



Drummoyne vs. Mosman @ Rawson Park Saturday 12th April 2008

Drummoyne first grade started well with fly-half Nathan Hayes scoring a try from a flick pass by centre Chris Sione. Ten minutes later, a booming kick from scrum half Ben Leaupepe from inside his twenty two and a powerful tackle from fullback Willy Teo turned over the ball, allowing winger Wise Gavida to run thirty metres to score in the corner. A penalty and two conversions from Ben Leaupepe completed a 17-0 half time lead for the visitors.

Drummoyne took their foot off the accelerator in the second half, with mistakes costing them territory throughout the game. A converted try by centre Pule Mesa after multiple phases was all they could manage, while Mosman scored two late tries. A 24-10 win to the defending Kentwell Cup premiers continues Drummoyne's undefeated season.

The annual Veterans Day clash between Mosman and Drummoyne saw the Drummoyne 'Vintage Reds' retain the title for another year.

Second grade exacted revenge for last year's semi final loss to Mosman by taking a 24-5 half time lead. Flying winger Alex Farani scored two of his three tries after strong lead up work by the forwards, with flankers Steve Wilson and David Farrington providing clean ball throughout the match. Outside centre Keil Quinn sliced through the defense for a try and inside centre Inoke Turuva took an intercept and ran ninety metres for a try to bring the bonus point for scoring four tries up before the break.

The second half saw the visiting team continue to dominate the line-outs and break downs to score another three tries to winger Alex Farani, fullback Damien Tanaka and fly-half Matthew Pride.

Both third and fourth grade won 19-0 and 12-11 respectively, while fifth grade lost 38-5 and Colts were beaten 24-0.

Third grade completed its second win of the season by defeating Mosman 19-0.

Forth grade scored two early tries to number eight Rob Collins and winger Rob Clarke to take a 12-3 half time lead. Drummoyne was unable to score any points in the second half and had to overcome two second half yellow cards and a late surge by Mosman to complete a hard fought 12-11 win.

Fifth grade and colts were unable to continue the winning streak, going down 38-5 and 24-0 respectively.

Knox Old Boys travel to Drummoyne Oval next week for a top of the table clash in the top three grades.

The Rumour Mill has it..

A new section has been added to the Red Word this week to honour those questionable activities that happen as a result of the post match frivolities.

This week the Rumour Mill has heard that a certain 3rd grade hooker / wannabe flanker and an imported 4th grade halfback were found asleep and cuddling on Oxford Street at 9.30am on Sunday morning.

Is this true?? Surely these two hard nut rugby gents wouldn't be caught in such a compromising position.

Drummoyne vs. Woollahra Colleagues May 3rd 2008 at Drummoyne Oval

In a replay of last year's Kentwell Cup Grand Final, Drummoyne hosted Woollahra Colleagues for the annual ladies day. Drummoyne started well with Prop Tuainafua Veiru crashing over the line in the first half. The visitor's unstructured play appeared to upset the rhythm of the home side and they were able to score a try to go into the break trailing Drummoyne 10-7. Fullback Willie Teo, who had played in the Suburban Rugby Representative side last Saturday night against NSW Country at the Sydney Football Stadium, was the only try scorer in the second half. Two further penalty goals completed the match, Drummoyne winning 20-10 to remain undefeated this season.

Drummoyne second grade scored within the first minute when centre Inoke Turuva touched down for an early try. Drummoyne found it hard to put together more than two phases for the rest of the half as Colleagues disrupted the ball at the breakdown. A poor quick lineout by Drummoyne gifted the opposition a try and a late penalty saw Drummoyne trail 8-7 at half time. The second half saw Drummoyne take control of possession and score tries to prop Joe and flanker Steve Wilson to win the match 21-11 and stay on top of the Burke Cup ladder.

Third grade held a slim lead throughout the match until a late try to Colleagues appeared to hand them the win. However, a long range penalty goal from fullback Peter Whan bounced on the cross bar to snatch an unlikely victory 27-26.

Fourth Grade scored an eighty metre intercept try and a penalty goal to win 8-0. Fifth Grade won 10-8 with a last minute penalty goal just before the full time bell.

Colts showed one of their best performances over the last few years but were soundly beaten 44-21.

Drummoyne will travel to the University of NSW next week with all grades in the top four of their respective competitions and leading the Division One Club Championship.

