



**Tamworth Swans
Australian Football Club**

2010 Match Reports



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Tamworth Swans AFC

SUMMARY OF RESULTS – 2010

Rnd 1	H	New England Nomads	20.17 (137) – 11.3 (69)
Rnd 2	A	Tamworth Kangaroos	9.16 (70) – 10.12 (72)
Rnd 3		BYE	
Rnd 4	H	Narrabri Eagles	21.10 (136) – 11.7 (73)
Rnd 5	A	Gunnedah Bulldogs	18.13 (121) – 15.8 (98)
Rnd 6	H	Muswellbrook Cats	18.17 (125) – 11.7 (73)
Rnd 7	A	Inverell Saints	4.5 (29) – 23.18 (156)
Rnd 8	A	New England Nomads	5.7 (37) – 9.8 (62)
Rnd 9	H	Tamworth Kangaroos	WASHED OUT
Rnd 10		BYE	
Rnd 11	A	Narrabri Eagles	7.12 (54) – 9.7 (61)
Rnd 12	H	Gunnedah Bulldogs	11.11 (77) – 9.15 (69)
Rnd 13	A	Muswellbrook Cats	18.11 (119) – 9.5 (58)
Rnd 14	H	Inverell Saints	7.11 (53) – 20.12 (92)
Rnd 15	H	New England Nomads	12.11 (83) – 6.11 (47)
Rnd 16	A	Tamworth Kangaroos	WASHED OUT
Rnd 17		BYE	
Rnd 18	H	Narrabri Eagles	8.10 (58) – 9.14 (68)
E-F	H	New England Nomads	12.14 (86) – 16.14 (110)

Tamworth Australian Football League

PREMIERSHIP LADDER 2010



	PLAYED	WINS	LOSSES	DRAWS	FORFEITS	BYES	PC WON	FOR	AGAINST	PERCENTAGE
Inverell Saints	14	13	1	0	1	3	92.86	1709	659	259.33
Tamworth Kangaroos	13	10	3	0	0	3	76.92	1359	891	152.53
Tamworth Swans	13	7	6	0	0	3	53.85	1099	998	110.12
New England Nomads	15	8	7	0	0	3	53.33	1103	1292	85.37
Gunnedah Bulldogs	14	6	8	0	0	2	42.86	1218	1212	100.50
Narrabri Eagles	15	5	10	0	0	2	33.33	1023	1385	73.86
Muswellbrook Cats	14	0	14	0	1	2	00.00	714	1788	39.93

Tony Gillies Medal Count 2010

Best and Fairest Player – Tamworth Australian Football League

TAMWORTH SWANS

Gavin Knee (16 – second overall); Damien Wendt (5); Simon Freer (4); Travis Brown, Jarara Jackomos (3); Andrew Donohue (2); Josef Atkinson, Jason Darcy, Joshua McKenzie, William Priest, Lachlan Rowling (1).

MATCH STATISTICS



		MATCHES	GOALS	GOAL AVERAGE	HIGHEST SCORE	TIMES IN BEST	TOTAL BEST
Atkinson	Josef	12	4	0.33	2	2	10
Bradburn	Nathan	11	7	0.64	4	2	7
Brown	Travis	11	1	-	1	3	9
Butcher	Daniel	7	1	-	1	-	-
Collins	Simon	7	6	0.86	3	-	-
Cutmore	Jacob	2	5	2.5			
Darcy	Jason	12	23	1.92	7	5	21
Donohue	Andrew	13	1	-	1	5	13
Doughty	Janson	7	1	-	1	5	19
Finlay	Dean	14	-	-	-	2	10
Firth	Mitch	6	18	3	7	3	12
Freer	Simon	11	18	1.64	3	6	20
Gallen	Colin	11	1	-	1	-	-
Green	Nicholas	3	-	-	-	-	-
Griffiths	Evan	6	-	-	-	-	-
Harris	Stuart	6	-	-	-	3	13
Hoy	Dean	2	4	2	2	-	-
Jackomos	Jarara	14	2	-	1	3	4
James	Andrew	4	2	0.5	1	-	-
Julian	Andrew	1	-	-	-	-	-
Keam	Nathan	13	12	0.92	2	-	-
Kelly	Paul	3	-	-	-	-	-
Knee	Gavin	14	31	2.21	5	9	25
Ludgater	Jason	13	-	-	-	1	1
McKenzie	Joshua	10	25	2.5	7	5	15
McLean	Andrew	1	-	-	-	-	-
McRae	Joshua	7	-	-	-	3	8
Miller	Dane	14	-	-	-	6	26
Priest	William	14	3	-	1	7	24
Rowling	Lachlan	5	1	-	1	4	17
Sowden	Ben	14	-	-	-	2	5
Wendt	Damien	13	4	-	2	6	28
Woolley	Ryan	1	-	-	-	-	-

Round One – 10th April 2010
Tamworth Swans v New England Nomads
Number One Oval, Tamworth

After a week of rain, the sun came out to greet the Tamworth Swans as they hosted the New England Nomads in the first round of the 2010 Country Energy Tamworth Australian Football League. The dead track, coupled with a light breeze on a warm day presented magnificent football conditions as the Swans set about defending their Premiership and the Nomads atoning for missing last year's finals series.

After a spirited start to the game, as both teams fought hard for the ball from the centre and struggled for a time for clear possession, it was the Swans who took command of the contest. Working hard in the midfield, the Swans were dominant in the centre clearances and capitalised on this glut of possession as their imposing forward line piled on eight goals for the quarter. Late in the quarter the Nomads caught the Swans defence napping from a free kick to post a major score, but it was a footballing lesson for the visitors in the first period, trailing by 51 points at the end of the quarter.

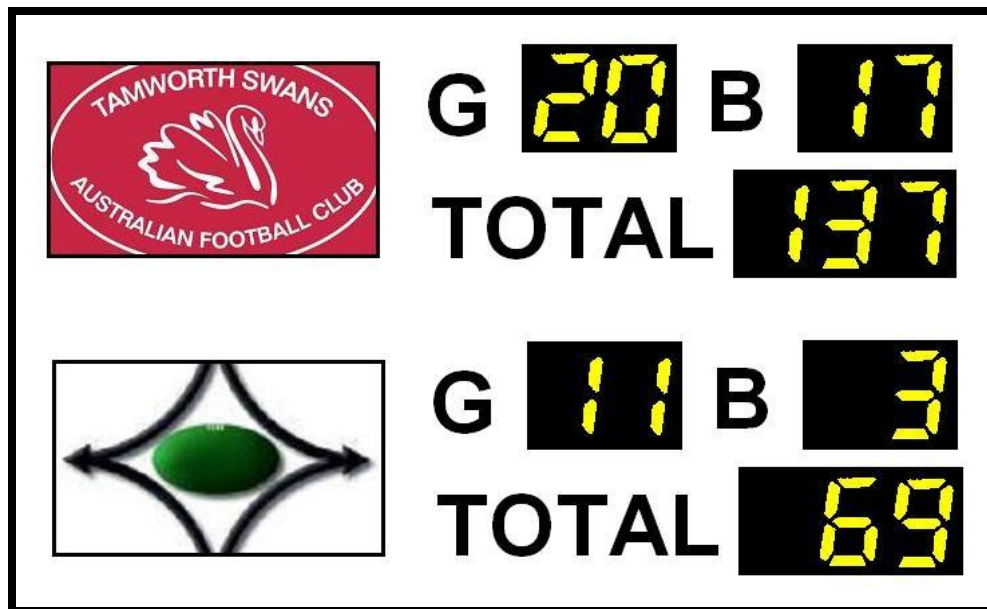
The Swans have the advantage of the breeze in the second period, and commenced where they had left off, running out of the centre and driving the ball inside fifty. Some wayward shots at goal provided the Nomads with some mercy, and they were able to provide some response as the early season fitness started to tell and the match opened up. Kicking six goals to the Nomads two, the Swans extended their lead to 74 at the long break.

