered with plenty of players with extensive first grade experience. And considering the loss of Duane Jefferis to a broken collarbone and 3 players to the seniors, the reserves performance was encouraging. The form of our club umpire must also come under review after memorable moments such as



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\*whistle\* “Um, I didn’t mean to blow the whistle, um, East Coast free kick”. Not good.

And whilst the scoreboard reflects a one sided contest, this was largely due to our extremely inaccurate kicking which put us out of the match by half time. If we had converted half our chances up until half time we would have been well in the hunt as twilight turned to darkness. The defensive effort in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter was very impressive, limiting the Eagles to one goal. This is the type of football that will produce results if we can get back to the accurate kicking we had earlier in the season.

Harry Bown had a strange game, gathering lots of ball but running himself into trouble on a number of occasions. Birthday boy Chris Hally-Burton worked hard in and under and was well supported by Drew Holmes who according to James Weavers “Must have had 25 kicks in the first half”. Tim Robb had another good game in defence as did Sam Jenner who battled manfully all afternoon, keeping diminutive gun forward Tim Kier to a single goal. Campbelltown haven’t been impressive in the reserves so far this year and Saturday at Monarch should be an opportunity to record our 3<sup>rd</sup> win from the last 4 starts.

### U18’s

<b>Wollongong Lions</b>	<b>4.8 (32)</b>
<b>East Coast</b>	<b>8.11 (59)</b>

The U18’s did much the same as the seniors and produced a game of two halves. The game started off looking like an East Coast walkover in the making. The Eagles kicked 3 early goals and spent the first quarter camped in their half of the ground. Our lack of intensity around the football allowed the Eagles to dictate the speed and direction of play.

Fortunately the second half was a vastly different story. The boys started to get themselves first to the football. New players Michael Pelda and Jason Sheekey were exceptional in this area. Shane Morgan produced his most confident display for the year, using his pace to break the lines and set up many attacks across both wings. As usual Grant Sylianou was a rock in defence and will be sorely missed as he goes in for season ending wrist surgery this week. Grant has been an excellent contributor and leader in the U18’s and everyone at the club hopes he’ll be back bigger (more massive) and better in 2009 as a ready made senior footballer.

If the boys had managed to kick a few goals before half time, a fairytale come back may have been on the cards. However, it wasn’t to be and after the points from the Balmain game were taken away, the boys have left themselves some work to do to stay in touch with the Top5 with a massive game against Pennant Hills looming in a few weeks time. If they can produce their second half pressure consistently, they will be setting a perfect example for the seniors and reserves.



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## PLAYER PERSONAL PROTECTION

There was an unfortunate incident during the ECE U18's game on the weekend where one of their players broke both his front teeth. He was not wearing a mouth guard! The pain, time and cost of repair will exceed many times over the modest cost of a dental fitted one. It's a timely reminder for all players that mouth guards are an important part of your kit. Please also note that the level of insurance cover we have as part of the fees we pay to the AFL would most likely cover only a small part of the medical/dental bill racked up by some smashed teeth. So get a mouth guard. (Tim Robb, get a mouth guard).

## VOLUNTEERS

The committee would like to acknowledge that it is great to see level of support and involvement from the players in performing game day tasks. Keep up the great work, and it is starting to make most game days less intense and tiring for our small committee. Also pleasing is that a number of the routine game days task are being arranged within the playing group, which is much better than being hassled by Col and Steve! To all of those who have helped or offered to help so far this season, our thanks go out to you and we look forward to more players becoming active over the balance of the season. Two areas in particular could do with some immediate attention, one is the help at the start of the U18 matches and the other is around the start of the reserves games.

These are things that should be able to be coordinated within the teams so that we are continuously positioned to have all of the support roles filled for these earlier games

## MATCH DAY RAFFLE

Thanks to Judith Ferguson who over the last 2 home games has put together magnificent raffle prizes. They have generated a return approximately two times what we were getting last year. This outstanding result is also significantly influenced by the attention and time that many of the players have given this fundraising activity. Keep up the great work and continue working together to share the load. And remember, if Nathan Wood is selling tickets only a large investment will stop him from hassling you. Keep the good work coming and help keep Nath out of your wallet.

## FINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP

While we have a better status of financial membership than in previous seasons, it is extremely disappointing that there are still a number of players in all grades who have made little or no effort to become financial, including renegeing on payment promises. Being financial is a fundamental obligation that all participants have.

Those who are not financial, please help out your club by settling your account. Any of the committee will be happy receive the money on behalf of the club. For those who are financial,



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you can assist your club by applying pressure on un-financial teammates to clear their slate and allow us all to move onto more important matters in operating the club.

### CLUB “State of the Nation” UPDATE MEETING

During our meeting in March this year we said that we planned to have another 2 of these during the year. One is due shortly, with the exact date to be announced early in June. Your attendance is requested so you’re aware of what’s happening within your club; how we’re travelling compared to budget projections and how we’re tackling the issues and challenges faced in each and every season.

Lots of love, THE COMMITTEE

### 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 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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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