Social News

Next Event - Poker Night**17th May 2008 - 7pm****Venue:** Drummoyne Sports Club**Buy in:** \$50**First prize:** \$700

An absolute great night guys!!! Come down put your money where your mouth is and play the likes of Nathan "Isn't This Blackjack" Landry, Tristian "Heavy Roller" Pidd, Peter "Tom Hanks" Whan and Dan "T-Pot" Simpson.

Get your \$50 to either Benn Sykes, Nathan Landry or Tristian Pidd on Tuesday, Thursday or game day. We have a limited number of seats guys so be quick!!!

The Rumour Mill has it..

This week guys with such a hype of activity going on at the club we have two bits of information for you all, one fact, one rumor..

FACT

A Mr Richard Jobson, 3rd Grade Flanker for weeks carried a photo of Pat Rafter (tennis great) on his phone so as he could take it to his hair dresser, point and ask for that.

RUMOR

Rumor has it a certain club captain is blaming illness on his poor girlfriend as his reason for an 8pm exit from Ladies Day festivities. If true he is really going to have to harden up!

By Nathan Wicks

When it comes to playing Rugby there is only one feeling better than hearing the referees whistle signalling the end of the game in a grand final and that is knowing you have won the Premiership representing Drummoyne.

This year Drummoyne's 1st Grade team are embarking on contesting their 11th Grand Final in 13 years and if they play to their potential this team will not only win their 3rd Kentwell Cup in a row, but capture our clubs 8Th 1st Grade premiership since we returned to Suburban Rugby in 1996.

For those who remember our history this is a remarkable story. Here was a club who were welcomed with open arms in 1991 to join the elite competition in Australian Rugby only to be chewed up and spat out 4 years later.

Not only were we deemed not good enough to participate in the NSW Premier Rugby Union competition but as we were down on the canvas in that fight and seeking solitude in NSW Suburban Rugby, they too kicked us while we were down by deeming we were not fit enough to participate in their competition, resulting in our club not existing for 1 year in 1995.

Here was the 3rd oldest Rugby Club in Australia, a club who had produced 37 Wallabies, being told we were not good enough to participate in Suburban Rugby and being left with 2 choices, that being we shake hands with the Dodo and become extinct or swallowing our pride and proving them and everyone else wrong by rebuilding the club and showing them what the Double D is all about.

History will prove we took the latter option and some 13 years later we are unquestionably the strongest club in Suburban Rugby. So much so that for the past 2 years NSW Subbies have pleaded with our club to release players to represent them against NSW Country and QLD Subbies in their annual Representative games.

Rightfully so we rejected their requests as we had been burnt by previous coaches poaching players and lack of care and compensation given to a player of ours when injured whilst representing them.

However as they say, waters pass under the bridge and admittedly one of my goals when taking on the 1st Grade coaching role in 2008 was to lift this policy. Having represented Subbies in 1999 and 2000 I knew what it meant first hand to the players and it was important to me that our players were given this opportunity.

I appreciate the club approving of my decision and I certainly know it has made Scott Carrodus' life at the subbies a lot more enjoyable as he has now gone from taking minutes to sitting on to the right hand side of Tim Richards at the meetings.

In saying that there were 2 reasons I was passionate about this policy being lifted and they were as follows:

Firstly from the players point of view it was the confirmation that of the 3500 players who are registered in NSW Suburban Rugby you are the best of the best.

Like anything in life when you do something you seek recognition and Rugby is no different. When you play the game and you are successful sub-consciously you seek assurance of what you already know and that is you are good at what you do. From a club perspective it is winning Club Championships, from a team perspective it is winning competitions and when playing Suburban Rugby as an individual it is being selected as the best player in your position and representing NSW Suburban Rugby Union.

Given our 1st Grade team had been so successful I felt these players needed that recognition.

The second reason was simply to highlight the enormous performance of our club and have Drummoyne Rugby represented on NSW Suburban Rugby's biggest stage. We have dominated their 1st Division Grand Final Day now it was a matter of our players representing them as the best they had in their competition.

In 1999 when Matt Thomas and myself were selected, our club were in 2nd division and climbing, at the first training session the coach spoke to the group and singled ourselves out by saying "It is great to see Drummoyne being represented in this team, they are a great club who are making noises and it is an honour to have you in our team".

At that time I realised I was truly representing Drummoyne and the history of our club. It was the first time in our climb back to the top that the message to everyone else was we were back and we meant business.