Emerging from the half-time huddle a little flat, the Swans met a newly determined Nomads outfit who appeared to have refused to concede the issue. Raising their efforts at the stoppages, the Nomads forwards were provided with quality service that they had been starved of to that point, and responded with four straight majors to open the quarter. Swimming against the tide for the first time in the match, the Swans worked hard to the contests to respond but struggled for rhythm throughout a quarter that was clearly won by the Nomads. Regardless, the Swans appeared to have done enough in a tough third period to put the matter beyond the visitor's reach, taking a 57 point lead into the final quarter.

The last period saw the Nomads determined to run the match out, throwing themselves at the ball and running hard across the ground. A resilient Swans backline repelled much of these offensive charges, and as the quarter dragged on it saw both teams carry tired legs to the contest and struggle for clean possession. Kicking three goals to two, the Swans last quarter effort was enough to hold their earlier advantage, and they ran out convincing 68 point winners in a match that was really put to bed at half-time.

New Swans coach Gary Harriott was happy to get off to a winning start in 2010. "I couldn't really fault our performance in the first quarter, it was a really good effort," he said after the match. "There are some things that we need to work on in that second half, but at this stage of the year it was a good effort."

Many of the Swans first gamers impressed, with Nathan Keam and Will Priest goaling in their first match. Priest was named the Player's Player. Lachlan Rowling was named the best for the Swans. The coach's award went to Simon Freer. Andrew Donohue was given the green ant for his on-field renditions of 'The Stomp'.



FINAL RESULTS

SWANS: 8.3 (59) 14.10 (94) 17.11 (113) **20.17 (137)**

NOMADS: 1.2 (8) 3.2 (20) 9.2 (56) **11.3 (69)**

GOALS:

SWANS: J. Darcy, G. Knee (4); S. Freer (3); J. Cutmore, M. Firth, D. Hoy (2); N. Keam, W. Priest, L. Rowling (1).

NOMADS: M. Bourke (3); R. Crump, W. Whitby (2); C. Ballagh, C. Dobos, P. Tobias, J. Wright (1).

BEST:

SWANS: L. Rowling, T. Brown, A. Donohue, J. Doughty, W. Priest, J. Jackomos.

NOMADS: O. Temoso, G. Nelson, M. Maxwell, W. Whitby, B. Page, G. Wagstaff.

TONY GILLIES MEDAL VOTES: G. Knee (3); J. McKenzie (1).

TEAM LIST: J. Atkinson, T. Brown, D. Butcher, J. Cutmore, J. Darcy, A. Donohue, J. Doughty, D. Finlay, M. Firth, S. Freer, C. Gallen, D. Hoy, J. Jackomos, N. Keam, G. Knee, J. Ludgater, J. McKenzie, D. Miller, W. Priest, L. Rowling, B. Sowden, D. Wendt.

Round Two – 17th April 2010

Tamworth Kangaroos v Tamworth Swans

Number One Oval, Tamworth

The first local derby of the year ushered in a new era of football in Tamworth, as the Swans and the Kangaroos faced off in the first match under lights in the country music capital. With both teams having started the season with impressive first round performances, a tough and close encounter was anticipated in the opening clash to decide the Billy Holder Cup.

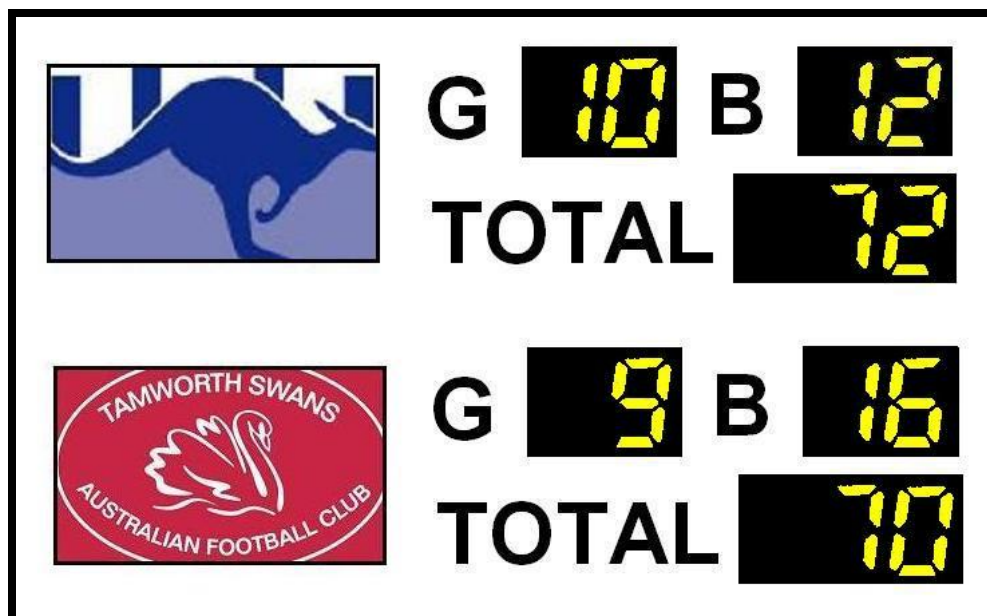
The opening of the match did not disappoint, with determined efforts seeing both midfields struggle to clear the ball cleanly from stoppages. The Kangaroos goaled to open the night's scoring, but the Swans clicked into gear from there and kicked the next three majors. The Kangaroos replied with a double to close the quarter, with the teams separated by just three minor scores to the Swans.

The second quarter became a dour struggle, with neither team able to string together controlled possessions. With a midfield choked by the desperation at the contest and strong efforts from both backlines, the forwards were starved of quality possession. Both teams kicked two majors in the period, and the Kangaroos minor scores brought them back to within the barest possible at the main break.

The Kangaroos hit the ground running in the third quarter, with their midfield dominating in clearances and their forward line enjoying their first real quality ball of the match. Taking full advantage with three straight goals, the Kangaroos momentum looked set to steamroll the Swans. Lifting in the backline, forced behinds by the Swans put the brakes on the Kangaroos push enough to allow their midfield back into the contest. Rising to the challenge, the Swans dominated across the centre and spoiled their forward line with a glut of possession. Kicking three goals but wasting good chances, the Swans has clawed their way back into the match and trailed by a single point at three-quarter time.

The start of the fourth quarter saw the tough and tight football exhibited to that point continue. With determined efforts right across the paddock, clean possession was at an absolute premium. It was the Kangaroos, though, who made the best use of the ball early in the period to kick two straight goals. The Swans lifted again and poured forward, only to waste chance after chance in front of the big sticks. The Kangaroos dropped back in the last ten minutes to clog the Swans forward line as the brave Swans launched themselves on the offensive. A late Swans goal set up a frenzied final five minutes, as troops of both persuasions poured into the Swans forward fifty. With standing room only in front of goal, the Swans were unable to get the clean possession needed to kick the winning goal, and the Kangaroos in the end ground out a tough win by just two points.

The Swans had their chances and were left to rue missed opportunities in a hard but clean local derby. Janson Doughty was magnificent in his backline debut and was named best for the Red and White. Dean Finlay was named Player's Player with another typical though amazingly courageous effort. The coach's award was split between Josh McRae and Ben Sowden. The green ant went to Jason Ludgater for five star story telling at the Oxley Bowling Club.



FINAL RESULTS

ROOS: 3.0 (18) 5.5 (35) 8.11 (59) **10.12 (72)**

SWANS: 3.3 (21) 5.6 (36) 8.10 (58) **9.16 (70)**

GOALS:

ROOS: T. Cotter, A. Cruickshank, D. Overeem (2); G. Akeroyd, A. Smith, P. Tapper, V. Woodgate (1).

SWANS: J. Cutmore (3); D. Hoy (2); J. Darcy, J. Doughty, M. Firth, G. Knee (1).

BEST:

ROOS: A. Smith, C. Daye, L. Robinson, D. Ray, V. Woodgate, A. Cruickshank.

SWANS: J. Doughty, J. McRae, B. Sowden, J. McKenzie, A. Donohue, T. Brown.

TONY GILLIES MEDAL VOTES: D. Wendt (2).

TEAM LIST: J. Atkinson, T. Brown, J. Cutmore, J. Darcy, A. Donohue, J. Doughty, D. Finlay, M. Firth, S. Freer, C. Gallen, N. Green, D. Hoy, J. Jackomos, N. Kearn, G. Knee, J. Ludgater, J. McKenzie, J. McRae, D. Miller, W. Priest, B. Sowden, D. Wendt.

