



ROUND 3 REPORTS

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FIRST GRADE



Jeremy Rowe

To The MCUE Faithful,

It was a genuine delight to be heading back to Mangoplah for a day of footy and netball. The sun was shining, we were paying our respect to those who have served our country on the ANZAC day weekend, the past players were about and the AFLW presentation was to come in the post-match festivities. Importantly, our squad was keen and ready to build on our Rd1 performance.

Despite Tigers kicking the first goal, we showed very early in the piece that we had turned up to play. After 3 trials and a Rd1 performance that hadn't reflected our brand of footy, it was refreshing and enjoyable to see us click back in to gear and play some footy that represented the current day Goannas brand. We were organised and set up well defensively behind the footy. We arced and took yardage with ball in hand, attacked the contest in an extreme manner and applied manic pressure in abundance. Ryan Turnbull was leading the charge, but we had contributors all around the ground and the quarter time score board reflected our dominance of the game – 5.2.32 to 1.0.6.

The promising start continued through the 2nd and 3rd quarters as we hunted the footy, tackled and smothered ferociously and fed the ball back under pressure. On multiple occasions, Tigers kicked 2 goals in a row, only for us stand up in the moment, bite down on our mouthguard and fight back to regain control of the game. By the 3-quarter time break, we were 44 points up and had managed to sustain 3 very positive quarters of footy. Unfortunately, we were out scored and outplayed in the last quarter and whilst we don't make excuses, it was clear that injuries had taken their toll as we finished with no bench due to the unfortunate injuries of Trent Castles, Dom Bunyan and Riley Green. We give Greeny in particular a big shout out and wish him all the best as he waits for results on what looks like a serious knee injury.

Ethan Schiller's crumbing was a highlight, James Scott played his best game for the club taking numerous intercept marks and Tim Smith backed up his solid Rd1 performance with another strong defensive showing. 3rd best was Trent Cohalan who has started the season tremendously, wracking up plenty of possessions on both the inside and outside while Harry Collins played his best game for the club in a number of years. Harry's first half was something to behold as he defended strongly, intercepted and rebounded at will. Best on ground by a country mile was Ryan Turnbull who has also been huge in the early stages of the season. Rab's kicked 3 goals and would have had 35 possessions in a performance that showed how high his ceiling really is.

This week we travel to Ganmain to take on the high-flying Lions who have started the season incredibly well. Again, we meet in a top of the table clash to find out who the early season front runner is. In unique and incredible circumstances, our group is dealing with the absence of a whopping 18 players but we are a side who has recently made winning a habit. Our selected side is an exciting brand of leaders and young talent and after seeing the group operate this week, it is clear they are hungry to embrace this challenge and I can't wait to see our Mango Men in action.

See you at the footy, Regards

Jeremy

RESERVES



Mitch Sykes

First of all I would like to congratulate everyone involved on Saturday it was a fantastic day and a great way to represent the ANZAC spirit.

In the seconds we came up against an experienced Wagga Tigers side. We got off to a great start getting ourselves out to a 5 goal to 1 lead at quarter time. The second and third quarters we gradually built on our lead and headed into the last quarter with a 7 goal lead. At the start of the last quarter Tigers kicked the first couple of goals, to our credit we got them back and finished the game 50 point winners.

The awards went to Jacob Whitley who won the towel and was the dominant player on the ground. Cruise Chambers won the inter sport award kicking another handful of goals and marking everything that came his way. The wagga meat supply award went to Matthew Pollack who was up against bigger opponents all day and came out on top.

Overall a great win and a good start to the season. Looking forward to taking on ganmain this week.

UNDER 17.5'S



Rick Collins

Well our game against Tigers was certainly a tale of two halves. After starting the game strongly in the first 5 to 10 minutes the rest of the first quarter and all the second quarter belonged to the Tigers with half-time score being 40 to 28 Tigers way. Our boys were second to the ball and just lacked enthusiasm.

After a bit of self-reflection in the halftime break the boys came out firing kicking 6.7 to 1 goal in the second half and winning comfortably in the end (10.11.71 to 7.4.46). In the second half the boys played the style of football they have been training for, and what they brought to the game in Griffith. The talk and enthusiasm around the ground was evident in the second half and was a credit to the boys taking on board the feedback at halftime.

Award winners for the week were – Xav McDevitt (Players Player) who gave a full four quarter performance on the ball. He was regularly at the bottom of packs winning the ball for himself or feeding it out to the outside runners. His strong tackling was another highlight of his game. Cody Reynoldson (Wagga Meat Supply) had a huge game in the ruck. Regularly getting his hands to the ball and providing our onballers with first use of the football as well as providing a strong marking presence around the ground. Jack Woodhouse (Intersport) gave another strong performance on the flanks providing a strong marking presence.