There is a massive amount of psychological advantage you can take over opposition with them knowing you are the best player in that position and knowing your club is the best in the competition, particularly when you play against the players you are representing Subbies with.

When Mike Doyle first rang me to thank our club for "releasing" players this year, he asked me to put forward players' names who I felt should represent Subbies.

My response was simple, I asked him whether he had watched the 2 previous Kentwell Cup Grand Finals, and when he replied he had, I told him his job was simple, "pick them all".

He laughed and I again confirmed, "Mike, our club is special and our players are special, I can tell you now with all respect, you can pick a team made up of every club except ours and if we put our boys on the field against them you will lose!"

The conversation ended with me saying "You tell me who you want and if they want to play for you, they can!".

This brings us to David Hankinson, Trent Tapp and Willy Teo. 3 men who will represent our great club on the stage that NSW Suburban Rugby admire most, their representative season.

Before I talk about these 3 guys, I will again re-iterate that my belief is every man that walks onto the field in Drummoyne's First XV this year is the best player in that position in Subbies. This is not an opportunity to massage egos, this is pure and simple fact, I would not swap any of our players for anyone else, this team is special and in time history will show that.

In saying that I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my thoughts about the 3 men who will represent our club in the NSW Suburban Representative side.

David Hankinson or "Hanko" as he is so affectionately known, has represented Subbies before and rightfully so. Admittedly I am not as close to Hanko as others within our team which will change as I become more accustomed to coaching 1st Grade and our relationship develops, but the word that comes to mind most with him is "respect". He demands it and certainly gets it! Truth be told that he is always at the top of the list when it comes to players we need to ensure back-up and play the following year. You only have to see Fred and Warney's face light up when they say "Hanko is playing", that's how much he means to our team.

As a former scrum-half I know how important it is too to have a solid scrum and how much of that depends on having 2 strong front-rowers. In Hanko and Fua, Drummoyne Rugby Club has the most superior front rowers in the game. I have played with and won 1st Grade premierships with some unbelievably good front rowers, but I do believe these 2 guys are better than them all.

They are that good that I get disappointed when we don't win tight-heads! True Story, so much so that Gav and Warney are forever reminding me it is not our feed Wicksy! The fact remains we can win every scrum irrespective of who feeds it.

At this moment in time I would like to apologise to the front rowers of NSW Country and QLD Subbies for unleashing Hanko onto them.

Trent Tapp - I don't know what it is with our club and having the ability to produce

outstanding Number 8's, but like Ray Taylor and Scott Monahagn before him, this guy is all class. I could not think of a better person to represent our club, both as a footballer and more importantly as a person. His performance in last years Grand Final was the next best performance by an individual I have seen since Andrew Phillips heroics in 2000. His solo effort try in the first half was something you had to see to believe and the most poignant moment that ranks higher than his ability to do what he did was the reaction and celebration of his teammates when he did it.

He is so well loved and respected by his team-mates and that as a footballer is the highest quality you can ask for. His line-out ability gets many accolades but it is his work ethic around the paddock and his commitment to put his body on the line is what inspires me so much. I know every time he runs on the field he gives his mates and our club his heart. In him I see a future leader and a man who will represent Subbies for many years to come, most likely as Captain. Whoever brought him to our club should be knighted, whoever lets him go should be castrated.

Willy Teo - I will cut to the chase on this. In 2006 this guy was the best player in NSW Suburban Rugby Union. Big Call? Certainly is, but he was. Last year he suffered a terrible injury when he broke his leg in the very first game of the season and we never saw him again. It took a first class player in John Sinisa who is now playing 1st Grade at West Harbour to fill his shoes; such is this guy's talent. Some of his work in defence for a man his size is outstanding and his ability with the ball in open spaces just oozes class.

I do not think many people appreciate just how hard (both physically and psychologically) it is to overcome a leg break like the one Willy suffered. Lesser men would have retired and walked away from the game, but not this guy. He himself has had to build up his confidence to trust his leg again and at times he has found it frustrating as he is not yet back to the level he knows he can be.

Willy is still a young man, a young father who is developing in all areas of his life and my personal opinion is his selection in this team and the experience he will gain from this will see Willy Teo return as the player he was in 2006.

Boys, on behalf of our club we wish you all the very best in your upcoming games for NSW Suburban Rugby. We know you will represent yourselves and our club outstandingly and we look forward to you joining us again on our walk towards the Club Championships, yet another Kentwell Cup Premiership and the quest for our 3-Peat!

Wicksy

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