

Tatura V Kyabram: Round 18.

### Netball

All 4 netball teams enjoyed their last game for the season under lights in Kyabram. Unfortunately Tatura were unable to secure any more wins for the season but all girls walked away with heads high and showed their determination by fighting to the very end.

The best players for Under 17s were Fin Smith, Millie Scutchings and Isabella Trevaskis.

B Reserves best players were Rea Owen and Loren Bertram who filled in for the day.

B grade were again short and had Fin Smith and Millie Scutchings play their second game for the day.

Fin, Emma Maddock and Soph Varapodio were the best players.

A grade again were unsuccessful but had fun in their last game together as a team. Krystie Holley and Alex Bertram were the best players for the night.

The only way is up for the netballers which is where all girls will be striving for next season.

### Football

The trip to Kyabram to take on the Bombers under lights on Saturday night was always going to be a difficult assignment and it did not get any easier with the late withdrawal of Paul Kirby with the flu to be replaced by younger brother Robert. Jayden Young with what appears to be a season ending groin strain also left a hole in the defence.

The game was also Bill Hick's 100<sup>th</sup> game in Bulldogs colors, a fantastic achievement for the skilled midfielder.

Mathematically a big win could have lifted the Bulldogs into 3<sup>rd</sup> place however this was really only going to be a pipe dream as traditionally Tatura struggle under the lights and Saturday was to be more of the same. The Bombers came to play in front of their home crowd and were far too slick and composed running out comfortable 56 point winners.

The game was played in slippery conditions due to the heavy dew on the ground following the beautiful 21 degree day that was beforehand. Kyabram adjusted to the conditions much quicker and dominated the first five minutes putting the Tatura defence under immediate pressure which they withstood. The first venture inside 50 by the Bulldogs resulted in a running goal to inform Sonny Whiting against the tide of play.

A quick reply to Kyabram levelled proceedings and some inspired team football freed a running Timm Lanyon who slotted a long goal and it was at this stage that the Bulldogs appeared to have settled and had a 6 point lead. This was to be a false dawn as if anything it stung the Bombers into action and with some brilliant team inspired football dominated by hard running and excellent skills they slammed on the next 5 goals to blow the contest apart very early. Tatura had some chances however a missed shot from directly in front and some simple skill errors were to prove costly.

With a 23 point lead to Kyabram at the first break the Bulldogs were in need of a fast start to the second term. This was not to be as the Bombers produced a brilliant term to add a further 5 goals whilst restricting Tatura to 2 behinds! The visitors had trouble holding tackles against the stronger bodies of their opponents and the under siege backline did well to restrict the damage to five goals.

With the game seemingly out of reach at the long break a few changes were made to try and gain something from the match. James Wall was moved into defence from a wing, a decision that hopefully will not take a half to make come finals time. Wall is a VFL defender and his value is certainly greater in the backline. This move had an immediate impact and his duel with Kyabram forward Rhys Clarke was absorbing with Wall providing some rebound and solidarity to the mainly young Tatura backline.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter had the Bulldogs finally show some bark adding 4 goals to Kyabram's single major, at one point the margin was cut back to under 6 goals. Whiting opened the scoring after another great run from Lanyon who once again had a solid game. A follow up to Rian McGough at least lifted the spirits of the supporters. When Alex O'Reilly booted a goal off the ground a sense of hope returned and the match at last resembled a contest. The Bombers took until the 19 minute mark to register their only goal for the term.

Linc Wellington and Shannan Broadbent, two older warriors were battling their hearts out and provided the lift. Daniel Flynn battled manfully in the ruck against a larger opponent and started to get his hands on the ball to free up the mid field. The running game returned and all of a sudden the Kyabram team were placed under some type of pressure.

With hopes gathering at the final break the optimism was short lived as the home side slipped back into gear adding a further 4 goals whilst a Whiting 6 pointer, his 3<sup>rd</sup> was Tatura's only response.

Interestingly the second half produced an even contest both sides scoring 5 goals 5 behinds! It is obvious you cannot let gun sides get a run on as Kyabram did in the first half.

Next week the Bulldogs are down to travel to Rochester to play Rochester on Sunday to compete in an elimination final, a puzzling decision as the Bulldogs finished higher on the ladder than their opponents and will also be hosting a final that weekend, on the Saturday!!

This should provide the Tatura side with plenty of incentive as they will go in attempting to break a long held so called hoodoo at Moon Oval. With the return of Paul Kirby and hopefully a near full list to select from a win is certainly up for grabs.

SCORES: Tatura 7-9-51 V Kyabram 16-11-107.

GOALS: S Whiting 3, T Lanyon 1, R McGough 1, A O'Reilly 1, C Ryan 1.

BEST: D Flynn, R McGough, T Lanyon, B Ryan, J Wall, C Ryan..

RESERVES: A slick Bombers outfit were far too good for an undermanned Tatura side. The Bulldogs welcomed Luke Henery on permit from Waaia and the ex- Shepparton Swans player was a solid acquisition. A blistering start from the home side where they slammed through the first 5 goals in 9 minutes was an indication of more to come.

After the start the Bulldogs had plenty of the ball in general play and simply broke down once the ball entered the forward 50. Troy Hunt, Daniel Maher and James Nihill were very good players and did not give up winning plenty of ball.

Dylan Burls took some nice marks and finished of a fine season, Corey Mallon with a nice running goal and plenty of possessions was also a very good player.

Matt Cornwall kicked a nice major and after a long running hamstring battle is a potential quality senior player after a big pre-season.

SCORES: Tatura 2-6-18 V Kyabram 19-10-124

GOALS: C Mallon 1, M Cornwall 1.

BEST: T Hunt, D Maher, J Nihill, D Burls, C Mallon, D Montgomery.

U/18s Playing 6 permit players from Stanhope and Undera the young pups were up against a quality outfit and suffered a big defeat. The coach, Rob. Montgomery was pleased with their endeavor throughout the year and being a predominately under age team should be more competitive next year.

Zave Ballis showed real improvement as did Michael Archer with both boys also playing some reserves football. Joel Batson, with some input from some senior ruckmen on technique and skills will develop into a handy player. James Rutherford and Kyle Suratman were also good contributors.

SCORES: Tatura 2-4-16 V Kyabram 29-15-189

GOALS: Z Ballis 1, N Baldwin 1.

BEST: Z Ballis, M Archer, J Batson, J Rutherford, K Suratman.