Other strong performers for us were James Godde who was a constant threat and showcased the talents he possesses throughout the game. Lewis Pulver and Sam Moller were other strong performers over the four quarters for us.

Today sees us travel to Ganmain, for what is traditionally a tough contest no matter where the Ganmain boys are on the ladder. It will take a team effort to get over them and continue our quest to play finals football.

Good Luck to our footballers and netballers today. Let's play hard and fair and come away with victory!!

Up the Mighty Goannas!!

A GRADE



Mikaela Cole

Our first home game was certainly a successful one, firstly massive thankyou to everyone behind the scenes who make home games like this possible. A special mention to the under 17s girls who have doubled their amount of wins last year in just two rounds! Also a special mention to the footballers who achieved 3/3 wins this round!

A grade came up against a strong Tigers side, who included some new and familiar players. Tigers play a zone defence, which usually has the tendency to get under our skin and rattle us. However, this game we were composed and played smart netball, allowing us to come away with an impressive 20-point win. The newly sponsored mug went to Katie Caller. Katie once again was impressive in the circle with strong holds, keeping one of their usual stand out players occupied and reducing her impact. The MCUE tote bag went to Ava Moller. This was Ava's first official game since becoming a permanent part of the A grade side but you certainly wouldn't tell watching her that it was her first. Ava kept her composure for such a young player against older experienced girls, provided hard cuts into the circle and sunk goals from all around the ring. The MCUE towel went to Ash Reynoldson. I put her into circle defence halfway through the game with a very specific job of shutting down Tigers strong, holding shooter and she did exactly that. Quick footwork and remaining on the body allowed numerous touches and turnovers.

This Sunday we face off against Ganmain who are 2nd on the ladder. We are uncertain of what they will be like but we are certainly expecting a physical and challenging game. Goodluck all MCUE teams as we tackle our first Sunday game.

A RESERVE

FARMERS
— H O M E —
H O T E L



Tamara Edmunds

What a terrific day we had a Mangoplah to open the season with our official ANZAC round. Our A reserve girls came up against a strong and experienced Tigers team - who definitely showed potential to be the team to beat this season. Our girls played their best on the day and are to be commended for their positive spirit and competitiveness.

Our tough defensive duo of Tracy and Maddie played their best against quality Tigers shooters. Tracy and Maddie work so well together as a defensive team with swift defensive skills and outstanding communication. Sophie, Caitlin, Ruby and Kate worked tirelessly through the centre court. Caitlin has the ability to read the play and drive into space effectively.

Sophie is a rock who is reliable and provides stability in the centre. Ruby has proven her playing ability by leading with strong drives and turning the ball over in defence. Kate is our quiet achiever who consistently applies pressure on her attackers. Her relentless commitment to turn the ball over pays off with deflections and intercepts all over the court. Eliza and Alicia worked really well in the shooting circle today. They shot consistently throughout the game and used their experience to move around the shooting circle.

Our next game is against Ganmain Grong Grong Matong, an opposition that also deserves much respect. We hope to build on our full court systems and bring another win home for the club.

Go Mango!!

B GRADE



Tracy, Lisa, and Simone

What a great weekend to play netball, Anzac weekend, awesome weather and we got to go head to head with Tigers.

There was a lot of talk at training about how good Tigers were and what to look out for. We decided as a team we were going to concentrate on our own individual and team game.

Our aim for the game was to be ready and switched on from the first whistle and then it was all about driving! We were slow out of the blocks, finding our rhythm but held Tigers to an even first half...with the warm weather and full team we made changes at every qtr trying to keep players playing well together whilst being strategic (Lisa did an amazing job at this with 10 players).

At the end of the third the girls were hot tired and 1 goal up...the aim was to give it everything and everyone committed.

We came away with the win 5 goals up, as coaches we couldn't have been prouder and the smiles on all the girls faces told the story!

It was very hard to pick the awards as every player gave their all...though the standouts were Georgia who was on fire the whole game mixing it up in shooting then into defense and Steph who went out and executed exactly what we asked and was pivotal in quite a few turnovers.

Well done again to all the girls it was nice to get a win over Tigers.

Trace, Lisa & Simone

C GRADE



Sarah Meyers

What a great first home game although C grade sadly did not win.

The girls really pulled together to help one another out on the court, and have started to read each other and make quick decisions and changes during the game.

The awards went to Sara and Ella both these girls worked very hard Sara jumping on the court and finishing strong when another team mate had injured them self as well as Ella using her communication to help lift the team and guide the ball down the court into the attacking end.

This week the girls had a great training session where they worked with another talking through there struggles and understanding what other players may be experiencing out on the court. Jemma (captain) and Tahlia (manager) did a great job in adapting the needs to each individual player and talking through that process as a team.