

EAGLES IN GOOD TOUCH

Eagles picked up right where they left off last season to defeat Hawks and Saints outplayed a disappointing Wanderers outfit in the opening round A Grade matches of the O'Malley's Sunraysia Baseball League season.

Eagles and Hawks kicked off the season with a rematch of last year's grand final. Eagles were missing Matt Austin and promoted youngster Ben Harris for his A Grade debut. Hawks included Scott Giles, Aaron McGlashan and Ben Barker in their opening day lineup.

Trent Perry took the ball for Eagles and was on song early. He struck out four and only gave up one hit (to Trent Cross) over the first six innings to keep Hawks scoreless. Hawks used Matt Smith on the hill and he ran into trouble in the third dig.

Ben Harris picked up a hit in his first A Grade at-bat and as Adam Bell hit well, Ben Heagerty hit a home run and Hawks made three fielding errors, Eagles had posted four runs on the scoreboard.

They added two more runs in the fifth innings as Tim Press, Trent Perry and Heagerty all hit well to stretch their lead to six runs. Hawks rallied in the top of the seventh dig and scored two runs as Jason Mobbs and Cross hit well before Jedd Miller gave Perry a well deserved rest.

Hawks used Clint Williams to replace Smith in the sixth innings and Eagles added their seventh run as Mark Lang doubled and Press hit him home.

Hawks loaded the bases in the eighth dig but couldn't score and Miller remained strong on the mound to shut down Hawks in the ninth and preserve Eagles 7-2 victory.

Wanderers played host to Saints in the second match for the round. Wanderers included Tony Malycha in their lineup and promoted Vern Howard for his A Grade debut. Saints welcomed back Andrew Fairlie and Shane Trinnick, promoted Brad Gowers and included recruit Shayne Haffenden for his first game for the Club.

Wanderers began with Malycha on the mound and although he gave up a hit to Chris Prevedello he should have been out of the innings but two errors allowed Saints to open the scoring with one run.

Saints continued to bat the ball well and piled on ten runs over the first four innings. Prevedello, Ben Kerr, Glenn Wallace, Brad Gowers, Shayne Haffenden and Andrew Fairlie all batted well over this time.

Meanwhile, Wanderers had no answer to Prevedello's pitching over the same time. Although Dale Twaddle picked up two hits and Vern Howard a hit in his first A Grade at-bat, Wanderers could only manage one run.

Jay Fleming took over on the mound for Wanderers and he had success in slowing the Saints offence. He only allowed three hits and one run over the last four innings to keep his side alive.

Saints also changed their pitcher as Wallace took over from Prevedello after four innings. He gave up four hits and just the two runs as Wanderers couldn't get anything going on offence and Saints completed their 11-3 victory.

The Mildura Sports Centre A Grade player of the week is awarded to Eagles pitcher Trent Perry. Perry shut down Hawks for 6 and two-thirds innings and picked up a double and an RBI with the bat.

In B Grade, Wanderers came from behind to grab a high-scoring 16-15 win over Saints. Lharn Howard, Travis McLean and Daniel Hayes played well for Wanderers with John Doyle, Wayne Copeman and Glenn Wallace batting well for Saints.

The second match saw Eagles overrun Hawks to win 15-4. Clinton Minette, Roger Taylor and Taylor Pay played well for Eagles with Kerrin Smith, Josh Probert and Mitch McGlashan playing well for Hawks.

The Mallee Burger B Grade player of the week is awarded to Saints outfielder John Doyle. He went 4-4 with two doubles and six RBI's in his side's narrow loss to Wanderers.

In the C Grade competition, Eagles had a high quality 7-6 win over Wanderers One. Jason Parmenter, Shane Harvey and Tim Bell played well for Eagles with Andrew Thomas, Colin Clifford and Clayton Clifford playing well for Wanderers.

The second match saw Tigers record a win in their first match back by defeating Saints 15-12. Craig Johns, Luke Boston and Ian Gill played well for Tigers with Rob Pate, Glenn Kelly and Alister McBain playing well for Saints.

The third match saw Hawks One win the battle with their club mates 15-6 over Hawks 2. Dylan Rickard, George Hancock and Paul Holman played well for Hawks 1 with Casey Anderson, Bianca Kirk and Dylan Cross playing well for Hawks 2.

The Mallee Burger C Grade player of the week is awarded to Tigers infielder Craig Johns. Johns went three from four, including a home run, in his side's win over Saints.

RESULTS

A GRADE

EAGLES: - 0 0 4 0 2 1 0 0 X—7

HAWKS: - 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 0 0—2

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—B Heagerty (inc. 1 home run) and T Press 2; A Bell, T Perry, M Lang, and B Harris 1.
Hawks—T Cross 2; M Wade and J Mobbs 1.

SAINTS: - 1 3 2 4 0 0 1 0—11

WANDERERS: - 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 1—3

SAFE HITS: - Saints—C Prevedello, G Wallace, B Gowers and S Haffenden 2; S Trinnick, D Hosking, A Fairlie and D Fairlie 1.

B GRADE

WANDERERS: - 4 6 2 1 3—16

SAINTS: - 0 6 1 4 4—15

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—L Howard 4; T McLean 3; R Whitchurch and D Hayes 2; R Russell, B McGrath, D Hynoski and T Plumridge 1.

Saints—J Doyle 4; W Copeman 3; B Gowers and G Wallace 2; D Waldron 1.

EAGLES: - 6 1 1 6 1—15

HAWKS: - 1 2 1 0 0—4

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—S Scott, C Minette (inc. 1 home run) and T Pay 2; R Taylor, T Cooksley and J Alderton 1.

Hawks—K Smith 2; D Smith, J Probert and M McGlashan 1.

C GRADE

EAGLES: - 0 0 2 0 0 1 1—7

WANDERERS: - 2 2 0 2 0 0 0—6

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—J Parmenter and S Harvey 2; T O'Connor 1.

Wanderers—Colin Clifford 3; Clayton Clifford and A Thomas 2; B McGrath and B Perry 1.

TIGERS: - 7 3 5—15

SAINTS: - 7 1 4—12

SAFE HITS: - Tigers—C Johns (inc. 1 home run) 3; L Boston 2; I Gill, G McDonald, M French, H Falconer and M Thornton 1.

Saints—G Kelly and R Pate 2; A McBain and D Waldron 1

HAWKS ONE: - 3 4 4 4 0—15

HAWKS TWO: - 0 0 0 5 1—6

SAFE HITS: - Hawks One—D Rickard and G Hancock 3; P Holman 2; C Barbary, B Neaylon, T McPhee and T Rickard 1.

Hawks Two—P Pain 2; J Gregory, B Kirk, C Anderson and Z Stephenson 1.

DRAW FOR ROUND 2

A GRADE

Wanderers vs Eagles (Quandong Park)

Hawks vs Saints (Southern Cross)

B GRADE

Tigers vs Eagles (Quandong Park)

Hawks vs Saints (Southern Cross)

Wanderers have the bye

C GRADE

Tigers vs Eagles (Quandong Park)

Hawks 2 vs Saints (Southern Cross)

Wanderers 1 vs Wanderers 2 (Newey Field)

Hawks 1 has the bye.