

Tatura V Rochester Round 16

Netball

Under 17s played well again on the weekend but were unable to get across the line against Rochy. Sarah Scrimizzi was accurate in goals while Maoinin Dooley Heath was both good defensively and in attack through the mid court. The girls went down by 20.

B Reserve went down by 40 when they played an experienced Rochy side. Hannah Watt stepped up from the under 17s and played very well while Sal McCartney as always was sturdy in defense.

B grade were competitive all day but Rochy slipped away in the last half. B Grade were short a few players so really showed their fight and determination to only go down by 19 goals.

A Grade were disappointed with their result against Rochy. They were unable to keep up their form from previous weeks. Grace Lovel was good through the mid court and Hannah Blake took looks of intercepts and rebounds up in the defence end.

Football

The big clash pitted the 4th placed Bulldogs up against the 5th placed Tigers. With injuries and unavailability impacting on the Tatura squad it was always going to be a tough task against Rochester who were missing former Bulldog Jimmy Hollow.

In a very tight contest it was to be Rochester who prevailed by 8 points in a low scoring contest. Tatura lost James Fraser (shoulder), Corey Mallon (ankle), Jayden Young (ankle), Jack Ritchie (groin) and James Wall (VFL) from the previous round. Tom Miller was welcomed back after missing 3 weeks due to injury, James Nihill, Robert Kirby, Linc Wellington and debutant Steve Barrett.

The game was certainly a match that could have gone either way. In a tight opening term it was the Tigers who had the first major on the board in the opening minute. A precision pass from Shannan Broadbent, who was strong all day set up Timm Lanyon for the Bulldogs opening goal at the 6 minute mark. Tatura's best, James Sullivan followed up with a nice shot on goal to have the Bulldogs up by 4 points at the 12 minute mark. The second half of the first term was a real battle between the two half back lines with neither team able to take advantage of the opportunities their side created.

The theme for the day tended to be the amount of times Tatura wasted hard earned work from upfield with poor conversion on goal. Chris Ryan had the big job on leading goalkicker, Grant Weeks.

Broadbent set up Sonny Whiting for his first goal with a long handball early in the second quarter to set up an 11 point lead. Broadbent followed up with his own goal to answer the Tigers reply. It was a real battle with both teams finding it difficult to kick two goals in a row, hence the margin remained tight. It was to be Rochester who closed the margin to 35 points each late in the second term. A magnificent snap from James Sullivan late in the term took the Bulldogs into the long break with an 8 point lead and momentum.

The second half had the home team come out full of intensity and put the Tigers under immense pressure, unfortunately the curse of failing to apply scoreboard pressure reared its ugly head again and the Bulldogs failed to register a single six pointer for the entire term despite controlling the ball and continued inside 50s. A six point quarter with a couple of out on the fulls will not beat good sides and the Tigers took full toll of their limited opportunities with Grant Weeks starting to win the football.

Whilst the Tatura side peppered away for misses the Tigers added 3 goals 2 behinds to take a 6 point lead into the final quarter.

A better final term from the Bulldogs where they opened up a 6 point margin after a Brad Ryan goal courtesy of a 50 metre penalty after a heated scuffle on the wing. The term saw the contest open up a bit with both sides still running hard. It was to be the Tigers who were a little cleaner with their ball use and their mid field started to gain the ascendancy and with a lively forward target in Weeks they took their opportunities and fittingly it was Weeks who sealed the game late in the final term. The delivery to Weeks was in stark contrast to the ball movement into the Bulldogs forward 50 which made scoring very difficult for Whiting and his fellow forwards.

The 8 point margin, although disappointing for the supporters was not a bad result considering the amount of chances the home side were able to conjure up. With up to 5 players to return over the remaining two weeks it gives great hope that the Bulldogs can bridge the gap between the Tigers as it is most likely that the two teams will front up again in the first week of finals.

With another home game against Echuca next week it gives the coaching staff the opportunity to start preparing for a much anticipated finals campaign. The good news from the match was that no further injuries arose.

Tom Sullivan and Timm Lanyon along with defender Brad Ryan maintained their good form to keep the Bulldogs in the game. Chris Ryan, although finding the elusive Weeks a tough task could hold his head high and will be hoping the mid field pressure is higher come finals time thus restricting the quality of the inside 50s.

SCORES: Tatura 9-14-68 V Rochester 11-10-76

GOALS: T Lanyon 2, J Sullivan 2, P Kirby 2, S Whiting 1, S Broadbent 1, B Ryan 1.

BEST: J Sullivan, S Broadbent, T Sullivan, T Lanyon, B Ryan, C Ryan.

RESERVES: The undermanned team with up to 18 players either injured or unavailable from the senior list were no match for the Tigers. Tim Little put on the boots again and the coach Darren Kirkpatrick also played along with assistant coach Brenton Sheppard. A highlight was the ball use between the senior coaches that resulted in Kirkpatrick missing with a spiral punt that went astray!!

After taking the early initiative at the start of the first term and producing some promising passages of play the legs tired with several U/18s playing their second game and some older bodies fatiguing.

To the sides credit they outscored the Tigers in the final term to show they would not give up. Dylan Burls and Steve Beale were notable with their ability to win plenty of ball and bring team mates into the game. Sammy Green was inspirational with his attack on the footy and showed his team mates the way. Youngster Michael Archer showed some skill after also playing a full game in the U/18s.

With a tough run home it is hoped that a few players can return from injury to strengthen the side and make them competitive.

SCORES: Tatura 6-5-41 V Rochester 17-12-114

GOALS: D Kirkpatrick 2, B Sheppard 1, D Minutoli 1, T Little 1.

BEST: D Burls, S Beale, S Green, M Archer, J Borrelli, D Kirkpatrick.

U/18s: Up against a side that had won only one game the young pups were hoping that they could notch their first win for 2014! Brayden McGregor returned from two senior appearances to strengthen the team.

The Bulldogs were no match for a surprisingly strong Tigers outfit eventually going down by 116 points. Zac Trevaskis and Josh Pena, although slight in stature gave their all once again and could hold their heads up. Jack O'Toole and Zave Ballis were also combative against superior opponents. It has been a long season for the young team and it is a credit the way they continue to battle games out against extreme odds.

SCORES: Tatura 2-3-15 V Rochester 20-11-131

GOALS: D Maher 1, Z Ballis 1.

BEST: Z Trevaskis, J Pena, J O'Toole, Z Ballis, K Suratman, D Maher.