

Tatura V Shepparton United; Round 6

The much anticipated game between the unbeaten United and the reigning premiers in Tatura was played in perfect football conditions at Tatura Park on Saturday. Whilst both sides had some key personnel missing the game lived up to expectations in what was a bruising encounter. The Bulldogs once again showed they will challenge for the title in 2013 with a solid victory delivered after a torrid battle between two talented teams.

The 32 point win was up for grabs right up until deep into the final term, it was a victory that was brought about through contributions from all 21 players. The Tatura side welcomed the debut of Matt Daniel the son of premiership coach Steve, his contribution was solid and a strong mark and fantastic finish was the last term goal that halted a United charge.

The game was played in a finals type atmosphere with a large crowd in attendance consisting of the surviving members, family and friends of the legendary 1953 premiership side and the many sponsors of the club who enjoyed a fabulous afternoon as part of the sponsor's day. Paddy Kerrins made sure that the people who help to make our club a viable concern in such a strong competition were well looked after.

The first term was a real battle between the defences with the ball bouncing between the 50 metre arcs and both backlines on top. The bulldogs defence although young had the big job on the bigger bodied and more experienced United forwards. Tom Miller gave away a lot of weight and strength against man mountain, Jason Eagle and Jayden Young had Matt Forys and both did very good jobs restricting the influence of their opponents. Tom Durward the other link in the chain across half back also maintained his recent run of great form and eventually had the job on Demons dangerman Tim Looby, making him earn every touch.

One goal apiece for the first term turned into a glut at the start of the second with the Bulldogs coming out snarling slamming through the first 4 goals in the opening 8 minutes. The run started by a great snap from Tom Sullivan, in the first 30 seconds set the scene. Corey Mallon and then a Rob Montgomery goal courtesy of some undisciplined play from United resulting in a 50 metre penalty had the Bulldogs open up the first significant break for the match. Montgomery produced a brilliant term adding two goals and gathering many possessions most contested ball and showed he is back to his best. The half time margin was 28 points and the only concern was a groin strain to gun onballer Leigh Owen which was to see him take no further part in the game. United also had concerns with Shaun Huy gone for the game with a leg injury.

To keep the unbeaten United to a single goal in a half of football was a significant feat however, as with all top teams they only need a sniff to be back in the contest. The ongoing habit of missing shots on goal by Tatura meant the lead at the main break was not what it could have been. As United have shown throughout the season they will always compete and have had a habit of winning close encounters and their assault at the start of the 3rd term was indicative of this as they slammed on the first 4 goals to reduce the margin to under a goal. It was not until the 21 minute mark that a Jye Warren goal halted the run and steadied the ship. The general, Linc Wellington and Jimmy Hollow were outstanding leaders withstanding the counter attack and controlling the momentum of the game during this term.

The final break had Tatura up by 12 points and the large crowds at both teams huddles were looking forward to seeing who could break the deadlock. Kicking to the Big Shed end which seemed to be the scoring end with 14 of the 17 goals for the game kicked at that end it was to be the Bulldogs who were to produce another blistering final term outscoring their opponents by 5 goals to 1! Paul Kirby was tireless all day in the ruck and he gave his fleet of mid fielders first use of the ball and the ball delivery into the forward line became more accurate. Youngster Mitch Elliott put the icing on the cake when he finished accurately from a tight angle after having a couple of running bounces, showing his opposition a clean pair of heels.

The victory is a real stepping stone for the season putting Tatura back on top of the ladder. Scott Grigg was ecstatic in the post game wrap describing the win as one of the best he has been a part of and complemented each and every player on their display. With the inter league next week at Geelong the Bulldogs have several players in contention including Linc Wellington, Paul Kirby, Tom Sullivan, James Wall, Jimmy Hollow and Tom Miller. The following week it does not get any easier with an away game against Mooroopna. Jayden Young, who was best on ground hurt his AC joint in the final minutes and scans were positive and he will be a big chance to take on the Cats, Billy Hicks will also return.

