

RAINY DAY AT LILYDALE

The say the cold wet weather is "Footy weather", well not many folk Saturday thought it was that enjoyable. The only good things were the Senior & Reserves scores, the little grand stand and the condition of the oval.

The trip to Lilydale always seems to be a danger game, but the fact is we have never lost there in 11 visits and have never been beaten by Lilydale anywhere. Why was Jack Murphy so concerned. ??

It was one of the few days where the it actually rained all day, but at least the boys were not playing in the mud like a few years ago. But those underground changerooms are not a good spot on a day like that.

It was great to see Robbie Ross back on the park and he showed everyone how valuable he was. His strength in the ruck and on the forward line was a thing we certainly lacked a couple of weeks ago at Balwyn. Nathan Henley was very good again and is enjoying the chance to play on the footy.

The Reserves were equally good with some youngsters doing very well in Andy Hackett , Bryce Fisher & Connor McCafferty. Adrian Gilleno again showed how clever he is near the goals with 6 in very difficult conditions. Matty Greig got through his first game back and he and his hand will look forward to a sunny day next time.

The Under 19's unfortunately failed to get the points against a very strong Lilydale lineup.



Nathan Henley strong in the wet.

Congratulations to the loyal Vermont supporters who dominated the Lilydale Grand Stand.



THE MILLER REPORT

Hi from beautiful Venice, probably the prettiest city so far (but Dubai and Rome weren't too shabby!!). The history, the architecture, the cultures of these places are amazing - the people are wonderful (most of them anyway) and the pantomimes by which we try to make ourselves understood are great fun!

This is a photo of Michael trying to work out a rate for 2 coats on the ceiling!!!!

Angela & Mick Miller are on a 7 week trip to Europe

Another Roaming Eagle- Graeme Bentley

My apologies to GB. Forgot he was missing. He is going around Australia , having a ball, been right through the centre to Darwin, now he is back in Katherine on his way to WA. He hopes to be back by the Grand Final. Our job is to be there on the big day.



Mick in Venice

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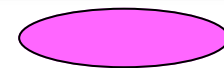
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SENIORS OUTSTANDING IN THE WET

Watson's Word *By Dave Watson*

Vermont maintained second place on the First Division ladder with a methodical 67 point drubbing of Lilydale. In bleak conditions with constant rain and an arctic chill in the air, the Eagles put on a solid four quarter display never once allowing the opposition to ever settle.

Given the capitulation a fortnight earlier the team has bounced back in superb style and with still a number of quality players still on the outer due to injury the current prediction by pundits that Balwyn in September may be a simple walk in the park may yet still have another twist.

Tom Schneider and Ryan Mullett were simply outstanding in conditions better suited to ducks on the rain swept Lilydale Sports Oval. Schneider relished the tough conditions on offer and Lilydale coach Simon Rourke was constantly left bamboozled just how to counteract his dominance. Topping off his performance with three goals, the diminutive midfielder was given plenty of outside assistance by silky skilled skipper Ryan Mullett. Mullett showed that he is just as sublime whether it's a wet or dry track gathering plenty of possessions and kicking two classy goals to top off his performance.

While he is a big bodied player, Ben Crowe arguably put in his most polished performance since arriving at the club during the off season. His attack at the ball and constant pressure in the forward fifty really upset the Lilydale defence and his skills by both foot and hand were exceptional in the conditions. Another big body making his presence felt was returning ruckman Robbie Ross. Having had a long stint on the sidelines the multiple Premiership ruckman really made the Eagles look a lot more physical in the contests.

With no wind at all to speak of the Eagles opened up the first quarter in a strong fashion kicking four goals to nil to open up a more than handy 27 point lead. Goals to Daniel Mendes, Andrew Ellis, Justin van Unen and Mullett with the skipper's goal the pick of the bunch on 24 minutes when he swooped upon a Lilydale kick in to drill home the ball from forty metres.

The hosts after copping a serve at the quarter time break having been questioned by Rourke about their will to want to win the "hard" ball came out with more purpose and reduced the deficit to fourteen point's midway through the quarter with goals to Ben Weightman and Dean Carswell. The Eagles though bounced back to push the lead back out to 26 points at the main break with goals to Ryan Wilson and van Unen. Weightman kicked his second of the afternoon to mathematically keep the Falcons alive five minutes into the third quarter only for the goal to be cancelled out quickly with a fine running effort from Mullett.

When Schneider ran into goal soon after the mathematics was all but gone as the lead blew out to 36 points. Weightman again kicked a goal for the hosts to sneak the margin to under five goals. But frustration was creeping into the Lilydale game and never more so when they gifted Ross any easy conversion from close range after he was man handled at a stoppage.