Round Four – 1st May 2010

Tamworth Swans v Narrabri Eagles

Number One Oval, Tamworth

A sunny Tamworth day with a light breeze saw the Tamworth Swans host the Narrabri Eagles for the first time since 2007. Still somewhat of an unknown entity in their returning season, all reports were that the Eagles were a structured, disciplined and determined outfit, and the Swans entered the match knowing that anything less than a dedicated effort would be punished.

This knowledge was clearly at the forefront of the Swans thoughts in the opening quarter, which the Swans dominated through their trademark attack on the ball right across the ball. This first use of the ball was telling, as the Swans took full advantage to kick six majors to a single from the Eagles to leave by 32 points at the first break.

It was much of the same into the second quarter, as the Swans machine rolled on against a determined but generally outgunned Eagles side. Maintaining their determination at the contested ball, the Swans communication saw them use it to best effect, with kicking six goals to two they went into the long break with a commanding 58 point advantage.

Fulfilling expectations that they would provide a tough and disciplined contest, the Eagles emerged in the third quarter to take the match to the Swans. Kicking three goals for the period, the Eagles still struggled to stop the rampaging Swans, who failed to miss in six shots on goal and put the matter to bed by the third break with a lead of 80 points.

Refusing to lay down, the Eagles presented as the much keener side in the final quarter, running forward with vigour and dominating a flat footed Swans outfit. Whether the fuel tickets had been burned or the cue was in the rack, the Eagles clearly had the best of the last quarter and kicked five goals to the Swans two to add a little respectability to the scoreboard and to go down gamely by 63 points.

Swans coach Garry Harriott was very happy with his charge's effort in the first three quarters, and whilst disappointed with the finish to the match viewed it with some pragmatism with a number of key players missing and the earlier effort possibly telling at the end. Mitchell Firth was unstoppable in the first half and was named best for the Swans. Jason Darcy was equally impressive and was given the choccies from his team mates. The green ant was awarded to Garry Harriott, who appeared less than fit on game day after a match-eve bender.



FINAL RESULTS

SWANS: 6.4 (40) 12.7 (79) 19.7 (121) **21.10 (136)**

EAGLES: 1.2 (8) 3.3 (21) 6.5 (41) **11.7 (73)**

GOALS:

SWANS: J. Darcy, M. Firth (7); D. Wendt (2); D. Butcher, S. Freer, N. Keam, G. Knee, W. Priest (1).

EAGLES: D. Patten, D. Shawcross, D. Vennell (2); M. Barrow, D. Campbell, J. Dixon, J. Lawlor, R. Smith (1).

BEST:

SWANS: J. Darcy, M. Firth, A. Donohue, W. Priest, S. Freer, G. Knee.

EAGLES: P. Bushby, D. Shawcross, P. Samuelsson, D. Patten, S. Murphy, R. Tomlinson.

TONY GILLIES MEDAL VOTES: G. Knee (3); J. Darcy (1).

TEAM LIST: J. Atkinson, T. Brown, D. Butcher, J. Darcy, A. Donohue, D. Finlay, M. Firth, S. Freer, C. Gallen, E. Griffiths, J. Jackomos, N. Keam, G. Knee, J. Ludgater, A. McLean, J. McRae, D. Miller, W. Priest, L. Rowling, B. Sowden, D. Wendt.

Round Five – 8th May 2010

Gunnedah Bulldogs v Tamworth Swans

Wolsley Oval, Gunnedah

The Tamworth Swans travelled to Wolsley Oval in Gunnedah, somewhat of a hoodoo ground in recent years, missing two key players but confident of a strong showing. With a disappointing start to 2010, the Bulldogs were under pressure to get a result at home and a keen contest was expected.

The Bulldogs opened the match like a team with their season on the line, attacking the stoppages with vigour and running with determination across the park. With a forward line presenting strongly, the Dogs delivery into their forward line was superb. Straight kicking in front of the sticks saw the Bulldogs steal an early break on the Swans, and any attempt at an early red and white revival was thwarted by their hard working midfield and a determined backline. Able to muster only three majors to seven straight goals from the Bulldogs, the Swans were made to look pedestrian and went into the first break trailing by 22 points, fearful that the Curse of Wolsley was to perpetuate.

The second quarter saw the Swans emerge with the determination of defending Premiers, and a lift in intensity across the centre was matched by purposeful run across the ground. With a forward line moving to the nut and fluid movement of the ball across the ground, the Swans looked at their best and dominated the quarter to take the ascendancy back from the Dogs. The Bulldogs were brave and found a late reply to drag themselves back into the contest, and to see the Swans lead by the slenderest margin of a single point at the long break.

Intent on not seeing their hard work from the second period go to waste, the Swans were right on the job in the third, bringing themselves to the football first and controlling the match as a result. Kicking a couple of goals to skip away, the Swans found the Bulldogs game as always and still dangerous on the run. The Bulldogs counter saw them trade goals with the Swans to keep themselves in the match, but the tide seemed to be turning red as the Swans finished the third quarter with a ten point lead.

The contest was willing into the final quarter, with the Bulldogs clearly not conceding the match and looking to take the challenge up with the Swans. Looking impressive when able to run in space, the Swans were frustrated by a hardworking midfield from the Dogs who refused to allow the Swans any easy possession. Again, the Swans skipped away slightly before both teams traded goals the Bulldogs lifted to lay siege to the defensive fifty of the Swans. Pouring numbers back, the Swans resolute defence held true before they were able to break into attack and provide Mitch Firth with the sherrin with the space he loves to run in. Consecutive goals saw the Swans slip away to run out winners by 23 points in a match played at a hectic pace from the get-go.

Premiership coach Rick Watt ran the side in the absence of Gary Harriott, and he was impressed by the effort. "When we ran the ball, we looked very good, as good as we did last year. Their enthusiasm beat us at the start, but after we started moving the ball I thought our effort across the ground was pleasing," he said. Lachlan Rowling controlled the centre of the ground for the Swans and was named their best. Gavin Knee was superb running forward from the midfield and was the choice from the players. The green ant was awarded to Will Priest for a series of events that could well become the next Quentin Tarantino feature.



FINAL RESULTS

DOGS:	7.0 (42)	10.3 (63)	13.7 (85)	15.8 (98)
SWANS:	3.2 (22)	10.4 (64)	14.11 (95)	18.13 (121)

GOALS:

DOGS:	S. Naismith (5); P. Brown, A. George (2); J. Bee-Gill, J. Hack, T. Lather (1). (as provided)
SWANS:	M. Firth (6); G. Knee (5); J. Darcy (3); S. Freer (2); J. Atkinson, J. Jackomos (1).

BEST:

DOGS:	S. Naismith, T. Garling, P. Brown, S. Hardy, J. Hack, A. Rodstrom.
SWANS:	L. Rowling, D. Wendt, G. Knee, M. Firth, S. Freer, W. Priest.

TONY GILLIES MEDAL VOTES: G. Knee (3); L. Rowling (1).

TEAM LIST: J. Atkinson, N. Bradburn, T. Brown, D. Butcher, J. Darcy, A. Donohue, J. Doughty, D. Finlay, M. Firth, S. Freer, C. Gallen, N. Green, J. Jackomos, N. Keam, G. Knee, J. Ludgater, J. McRae, D. Miller, W. Priest, L. Rowling, B. Sowden, D. Wendt.

Round Six – 15th May 2010

Tamworth Swans v Muswellbrook Cats

Number One Oval, Tamworth

A cool morning lifted and a warm autumn day welcomed the Muswellbrook Cats to Number One Oval for the sixth round of the 2010 Country Energy Tamworth AFL season. Despite having had disappointing results so far this season, the Cats were known to have some hard and experienced footballers, and nothing less than a physical challenge was expected.

The Cats were right up to those expectations from the first bounce, being first to the ball and making the most of their clearances by playing in front and attacking the football. A shell-shocked Swans looked stagnant as the Cats roared into the match and kicked the first three goals. After taking stock across the centre, the Swans rushed and panicked when in possession and piled on a flurry of behinds from kickable positions. Lifting to at least be in the contest with the Cats, the Swans were lucky to kick four goals to be tied with the visitors at quarter time.

