

Welcome all to the 2009 AFL season and to the first ever edition of 'From the Black Pocket' the NSW/ACT Indigenous Australian Football Association's (NAIAFA) monthly newsletter. NAIIFA has been set up as a means of communication and resource for Indigenous players in our state. We would like to thank all those that have registered with NAIIFA for the '09 season and encourage all those who are yet to register that you can at any time.



NO COMPLAINTS: Djali Bloomfield in action in South Africa.

Each month we will be featuring an Indigenous player from our list of registered players and it is with great pleasure that we can announce that the very first player is 17 year old Djali Bloomfield from the Osborne Cats. Osborne play in the Hume League in Southern Riverina and Djali travels from his Wagga Wagga home to train and play with the Cats.

Djali attends Riverina Anglican College and grew up playing his junior footy with the Turvey Park Bulldogs in Wagga Wagga. One might think that at 17 Djali would still be playing junior footy but that's not the case and Djali has been a part of Osborne's senior squad for the last two seasons. Though that's not surprising given his representative achievements. Djali has won league B&Fs in U14s and U16s, Has represented NSW, was an All Australian U15 schoolboy in 2007 and was a member of the Australian Indigenous side that toured South Africa in 2008.

All this at only 17, shows that the sky is the limit for this young Nth Melbourne fan who states that Chris Judd is his favourite player. NAIIFA wishes Djali all the best for the '09 season and beyond and are extremely happy to see young NSW Indigenous talent thriving.

The club that has provided the most NAIIFA registrations for 2009 thus far has undoubtedly been the Cowra Blues Football Club from the Central West NSW AFL competition. The Blues boast at least 20 Indigenous players at their Indigenous Representative player Brendan in the reserves. The Blues and Reserve Grade in the Central their title defenses off to mixed start. No doubt Kimmy and Brendan will be firing the boys up though and will have them roaring to go this weekend as the firsts take on Orange and the 2s battle it out with Mudgee. For more information on the Blues you can visit their website www.cowrablues.com.au



club and are led by current NSW/ACT Kim Reid in first grade and his brother, are defending premiers in both First West League with both teams getting being 1-1 after their first two games.



In other general footy news around the state, the competition is tight in the ACTAFL and Canberra teams are finally putting it to the Swans Reserves. The Love bothers John and David are serving their clubs Belconnen and Ainslie well with the teams starting positively 4-2 & 3-2 respectively. Luke Jeffery has also been a star for Belconnen as a dynamic forward kicking six goals already for the year.

In the north the Tamworth League is only two weeks old and the New England Nomads and Gunnedah have started the season unbeaten 2-0. Next we head down to Newcastle and the Central Coast Black Diamond League, where the Terrigal/Avoca Magpies have had a bolter of a start of the season being undefeated 4-0. Goal kicking legend Maurice Goolagong's left foot has been in sizzling form, kicking 19 goals in his three appearances for the Magpies. In Sydney the East Coast Eagles remain undefeated at 5-0, but the talk of the footy community this week was the upset Campbelltown had over early flag favourites UNSW/Eastern Suburbs. Campbelltown have been served well with their off Season Indigenous recruits from South Australia, Owen & Ray Love and Lindsay Bassani.



'FROM THE BLACK POCKET'

The Monthly Newsletter from the NSW/ACT
Indigenous Football Association



Down in the Riverina FL there has been a buzz around with the appointment of former Sydney Swan Ricky O'Loughlin to the Eastern Hawks. Unfortunately the Hawks haven't put a win on the board but things are looking up for the club as they go through a rebuilding phase. The Coolamon Hoppers are undefeated at 5-0 with Turvey Park and Ganmain locked in 2nd at 4-1. Still in Wagga and the Farrer League has two undefeated teams at 3-0, Collingullie/Ashmont/Kapooka & The Rock/Yerong Creek. In the Hume league, Djali Bloomfield's Osborne remain undefeated at 4-0 with Djali a regular in the best.



Finally down on the border in the Ovens and Murray League, NSW based¹ Albury Tigers lead the comp at 6-0.

NAIIFA wishes all the readers of *From The Black Pocket* a great, injury free 2009 footy season. Always play to your best and remember that not only are you representing your club but also your family and your people, so be proud, play proud.

If anyone would like to know more about NAIIFA or would like to register, as player or non-player you can contact NAIIFA at naiafa@bigpond.com or PO Box 619 Riverwood NSW 2210 or on 0422314869.

NAIIFA are also looking for sponsors. This newsletter will be mailed to all NAIIFA members as well as most Australian Rules Clubs across NSW and the ACT, so here lies a great opportunity to advertise your business or product and reach all parts of the state. If you are interested in a possible sponsorship package you can reach Rodney Craig on the above details.

For all your information on Indigenous Australian Football please visit www.aboriginalfootball.com.au. This is a great site that provides up to date news on our brothers and sisters from right across our country in our great game from Auskick to the AFL and everywhere in between.