With rain now sweeping down at the start of the final quarter, the Eagles seemed to really excel in the conditions with four goals in the opening ten minutes blowing the margin out to 59 points. Nathan Henley converting two free kicks with Wilson firing home a wonderful snap while Schneider converted with aplomb after marking strongly. Schneider once again made now mistake just shy of time on slotting home a free kick as the Eagles kicked 5.3 to Lilydale's sole behind for the quarter.

Final Score:
Vermont 4-5-(29) 6-7-(43) 9-12-(66) 14-15-(99)
Lilydale 0-2-(2) 2-5-(17) 4-7-(31) 4-8-(32)

Vermont Goals: T.Schneider 3, J.van Unen, N.Henley, R.Mullett, R.Wilson 2, R.Ross, D.Mendes, A.Ellis 1.
Vermont Best: (Watson's choice) T.Schneider, R.Mullett, D.Millhouse, B.Crowe, R.Ross, N.Henley.

Next Saturday Vermont has a week's rest due to the round 14 split round. On Saturday August the 3rd the Eagles return to action with the round 15 away clash at Scoresby.



After a couple of down weeks, Ryan Wilson was excellent on his wing with 24 possessions.



Tom Schneider doing what he does all day. Getting the footy and giving to a Vermont team mate (Lachie Johns in this case)

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RESERVES BACK IN ACTION



Coach Jeff Rudd was pretty happy with his Adrian Gileno who once gains demonstrated his talents

After a dismal day a week last match against Noble Park, the Reserves bounced back with a comprehensive win over Lilydale in the wet and slippery conditions.

The inclusion of Nick Carrodus, Matt Greig and Brett Castersen (who also got the Captain's job for the day) made the lineup look a little stronger but they still needed considerable support from the under 19's. It was particularly good to see young Kyle Staples back from Easter Ranges. Playing against older and bigger opponents would be of benefit to his development.

Our boys looked the stronger from the outset, but a series of behinds meant that Lilydale actually lead at quarter time by 3 points. From then on it was one way traffic with Vermont kicking 14 goals and Lilydale just 2. Adrian Gileno was terrific with 6 goals. His use of the body prior to the marking contest is outstanding and huge lesson to younger players. Everyone contributed but the back line lead by Warwick Rudd, Andy Hackett and Jesse Gannon was particularly solid and set up many attacks forward.

We dominated the ball up with Nick Carrodus just un stoppable in the ruck and the smaller players in Nick Johnson, Connor McCafferty and Jarryd Smith did not let him down.

A big plus for the Seniors/Reserves was the successful return of Matt Greig after his hand injury. Although drenched like the others ,he got through unscathed except for a bit of a scratch on the nose.

The Reserves will hoping that after the break a few more players become available as they head for finals action.



Luke Strachan with Dave

VERMONT 1-4-10, 6-5-41, 10-7-67, 15-8 -98

LILYDALE 2-1-13, 2-3-15, 3-7-25, 4 -9 -33

GOALS VERMONT:- Adrian Gileno 6, Greig 1,

Note:- I put Adrian Gileno as best, because he did something no other player in the team could do. Kicking his 6 goals on a nasty old wet winter Saturday. If it was that easy, everyone would do it.

UNDER 19's DOWN BUT NOT OUT

The Under 19's went into game knowing they were down on personnel, with in particular Rory Lehman in the Seniors & Andy Hackett in the Reserves. On the other hand, Lilydale actually brought players back from higher grades to ensure they could win. We will retain top spot, but with a lower percentage than rival Clubs, will need to get back on winners list.

The main difference on the day seemed to be the size and strength of the Lilydale boys which became more evident as the game went on. They out marked us continually and kicked the ball further.

SCORES

VERMONT 1-1-7, 2-2-14, 4-3-27, 4-7-31

LILYDALE 3-3-21, 3-5-23, 5-8-38, 9-11-65

BEST PLAYERS :- Christian Vassis, Ryan Antidorma, Brook Kaaney, Matt McCluskey, Michael Rice and Pat Bridges.

GOALS:- 1 each to Molyneaux, Vassis, Richardson and Lord



Matt Greig, always keen for that can of Coke.

SUPER SUPPORTERS



Bob Scott and Snoop spent a very wet day at the far goals in the back of the ute.

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Sport

MORE PIX FROM ADRIAN WALLER



Dean Waller solid in defence



Tim Johnson having his best Senior Season.



The Captain Ryan Mullett, kicked two amazing long range goals.



Justin van Unen needed some head protection for the day.



Last week Luke Strachan tried the impossible, this week Ben Crowe is doing something ?? The previous owner of the #43 would be horrified. Nathan Henley seems astonished as well.

RESERVES PIX



Connor McCafferty continues his great form. With Scott Cameron who always contributes.



David Leung got better again after his return from Overseas last week



Cameron Dore got plenty of the footy.


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