Clearly disappointed with their first quarter effort, the Swans took control of the second period and fought for the ball for the first real time in the match. Playing tough across the backline, the Swans kept the Cats scoreless for the period and on occasions looked as impressive as ever when running forward. It was at best a patchy effort however that saw them kick five goals to take a 35 point lead into the long break.

After sorting out their tactics to overcome the plane trees at half-time, the Swans met a determined and physical Muswellbrook outfit at the start of the third quarter. Winning plenty of ball by their commitment at the contest, the Cats became dominant in the centre and took control of matters halfway through the period. Showing some class with the ball in hand, the Swans were able to withstand the spirited challenge of the Cats and went into three-quarter time with a break of 41 points.

With the contest more or less dead, the Cats were still flexing their muscles at any contested possession and the final quarter almost broke down into a slugfest. With both teams struggling for clean possession and only rarely disposing of the ball with any quality, the sherrin became second to the man for much of the last chapter of the match. Having met the Cats challenge, the Swans had a little more run at the end of the match and were able post four goals to the Cats two to come away with a somewhat unimpressive 52 point victory.

Swans coach Garry Harriott was frustrated at the end of the match, having seen his charges show flashes of brilliance and a good dose of ordinariness. Simon Freer was named the Swans best with a strong game at half forward. He also won the player's player. The green ant was awarded to Dean Finlay, who was not looking at his beautiful best after the match having headbutted the fist of an opponent.



FINAL RESULTS

SWANS: 4.8 (32) 9.13 (67) 14.15 (99) **18.11 (125)**

CATS: 5.2 (32) 5.2 (32) 9.4 (58) **11.7 (73)**

GOALS:

SWANS: J. Darcy (5); N. Bradburn (4); S. Freer, G. Knee (3); A. Donohue, N. Keam, D. Wendt (1).

CATS: M. Howarth (4); K. Garland, S. McAdam (2); Q. Foxcroft, A. Griffiths, N. Wilson (1).

BEST:

SWANS: S. Freer, D. Miller, L. Rowling, T. Brown, N. Bradburn, J. McRae.

CATS: C. Blenman, Q. Foxcroft, J. Bower, S. Mullane, N. Wilson, M. Howarth.

TONY GILLIES MEDAL VOTES: G. Knee (3); S. Freer (1).

TEAM LIST: N. Bradburn, T. Brown, D. Butcher, J. Darcy, A. Donohue, D. Finlay, S. Freer, C. Gallen, E. Griffiths, J. Jackomos, N. Keam, G. Knee, J. Ludgater, J. McRae, D. Miller, W. Priest, L. Rowling, B. Sowden, D. Wendt.

Round Seven – 22nd May 2010
Inverell Saints v Tamworth Swans
Sports Centre, Inverell

It was a horribly undermanned Tamworth Swans that made the trek north to take on the Inverell Saints in the seventh round of matches in the Country Energy Tamworth AFL. Billed during the week as a grand final replay and an 'eight-point' fixture, the match was switched from Varley Oval due to a clash with a rugby league tournament, and the secondary venue and number of missing Swans tarnished the atmosphere about the game.

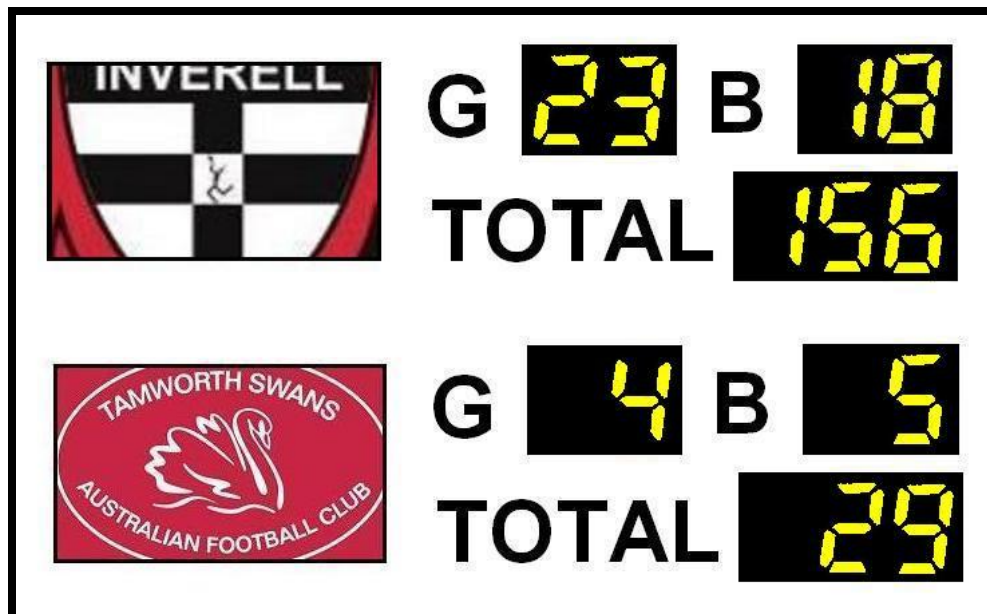
The Saints certainly showed little sign of any such tarnish in the opening of the match, as they launched a merciless assault on the Swans. Brutal at the stoppages and out-running the Swans across the ground, the Saints kicked any number of majors before shell-shocked Swans were able to take stock midway through the quarter. The Swans looked able to match the Saints when they committed to the contested ball, but the Saints eagerness and numbers around the ball told as they ran into space and collected cheap goals. Kicking seven to the Swans lone goal for the period, the Saints went into the first quarter with a surprising and dominant 38 point lead.

Any hope of leniency from the Saints was short-lived, as they jumped straight into the saddle and unleashed upon the struggling Swans into the second quarter. Taking themselves consistently first to the ball, the Saints sliced through the Swans almost at will until a few brave Swans put the halt on their midfield march. Lifting in patches, the Swans looked to be standing up to the Saints, but their efforts were too patchy as the Saints rebounded from any Swans attack to spear the sherrin forward. Running rampant, the Saints went into the long break with a lead of 69 points.

Implored by their coach to make a decided effort at the contests, the Swans entered the third period with some determination to match it with the Saints. Isolated efforts across the park offered some frustration for the Saints, and saw them truly earn their possession of the ball for the first time of the afternoon. The defensive effort to repel the Saints told on the Swans scoreline, as their lonely forward line were starved of any quality ball and were unable to score for the quarter. The Saints bench numbers told as the quarter dragged on, with the Swans leaking cheap goals as the Saints ran past hard, an effort that saw them post a lead of 129 points at three-quarter time.

Looking to salvage some personal and collective pride from what had become a train wreck, the Swans opened the fourth quarter with the resolve that had been generally lacking to that point. Lifting their talk across the ground, and as a group getting to the ball first, the Swans matched it with the Saints and at times looked to be getting on top. Beaten, battered and running on fumes, the Swans kicked two major scores to the Saints three for the period, but it mattered little in the end as the Saints took the match by 127 points.

Coach Gary Harriott gave all credit to Inverell, who were ruthless in their attack at the ball and clearly outplayed the Swans. He praised his side for their effort in the last quarter and in general when playing with so many of their first-choice team missing. Damien Wendt was a standout and was named best for the Swans along with the Player's Player. Will Priest turned out another impressive performance and was given the Coach's Award. He was later named Best On Bus. Ben Sowden snared the green ant for the worst sporting trivia bet in living memory.



FINAL RESULTS

SAINTS: 7.3 (45) 13.5 (83) 20.13 (133) **23.18 (156)**

SWANS: 1.1 (7) 2.2 (14) 2.2 (14) **4.5 (29)**

GOALS:

SAINTS: M. Viney (9); C. Wheeler (3); J. Kimmince, S. Walker, C. Whitton (2); J. Elphick, J. Gobbert, J. Lawton, S. Mansbridge, B. Tomlinson (1).

SWANS: N. Bradburn, M. Firth, N. Keam, G. Knee (1).

BEST:

SAINTS: J. Elphick, A. Deslandes, M. Viney, G. Hadland, S. Walker, J. Lawton.

