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IMB WOLLONGONG LIONS: Round 18

Premier Division Seniors

Wollongong Lions 9-4-58
East Coast Eagles 6-15-51

The Seniors saved their best 'til last with an inspiring victory over minor premier East Coast on Saturday night. In front of a massive home crowd at North Dalton Park, the boys combined exhilarating attacking play with dogged and determined defence to outplay one of this year's flag favourites. In perfect conditions we held East Coast goalless in the first quarter and kicked two of our own to establish a 10-point lead at the first change. This would be just about as big as our lead got all night as the contest turned into an absorbing and see-sawing affair. East Coast controlled the ball for large parts of the next two quarters but they were unable to exert any real scoreboard pressure as Troy Bartlett and Jack Mahony shut down their best two attacking options, and Dave Goodley played the loose man in defence to perfection. Conversely, we were able to make the most of our opportunities as we

kept our noses in front. At three quarter time we led by 2 points after a dubious East Coast goal on the bell brought the difference back within a single kick. Graeme Batty kicked the all-important first goal of the final quarter with a floating mongrel from the far pocket to extend our lead to 9 points. When Aidan Riley kicked truly on the run our lead had extended to 15 points (the biggest margin of the entire night) and victory was within reach. East Coast kicked the last goal of the night but could not bridge the margin. In a night where the entire team contributed, Mitchell Thomson revelled down back, as did Troy Bartlett who kept gun forward Gus Seebeck goalless for the night. Dave Goodley, Clint Wells, and Adam McConnochie were excellent down back, whilst youngsters Paul Balding and Aidan Riley provided plenty of hard run all night. The midfield, led by Guy Bartlett and Michael Toussis outplayed their more-fancied opponents, whilst Graeme Batty and Kenny Ewen-Chappell were constantly threatening up front. Congratulations to the entire team on what is probably our biggest win in the Premier Division!!!

First Division

Wollongong Lions 5-11-41
East Coast Eagles 12-13-85



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The First Div boys put in a gallant performance in Brad Ainsworth's 300th match for the club, pushing finals-bound East Coast for the entirety of the contest. A tough and committed three-quarter performance was unfortunately undone by one bad quarter of footy as the boys ran out of legs in the final period of the match. At three-quarter time the margin was just 18 points, however the effort exerted staying in touch with the Eagles took its toll as we fell away to lose by 44 points. Last time the boys came up against East Coast they were handed a 20-goal plus defeat. The weekend's performance highlighted the talent that the group possesses and showed that we belong in the first division next season. Barron Hanson won best-on with a great defensive effort on livewire forward Tim Kear. Tim Robb took plenty of defensive marks, and snuck forward to kick a goal. Erin Franklin and Doug Sweeney continued their improvement, whilst Harry Bown showed the talent he possesses with a dominant display at centre half forward. Well done to Brad Ainsworth on successfully completing his 300th game; a bit of a pity about the result, but I'm sure Brad would have been pleased with the efforts of the boys!!

Under 18s with Ross Picken

Wollongong Lions

4-11-35

East Coast Eagles

13-10-88

The last home and away of the year with the fourth placed young lions up against the second placed young eagles. The eagles play a continuous running game at pace and this was evident from the start with them winning the first quarter 2.3 to our sole behind. The second term saw the young lions stand up play determined physical football which put them back in the match winning the quarter 2.3 to 2.0 and leaving them 11 points down at the long break. The third quarter was once again a torrid affair and once again the young lions stood up and managed to win the quarter 2.4 to 2.3 to go into the final quarter a mere 10 points down. Was an upset on the cards? Far from it! In the final quarter the wheels fell off and the young eagles managed 7.4 to our lousy 3 behinds to run out 53 point winners. Even though the score blew out in the final quarter the young lions showed they have the ability and game to take it right up to the top four – two of which they have had victories over. However, finals football requires four determined quarters and a quick start, something we have not yet been able to master. Next week the young lions head to the Olympic Park at Blacktown to take on Pennant Hills in the elimination semi final. Remember boys – it's on **SUNDAY**.