SCORES: Tatura 11-15-81 V United 6-13-49

GOALS: R Montgomery 2, N Grigg 2, R McGough 1, T Sullivan 1, J Warren 1, M Elliott 1, C Mallon 1, M Daniel 1, J Wall 1.

BEST: J Young, L Wellington, T Sullivan, T Miller, B Hollow, R Montgomery

RESERVES: The side came up against a very talented opponent in the undefeated Demons. The defence worked hard all game and the forwards found scoring very difficult. Luigi Cantanese battled valiantly all day and he is producing some good football, Anthony Poppa also was very hard at in the middle and did not give up at any stage. The team welcomed back Buffa Ryan from overseas and he worked his way into the contest eventually feeling the effects of a limited pre-season. With some solid nights on the track it will not be long before Ryan is back in senior contention. Daniel Flynn who was perhaps a little unlucky to lose his senior place won a lot of ball. Lone goalkicker Jimmy Nihill was prominent as well. Steve Gagliardi who previously played soccer showed he will be a handy acquisition too.

SCORES: Tatura 1-4-10 V United 13-16-94

Goal: J Nihill 1.

BEST: L Cantanese, A Poppa, D Flynn, C Ryan, J Nihill, S Gagliardi.

U/18s

A great game of footy between two evenly matched sides with a similar pattern emerging with the Bulldogs right in the game, only to lapse for a few minutes which were to prove costly. A 5 goals to 3 final term had United eventually winning by 15 points. The first 3 quarters were goal for goal with Tatura's key players all standing up in a fierce contest. Robert Kirby was magnificent in the ruck and his development has supporters excited, could we see the brothers appearing in the senior side at

some stage this year? Jacob Vraca played his best game for the club and looked composed with his use of the ball. Liam Borrelli and James Bennett were fantastic across the centre and belied their young ages. Forwards Dylan Argus (5 goals) and livewire Kenny Thomson (2 goals) were focal points and gave a solid contest all game. Although defeated the team are developing at a steady rate and there are quite a few players who will develop into top senior players for Tatura which is really what the U/18s is all about. Joe Minutoli and his coaching panel are to be complemented the way the boys are playing and the brand of football is not dissimilar to the seniors.

SCORES: Tatura 9-9-63 V United 12-6-78

Goals: D Argus 5, K Thomson 2, J O'Toole 1, L Borrelli 1.

BEST: R Kirby, J Vraca, L Borrelli, D Argus, K Thomson, J Bennett.

NETBALL

"A" Grade was outplayed by a very strong United team eventually going down by 38 goals. The defensive pressure applied by United saw many turnovers and missed shots allowed the Demons to capitalise. A goal less second term evidence of this pressure. Grace Lovel, and Alex Bertram tried hard all game to get their side into the contest however against overwhelming odds the game became a one sided affair.

SCORES: Tatura 10 V United 48

BEST: G Lovel, A Bertram, L Wards

"B" grade in a fast paced game with lots of turn overs the United defensive pressure and stronger bodies combined with accurate passing enabled them to take the game out by 23 goals. The match being a lot tighter than the score line indicated.

SCORES: Tatura 19 V United 42

BEST: F Boyer, S De Angelis, D Cornwall

"B res" The first half had Tatura producing some strong passages of play with intercepts however some ordinary passing hurt the teams prospects. Emma & Holi Maddock along with Eb & Amy Rees all were good but United were far too strong and quick and ran away with a big win.

SCORE: Tatura 7 V United 68

BEST: E Rees, S McCartney, S Gillet

U/17s. Tatura came out firing with Teana Wards and Nicole Morse working the goal circle well with the lead to United being just 4 at the first break. Defensive pressure was solid across the whole court. Madeliene Thomson showed her versatility providing drive in WA as well as fantastic defence in WD. Although well beaten the girls put up a great effort in an excellent game.

SCORES: Tatura 19 V United 41

BEST: T Wards, M Thomson, L McKie