SWANS: D. Wendt, W. Priest, J. Darcy, D. Miller, A. Donohue, G. Knee.

TONY GILLIES MEDAL VOTES: D. Wendt (3).

TEAM LIST: N. Bradburn, T. Brown, D. Butcher, J. Darcy, A. Donohue, D. Finlay, M. Firth, J. Jackomos, A. Julian, N. Keam, G. Knee, J. Ludgater, D. Miller, W. Priest, B. Sowden, D. Wendt, R. Woolley.

Round Eight – 29th May 2010

New England Nomads v Tamworth Swans

Bellevue Oval, Armidale

The Tamworth Swans battled through pouring rain up the Moonbi hills to enter a cold and wet Armidale afternoon in the eighth round of matches in the 2010 Country Energy Tamworth AFL. With the ground itself holding up well and not particularly muddy, the slippery surface and wet ball meant that an afternoon of pretty football was unlikely to follow.

The opening of the match went much as expected, with both teams struggling for clean possession and a midfield arm wrestle developing. The Nomads had the better field advantage early to post only minor scores, before a Swans goal thrust them into the match. Pushing into the Nomads forward fifty and with all the momentum, the Swans lost two players to an old chestnut when Jason Darcy and Lachlan Rowling were sent from the field for fifteen minutes. The Swans lifted and managed to hold the Nomads despite their numerical advantage, but a late Nomads goal put them into the lead by a single point at quarter time.

Down two key players, the Swans struggled early in the second quarter to produce any forward drive. With neither team able to consistently get a good handle on the ball, the Nomads were able to knock the ball forward with stronger numbers early to take the ascendancy in the match. The Swans limited attack was rewarded with just four minor scores, and the Nomads goaled twice for the period to take a two goal lead into half time.

A quick goal to the Swans at the start of the third quarter lifted the red and white, who showed renewed commitment when the ball was on the deck. Starting to link across the ground with the slippery ball, the Swans lost a third player for fifteen minutes when Damien Wendt was shown a yellow card. Short across the midfield, the Swans were beaten by the Nomads ability to get better numbers at the contest and the hosts kicked a couple of goals to skip away. A second Swans goal was nullified when the Nomads were awarded a free kick, taken by a player believed not to be the one earning the kick, who duly goaled and gave the Nomads a 19 point lead at three-quarter time.

The effort in the wet seemed to have told on both sides in the last quarter, with some clumsy possessions in the already trying conditions seeing little meaningful attack early. Battling for quality ball inside fifty, the Swans were beaten by the Nomads counter attack that saw them boot two majors to take a stranglehold on proceedings. Fighting back with two goals, the Swans were killed off late by a third and final Nomads goal that gave them a victory by 25 points.

Despite the loss, the Swans effort was impressive with their determination and battling spirit in the conditions and circumstances. Will Priest followed on his recent magnificent formline with another outstanding effort and was named best for the Swans. The player's player was shared by Jason Darcy and Gavin Knee. Nathan Bradburn was awarded the green ant for kneeling a team mate's head, and went on to truly earn the prize on the way home.



FINAL RESULTS

NOMADS: 1.3 (9) 3.6 (24) 6.7 (43) **9.8 (62)**

SWANS: 1.2 (8) 1.6 (12) 3.6 (24) **5.7 (37)**

GOALS:

NOMADS: B. Page, A. Reid, J. Wright (2); J. Frost, J. Harland, H. Pearce (1).

SWANS: T. Brown, S. Collins, M. Firth, N. Keam, G. Knee (1).

BEST:

NOMADS: P. Tobias, H. Pearce, G. Wagstaff, J. Harland, C. Ballagh, N. Schultz..

SWANS: W. Priest, J. Darcy, M. Firth, J. McRae, G. Knee, L. Rowling.

TONY GILLIES MEDAL VOTES: T. Brown (2).

TEAM LIST: J. Atkinson, N. Bradburn, T. Brown, S. Collins, J. Darcy, D. Finlay, M. Firth, C. Gallen, J. Jackomos, N. Keam, P. Kelly, G. Knee, J. Ludgater, J. McKenzie, J. McRae, D. Miller, W. Priest, L. Rowling, B. Sowden, D. Wendt.

Round Eleven – 26th June 2010
Narrabri Eagles v Tamworth Swans
Leitch Oval, Narrabri

After a month on the sidelines with byes and washed out matches, the Tamworth Swans made the trip west to Narrabri to face the Eagles for the second time in 2010, but the first time since 2007 on the unique spaces of Leitch Oval. Early rain made the centre sloppy and the rest of the field slippery, and with the Swans desperate for a win the football was expected to tough if not pretty.

The Swans were the quickest out of the blocks, taking the contest right up to the Eagles from the opening bounce. Camped between their centre and half forward lines, the Swans struggled for clean possession as the Eagles struggled to clear their defence. The Swans entries inside fifty were met strongly by the Eagles backmen, and for all their pressure the Swans could only muster a string of minor scores. The first Swans goal was quickly answered by the Eagles, who grew in confidence with a score on the board and with consecutive goals late in the quarter took a one-kick lead into the first break.

Entering the second quarter confident that they were winning enough ball to post a defendable scoreline, the Swans efforts at the stoppages were wasted against an Eagles side that was full of run and prepared to work to take numbers to the ball. Running out of the centre, the Eagles made the most of rare clean possession in the conditions to steal a slight break from the Swans. Lifting their efforts at the ball and meeting the run of their opponents, the Swans were able to link up through the middle late in the quarter to post two majors and look ominous. The Eagles determined reply saw them post the last goal of the quarter, though, and the Swans trailed by seven points at the main break.

A half time down pour saw the already difficult conditions deteriorate in the third period, but with the match there for the taking the commitment from both teams when the ball was in dispute was not diminished. With clean ball hard to come by and both defensive lines working to good effect, the scorers had a easy task early before the Swans pressed forward and produced two strong goals to take the lead for the first time in nearly two quarters. Poised to go on with it from there, the Swans were again frustrated by the hardworking Eagles midfield, whose hard run was rewarded late in the quarter with two neat excursions inside fifty. With both of these converted, the Eagles wrestled back the lead and were once again seven points in front when the penultimate siren sounded.

Entering the final period resolved to take the four points home with them, the Swans lifted right across the paddock to put the blowtorch to the Eagles. With a gluttony of field position but only flashes of clean possession, the Swans poured the Sherrin forward against an equally determined Eagles defence. The clogged forward did not help their cause, but the Swans efforts earned them a string of attempts at goal that were wasted one after the other. When the Eagles kicked a brace of goals on the break, the Swans day appeared done. A late Gavin Knee goal gave some hope until it proved to be almost the last play of the match, to see the Swans go down in a tough match by just seven points.

Coach Gary Harriott was impressed with his team's effort on the whole but was understandably frustrated by their failure to convert their chances. The backline in it's entirety earned his praise, but a once again superb Will Priest was named the Swan's best. In fact, it took until the Courthouse Hotel at Gunnedah for the plucky Leprechaun to be beaten. In his return match, Stuart Harris showed the form and commitment that has endeared him to his teammates in the past to be given the player's player. Nathan Keam was awarded the green ant for the pride taken out of an impressive fend on a much younger opponent the weekend before.



FINAL RESULTS

EAGLES:	3.5 (23)	5.7 (37)	7.7 (49)	9.7 (61)
SWANS:	2.5 (17)	4.6 (30)	6.6 (42)	7.12 (54)

GOALS:

EAGLES:	J. Dixon, D. Vennell (2); M. Barrow, D. Hughes, A. Irvine, M. McConnell, J. Northey (1).
SWANS:	G. Knee, J. McKenzie (2); S. Freer, J. Jackomos, N. Keam (1).

BEST:

EAGLES:	M. Barrow, A. Irvine, P. Bushby, D. Shawcross, D. Hughes, M. Leven.
SWANS:	W. Priest, D. Miller, J. Doughty, J. McKenzie, J. McRae, A. Donohue.

TONY GILLIES MEDAL VOTES: W. Priest (1).

TEAM LIST: J. Atkinson, N. Bradburn, S. Collins, A. Donohue, J. Doughty, D. Finlay, S. Freer, C. Gallen, S. Harris, J. Jackomos, N. Keam, P. Kelly, G. Knee, J. Ludgater, J. McKenzie, J. McRae, D. Miller, W. Priest, B. Sowden, D. Wendt.