Best on Ground: Dan O'Keefe, Mike Pelda, Ryan Wells, Mark Mura, Blake Schneider & Sandor Guggisberg



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Weekly Award Winners

Round 18

Seniors:

1. Mitchell Thomson
2. Troy Bartlett

First Division

1. Barron Hanson
2. Tim Robb

Volunteer of the Week

1. David 'the Parrot' Goodley

Lions News and Reviews

Final Round Extravaganza!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The final round extravaganza was a raging success for the club with one of the biggest crowds ever seen at NDP turning up to help support both Brad in the First Div and the Seniors. Thanks to all the Lions Ladies who turned up to support the inaugural Lions Ladies Night. With such short notice this was an unexpectedly popular initiative, and no doubt will return bigger and better next year. Thanks to all the 'old boys' for getting down to support Brad in his 300th, it was great to see all your faces back at NDP. Also thanks must be extended to the East Coast players and supporters who hung around well into the night!!

Major thankyou's to:

- Rhonda Morgan for supplying our most successful raffle basket of the year!!
- Kim Morgan & Steve Rowland for again assisting with the boundary umpiring
- Ian Ferguson for time-keeping all three grades
- Peter Patterson for photo-taking duties
- Mark Seily, Gary Hynd & Shaun Rush for manning the BBQ
- Ryan Woodward & Kim Morgan for the final late-night fry up
- Our lovely canteen ladies: Barb Bartlett, Rhonda Morgan, Susy McConnochie, Silvana Patterson, Judith Ferguson who worked all day
- Jenny Wilson, Judy, Em, & Sarah Ferguson, Helen Lewis, Jo Kenny for restocking the canteen and helping out wherever required
- Col Heath, Pete Patterson, Kim McConnochie, Ian Ferguson, Mark Siely for the massive post-night clean up
- Matt Morgan, Tim Robb, Doug Sweeney, Jimmy Weavers, Chris Hally-Burton for their help in the canteen
- Kenny Ewen-Chappell for his promotion of the night with the East Coast boys
- Tim Robb and Jimmy Weavers for their 'Ladies Night' initiative; particularly Tim who forked up the initial money for stock



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- Christian Van Reede for supplying the music
- To all the wives, girlfriends, friends etc who turned up to make the night a success
- To the playing group for helping out wherever required during the day, and staying on into the night!!

Congratulations to the entire club. Nights like these really paint a great picture of our club in the community and amongst other clubs in the SAFL, so well done everyone!!

Under 18s

Our Under 18s have had a great season, and will square off against Pennant Hills this weekend in the Elimination Final. Please get up and support the boys if you can and help them progress further into the season. Well done to Siels and the boys on a great year thus far!!

Finals Gate-Keeping

The club has been given the job of manning the gates at all the SAFL finals matches this season. We will be given a percentage of the takings which promises to be a much-needed financial boost for the club. We still need volunteers for Saturday 5th September at Bruce Purser Reserve. The team-leader is Dave Goodley (0423 687

218), and we need 4 volunteers for the 11:30am til 3:30pm shift. Likewise, we need four volunteers for the same shift on the following day at Blacktown Olympic Park. Team leader is Jimmy Weavers (0438106644). Finally, we need 7 volunteers for Sunday 13th September at Blacktown. Team leader is Dan McClure (0428 282 257). Please get in and help to lighten the load on some of the usual suspects. Cheers!!

Post-Season Shenanigans

With the season almost finished we can start to look forward to some post-season functions/get-togethers. Upcoming events include:

1. September 12: Trivia Night at T.C
2. September 26: AFL Grand Final function at (presumably) TC
3. October 9: Presentation Night at T.C

Please keep these dates free to help finish off the Lions' year in style!!

**Until next time, Go Lions!
Jimmy Weavers**



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