Round Twelve – 3rd July 2010
Tamworth Swans v Gunnedah Bulldogs
Number One Oval, Tamworth

The Tamworth Swans returned to Number One Oval for the first time in six weeks in the twelfth round of matches in the 2010 Country Energy Tamworth AFL, hosting a Gunnedah Bulldogs team with their season on the line. With one win separating the two sides, this match looked to be an early play-off for fourth position and the last finals berth come August.

Playing into some form last weekend, the Swans hit the ground running and showed glimpses of their best football to post the first two major scores of the contest. The Bulldogs lifted to the task, but were met by a resolute Swans defence that refused to yield, pressuring the Dogs forward line and seeing them able to only trouble the scorer with single points in the first period. Two further straight kicks on goal to the Swans saw them take a 23 point lead into quarter time.

The Bulldogs returned like a team with their season on the line, and lifted their efforts across the centre to see them winning more ball in the middle. Using this to effect, the Dogs were able to kick their first goal of the match and grew in confidence with it. Determined efforts across the Swans midfield saw them push the ball forward, but with their half forward coming deep to find the football, their empty forward line was easily cleared by the Dogs, who launched directly into attack. The Dogs second goal came in reply to just two behinds for the quarter to the Swans, and the margin was closed to just nine points at the long break.

The Swans entered the third quarter with a forward line shakeup, but it was their dominance across the midfield that the Bulldogs struggled to combat. After both teams traded early goals, Swans centre line exploded, running with vigour that resulted three straight goals from an unlikely source. A late Bulldogs goal steadied the ship a little, but at the end of the third term the Swans had skipped out to a 19 point lead and looked poised to run away with the match.

If the matter had been decided, the Bulldogs didn't get the memo, and they came into the last quarter with a steely resolve to take the issue to the Swans. An early Dogs goal was followed by two gifts from poor Swans discipline, and with the wind in their sails the Dogs pressed on to find a tall target right in front of goal. Their fourth for the quarter gave them the lead and, with the Swans run fading, it appeared to most the match. The Bulldogs run was halted by a game Swans half back line, and their midfield lifted to push the ball forward again. A long range goal to Gavin Knee saw the Swans take the lead back, and a last strong charge found Nathan Keam in front of the sticks. His conversion after the siren gave the Swans a brave victory by eight points.

Coach Gary Harriott was proud of his team's effort to fight back into the match when apparently beaten. Dean Finlay was named the best for the Swans from any number of deserving players. Josh McKenzie was the awarded the player's player. Ron Smith was awarded the green ant for boosting his dream team value by earning a goal assist for the Bulldogs from the sideline.



FINAL RESULTS

SWANS: 4.4 (28) 4.6 (30) 8.8 (56) **11.11 (77)**

DOGS: 0.5 (5) 2.9 (21) 4.13 (37) **9.15 (69)**

GOALS:

SWANS: G. Knee, J. McKenzie (3); S. Freer, N. Keam (2); C. Gallen (1).

DOGS: A. George (3); A. Rees (2); J. Bee-Gill, P. Brown, S. McVittie, S. Naismith (1).

BEST:

SWANS: D. Finlay, S. Harris, G. Knee, D. Wendt, J. McKenzie, S. Freer.

DOGS: A. George, P. Brown, J. Edwards, P. Chapman, S. Naismith, D. Priestley.

TONY GILLIES MEDAL VOTES: S. Freer (2), J. Atkinson (1).

TEAM LIST: J. Atkinson, N. Bradburn, S. Collins, J. Darcy, A. Donohue, D. Finlay, S. Freer, C. Gallen, E. Griffiths, S. Harris, J. Jackomos, N. Keam, P. Kelly, G. Knee, J. Ludgater, J. McKenzie, D. Miller, W. Priest, B. Sowden, D. Wendt.

Round Thirteen – 10th July 2010
Muswellbrook Cats v Tamworth Swans
Werriman Field, Muswellbrook

With their last road trip of the regular season, the Tamworth Swans made their way south to take on the Cats in Muswellbrook down on numbers but high on enthusiasm and keen to launch themselves into the second half of the season. A pleasant day in the Hunter Valley greeted them, with a slight breeze gusting to provide a little test to the goal kickers.

From the first bounce it was the Swans who took charge of proceedings, dominating the early stoppages and pressing forward from midfield. This early pressure was wasted with some poor kicking and it was not until the Swans kicked the first major of the day that the Cats lifted themselves into the match. With both sides committed to the football and using the nut confidently and efficiently, goals were traded between both teams, each kicking five goals for the period that saw the Swans lead by three wayward kicks at quarter time.

Enjoying the open space on offer at Werriman Field, the Swans ran hard from the start of the second period. With their midfield finding plenty of ball and connecting well with their half forward line, the Swans kicked away to a slight lead before the committed Cats clawed their way back into the contest. With a string on one-percenters characterising their determination, the Cats hung onto the Swans late in the quarter to keep the visitors just three goals away into the long break.

Rising in confidence and playing their best football in some time, the Swans took ownership of the third quarter of the match. Resolute in the back line, the Swans connected right across the lines to find space, hit targets and were relentless inside the forward fifty. Kicking six goals from eight opportunities, the Swans kept the Cats to a single goal to put the issue beyond doubt and take a lead of 48 points into the final period.

The last quarter saw the beaten Cats refuse to lay down, with a midfield committed to contest the stoppages against the Swans and a back line working hard to pressure their red and white counterparts. Controlling possession but struggling to find the space they had in the third period, the Swans kicked three goals before a late Cats fightback saw them goal once and unlucky not to goal twice more. The issue was well beyond doubt however, and it was the Swans who ran away dominant winners by 61 points.

Coach Gary Harriott could not have been more pleased with his troops, who lifted when short on numbers and played one of their best matches of the season. His simple message of "really well done guys" after the match summed the day up nicely. Joey Atkinson played out of his skin running forward from the wing and was given the nod as the Swans best by both coach and his teammates. The green ant was awarded to Josh McRae, who found the contents of his football bag, abandoned a fortnight prior, lovingly washed and pressed.



FINAL RESULTS

CATS:	5.0 (25)	7.1 (43)	8.3 (51)	9.4 (58)
SWANS:	5.3 (28)	9.7 (61)	15.9 (99)	18.11 (119)

GOALS:

CATS:	M. Howarth (3); S. McAdam (2); M. Folpp, Q. Foxcroft, A. Griffiths, A. Warner (1).
SWANS:	S. Freer, G. Knee (4); J. McKenzie (3); J. Atkinson, N. Bradburn, J. Darcy (2); A. James (1).

BEST:

CATS:	Q. Foxcroft, N. Duncan, M. Hori, B. Scott, M. Knowles, A. Warner.
SWANS:	J. Atkinson, N. Bradburn, A. James, S. Freer, J. Darcy, J. Jackomos.

TONY GILLIES MEDAL VOTES: J. Jackomos (3), S. Freer (1).

TEAM LIST: J. Atkinson, N. Bradburn, J. Darcy, A. Donohue, D. Finlay, S. Freer, C. Gallen, S. Harris, J. Jackomos, A. James, G. Knee, J. Ludgater, J. McKenzie, J. McRae, D. Miller, W. Priest, B. Sowden, D. Wendt.

Round Fourteen – 17th July 2010

Tamworth Swans v Inverell Saints

Number One Oval, Tamworth

The Tamworth Swans hosted League leaders the Inverell Saints in round fourteen of the 2010 Country Energy Tamworth AFL, with a warm and still day greeting both teams in Tamworth. With good form in recent weeks, the Swans were confident of giving the runaway leaders a test despite the late exclusion of two key personnel.

The opening of the match was even, with a keen contest in the centre of the ground as both teams vied for the first use of the Sherrin. The Saints made better use of the early football to post a couple of major scores, but the Swans backline was working well and linking efficiently with the midfield. Winning plenty of ball in the backfield, the Swans looked in the contest but their final delivery lacked at times to make this tell on the scoreboard. This pressure finally told late in the quarter, with the Swans finally causing some trouble for Bill Holder in the pavilion and keeping in touch with the Saints, trailing by just over a single kick at the first break.

The second period was much the same, with the midfield contest still willing and both teams valuing any clean possession they were able to build from the stoppages. The Swans backline frustrated the Saints targets, who struggled to find space and were spoiled continually. Bouncing into attack, the Swans linked up well across the ground but again struggled to penetrate the last defences of the Saints. Missed set shots cost the Swans a chance to really put the acid to the Saints, who made good use of their attempts at goal to skip away from their hosts. The Swans goaled from a fifty metre penalty following the sending off of a Saints player late in the quarter, and the match looked ripe for the picking with the Swans going into half-time just eight adrift.

The Saints returned playing their recent brand of confident football, and lifted their efforts across the park to cover for their missing colleague. This renewed effort saw both teams struggle to maintain quality possession and both teams found it difficult to clear from their centre. The Swans delivery forward from their limited use dropped off, with indirect entries into the forward fifty easy pickings for the Saints loose defensive player. The backline pressure of the Swans continued to frustrate the Saints forwards, who wasted a number of chances to keep the Swans in the match. At the end of a tough third period, the Saints maintained a lead of just fourteen points and looked vulnerable to a genuine challenge from the Swans.

Like the good team they are, the Saints responded to this challenge in the final quarter. Lifting their intensity in the midfield, the Saints poured the ball into their forward fifty as their forwards started to get on top of a game Swans backline that looked to have cashed in most of their fuel tickets. Wasteful in front of the sticks early in the quarter, the Saints gave the Swans a lifeline but after they themselves squandered good attacking opportunities the Saints rebounded with a goal to set the Swans a big task for victory. The big Saints forwards took control late in the piece to put a gap into the scoreboard unreflecting of the nature of the match, but with the Swans unable to goal in the final period the Saints ran out winners by 39 points.

Coach Gary Harriott was happy with the efforts of his charges in pushing the League leaders, confident that they had shown that they could genuinely match it with the Premiership favourites. He stated that any of twenty players could have been named in his best, but gave a special mention to Simon Freer, who battled hard with little peace as the key forward target. The player's player was shared by Travis Brown and Dane Miller. Despite a strong nomination the green ant was not awarded for fear of publication in a family environment.



FINAL RESULTS

SWANS:	2.4 (16)	6.5 (41)	7. 7 (49)	7.11 (53)
SAINTS:	3.5 (23)	7.7 (49)	8.15 (63)	12.20 (92)

GOALS:

SWANS:	J. McKenzie (3); S. Freer, G. Knee, N. Keam, D. Wendt (1).
SAINTS:	G. Hadland (4); M. Viney (3); C. Whitton (2); J. Byrnes, R. Gleeson, T. Williams (1).

BEST:

SWANS:	S. Freer, D. Miller, G. Knee, D. Wendt, S. Harris, B. Sowden.
SAINTS:	J. Elphick, G. Hadland, S. Mansbridge, R. Gleeson, S. Kimmince, C. Wheeler.

TONY GILLIES MEDAL VOTES: G. Knee (1).

TEAM LIST: J. Atkinson, N. Bradburn, T. Brown, S. Collins, A. Donohue, J. Doughty, D. Finlay, S. Freer, C. Gallen, N. Green, E. Griffiths, S. Harris, J. Jackomos, A. James, N. Keam, G. Knee, J. Ludgater, J. McKenzie, D. Miller, W. Priest, B. Sowden, D. Wendt.

Round Fifteen – 24th July 2010

Tamworth Swans v New England Nomads

Number One Oval, Tamworth

Third place was on the line as the Tamworth Swans hosted the New England Nomads in the fifteenth round of the 2010 Country Energy Tamworth Australian Football League. A few late exclusions caused a slight rethink just prior to the match, but the Swans fielded one of their stronger sides of the year on a great day for football at Number One Oval.

The confidence of the Swans shone through in the first period, as the red and white midfield took the match by the scruff of the neck from the first bounce. Running with vigour, strong on the ball and hitting targets like an Olympic archer, the Swans posted the first four major scores of the match and looked totally in control. The stunted attacking replies from the Nomads were easily thwarted by a hardworking Swans backline, and it took a free kick in front of goals late in the quarter for the Nomads to post their lone goal of the period. The red hot Swans went into the first break with a dominant 25 point lead.

Again strong across the centre, the Swans poured on the pressure again in the second quarter. The Nomads lifted their intensity to compete for the contested ball, but the Swans looked the best once the ball was won with slick delivery right across the ground. The Nomads forwards were frustrated by the Swans defenders, who bounced readily into attack. Precise balls into the forward fifty saw the Swans win plenty of shots on goal, but some missed set shots saw them waste a chance to put their opponents right out of commission. The half time siren saw the Swans in control though and 31 points in front.

The third period saw the Swans dominate early, however the Nomads backline lifted and attacked the ball with desperation. Struggling for clean possession and at times overusing the handball, the Swans were able to kick just two goals for the quarter. Utilising their mobility in the forward line, the Nomads started to look dangerous, but the Swans defensive pressure saw this go unconverted, with the single Nomads goal overshadowed by six behinds for the third quarter. Winning that quarter by just one point, the Swans lead by 32 at the last break, with the Nomads hanging on grimly.

The fourth quarter started as an arm wrestle, with both teams hard at the contested possession and each struggling to find a clean Sherrin as a result. The Swans broke the deadlock first, putting a dent in the Nomads challenge. As the adjudication appeared to dry up and tempers got warm, the Swans lost Ben Sowden on a yellow card after a melee followed a Nomads goal. Two further goals to the Nomads gave a slight sniff of a comeback, but this was extinguished by a great running goal to Will "Come on get through" Priest. In the end the match was decided a long way from home, with the Swans running out convincing winners by 36 points.

Coach Gary Harriott was pleased with the Swans victory, particularly the method in the first half, and struggled to separate his best players. He did nominate his adopted son, Damien 'Pet Mole' Wendt, but deservedly so as the plucky rover was also awarded the Player's Player. Josh McKenzie was given the green ant for stringing together an impressive collection of behinds.



FINAL RESULTS

SWANS: 5.2 (32) 7.5 (47) 9.6 (60) **12.11 (83)**

NOMADS: 1.1 (7) 2.4 (16) 3.10 (28) **6.11 (47)**

GOALS:

SWANS: J. McKenzie (4); G. Knee (3); S. Collins, S. Freer, A. James, N. Keam, W. Priest (1).

NOMADS: B. Page (2); M. Dowdle, D. Dunlop, J. Vessey, J. Wright (1).

BEST:

SWANS: D. Wendt, D. Miller, J. Atkinson, J. Doughty, G. Knee, W. Priest.

NOMADS: G. Nelson, T. Walsh, C. Clayton, D. MacLellan, A. Reid, J. Wright.

TONY GILLIES MEDAL VOTES: G. Knee (3), A. Donohue (2).

TEAM LIST: J. Atkinson, N. Bradburn, T. Brown, D. Butcher, S. Collins, J. Darcy, A. Donohue, J. Doughty, D. Finlay, S. Freer, J. Jackomos, A. James, N. Keam, G. Knee, J. McKenzie, D. Miller, W. Priest, B. Sowden, D. Wendt.

Round Eighteen – 21st August 2010
Tamworth Swans v Narrabri Eagles
Number One Oval, Tamworth

The last round of the regular season of the 2010 Country Energy Tamworth Australian Football League saw the Tamworth Swans host the Narrabri Eagles, with a victory securing a home minor semi-final for the defending Premiers. With a full month away from football, and training limited in the same time due to weather, a slightly scratchy performance was expected as the Swans prepared for another assault on the finals.


The Swans won the first clearance and pushed towards half forward, but from there it was one-way traffic as an eager Eagles outfit threw themselves at the contest. Running in strong numbers, the Eagles dominated the opening but were wasteful in front of goals early to not take full effect of their effort. The Swans looked stagnant and were unable to string together meaningful possession, as the Eagles kicked five goals in the first period. The Swans were able to muster two goals from a minimum of excursions inside fifty, and were trailing by 23 points at the first break.

Entering the second quarter more determined, the Swans met the Eagles aggression at the disputed ball. It was the Eagles though that consistently got numbers to the ball, and a combination of poor delivery and a strong performance by the Eagles half back that frustrated the Swans forward pack. A strong effort in the back fifty by the Swans kept the Eagles within striking distance, with both teams able to kick just one goal for the quarter to see the visitors take a 19 point lead into half time.

The Swans lifted their intensity in the second half, winning good ball across the centre. The back six, the cornerstone of the Swans, rose in the third quarter to surge forward on the counter-attack. Poor disposals again haunted the Swans, as these runs all too often fell apart and with the Swans half forwards forced to play deep to find the Sherrin targets became hard to find once the ball was won. The keen Eagles run looked to have cost them late in the third quarter though, and the visitors appeared to tire as the Swans kicked two goals to one for the period to be within striking distance at 13 points adrift with a quarter to play.

The last quarter opened with a determined charge from the Swans, who dominated across half back and got on top in the middle of the ground for the first time in the match. Both teams traded goals before the Swans lifted, but at times overused the ball instead of putting it quickly inside fifty. Kicking two unanswered majors, the Swans levelled up to the Eagles and looked set to run over the top of them and claim an undeserved victory. But it was the Eagles who rose to the occasion in the final part of the match, their midfield again putting their stamp on the clearances to see the Eagles kick a further goal and a few behinds to take the match, their first ever win at Number One Oval, by ten points.

Coach Gary Harriott was disappointed with his team's effort, particularly with the finals knocking on the door. Luckily, the Gunnedah Bulldogs did the Swans a favour in thumping the New England Nomads to give the Swans third place and a home semi-final next week regardless, and with Damien Wendt and Simon Freer to come into the lineup he remained confident of challenging the two top teams. Stuart Harris was tireless across half back and was named the best for the Swans. Josef Atkinson was another shining light on a dim day and was awarded the Player's Player. The green ant was awarded to Josh McKenzie, who terrible pass to a team mate in front of goal found its way through the big sticks.

	G	8	B	10
	TOTAL	58		
	G	9	B	14
	TOTAL	68		

FINAL RESULTS

SWANS: 2.0 (12) 3.5 (23) 5.8 (38) **8.10 (58)**

EAGLES: 5.5 (35) 6.6 (42) 7.9 (51) **9.14 (68)**

GOALS:

SWANS: J. McKenzie (3); J. Atkinson, S. Collins, J. Darcy, N. Keam, G. Knee (1).

EAGLES: J. Northey, D. Vennell (3); M. Barrow, N. Dicks, R. Smith (1).

BEST:

SWANS: S. Harris, G. Knee, D. Finlay, J. Doughty, J. Jackomos, J. McKenzie.

EAGLES: M. Barrow, M. Leven, A. Irvine, D. Patten, P. Bushby, S. Murphy.

TONY GILLIES MEDAL VOTES: T. Brown (1).

TEAM LIST: J. Atkinson, N. Bradburn, T. Brown, D. Butcher, S. Collins, J. Darcy, A. Donohue, J. Doughty, D. Finlay, E. Griffiths, S. Harris, J. Jackomos, A. James, N. Keam, G. Knee, J. Ludgater, J. McKenzie, D. Miller, W. Priest, B. Sowden.

Elimination Semi-Final – 28th August 2010
Tamworth Swans v New England Nomads
Number One Oval, Tamworth

After some concern about the availability of Number One Oval with heavy midweek rain, a mild day with a slight breeze and great conditions for football greeted the Tamworth Swans as they hosted the New England Nomads in the first week of the 2010 finals. Some late exclusions for the Swans forced a reshuffle of their line-up, but the 2009 Premiers were confident of maintaining the defence of their title against the best Nomads line-up of the season.

The Swans had the best of the early running to pepper the Nomads defence. The battle for the midfield was hot early, with both centre lines running forward with numbers at the contest, making every clean possession a valuable one. The speed of the Nomads forward line looked potent as they kicked three majors for the first quarter, but the strong Swans defence battled well to launch their side into attack. The Swans midfield and half-forward line were working well, and with clean delivery inside fifty the Swans kicked four goals for the quarter. With a five point lead into quarter time, the Swans looked to be slightly on top in a keen contest.

With a sniff of an upset, the Nomads midfield rose early in the second quarter, dominating the clearances from the restart. With quick ball movement into a fast moving forward line, the Nomads had the Swans looking disorganised and stagnant as they kicked three unanswered goals. A lift in intensity at the centre contests saw the Swans halt the Nomads run, before starting their own forward charge and kicking two quick goals to drag themselves back into the match. The pendulum swung back to the Nomads, who kicked two more goals before the Swans snatched back the momentum late in the quarter. A strong goal after the siren put the Swans back in the lead, with just three points separating the two sides at half-time.

The third quarter developed into a grind, with the defensive ends of both teams getting a handle on their opponents for the first time in the match. As the midfield battle continued, both teams struggled for clean possession and struggled to produce meaningful excursions within fifty. The Nomads kicked two goals to the Swans one, with the Swans wasteful with their limited chances and rushing their disposals. In a quarter played mostly between the half-forward lines, the difference between the two teams was reduced to a single point with just one quarter to play.

The last quarter opened with a Swans charge and a goal soccered through from the goal square, but any hope that this might kill off the Nomads challenge was short lived. Dominating with their run through the centre and looking sharp up front, the Nomads piled on three unanswered goals. The Swans lifted, mustering a goal in response to raise hopes of an unlikely comeback, but the Nomads were full of running and confidence and kicked three further goals to put the issue beyond doubt. In the end, the Nomads were 24 points up to book a date with the Tamworth Kangaroos next week and end the season for the Swans.

Coach Gary Harriott was disappointed with some aspects of his team's performance, but remained proud of the effort that the central members of his squad had put in through the season. Josh McKenzie's seven goals saw him named the best for the Swans and also the Player's Player. The green ant was not awarded, but in a rare trifecta may also have gone to McKenzie for his rash and baseless mid-week allegations of squeegee tampering.



FINAL RESULTS

SWANS:	4.2 (26)	9.5 (59)	10.10 (70)	12.14 (86)
NOMADS:	3.3 (21)	8.8 (56)	10.9 (69)	16.14 (110)

GOALS:

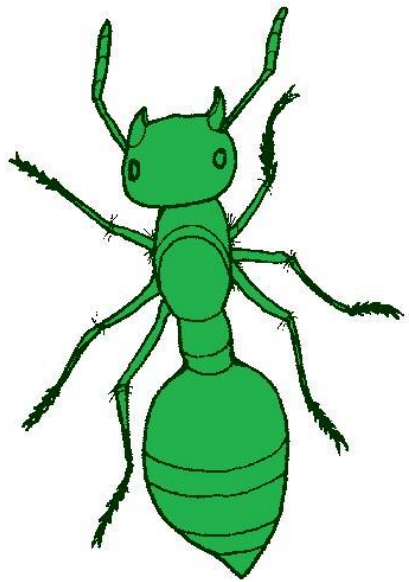
SWANS: J. McKenzie (7); S. Collins (3); N. Keam, G. Knee (1).
 NOMADS: W. Whitby (6); C. Dobos, J. Harland (3); M. Dowdle, J. Frost, B. Page, N. Schultz (1).

BEST:

SWANS: J. McKenzie, D. Wendt, J. Darcy, D. Miller, G. Knee, J. Ludgater.
 NOMADS: G. Nelson, J. Frost, H. Pearce, A. Reid, N. Schultz, C. Teseling.

TEAM LIST: J. Atkinson, N. Bradburn, T. Brown, S. Collins, J. Darcy, A. Donohue, D. Finlay, S. Freer, C. Gallen, E. Griffiths, S. Harris, J. Jackomos, N. Keam, G. Knee, J. Ludgater, J. McKenzie, D. Miller, W. Priest, B. Sowden, D. Wendt.

**Snaz
Hoy Hoy
Dicky
Joey
Dribbles
Unit
Smother
Whippet
Tassie
Junior
Pet Mole
Blank
Jay Jay
Funky
Fonz**



**Roach
Woody
Bear
Butch
Wheels
Sledge
Dockets
Doc
Agro
Crunch
Didge
Levi
Caymans
PK**