

DRAWN ROUND OF BASEBALL

The status quo remained in baseball after draws in both matches played in Round 10 of A Grade Sunraysia Baseball. With only four points separating first from fourth all four sides had the opportunity to gain maximum points only to see their chances end in a draw.

Eagles played host to Saints in a top of the table clash. Saints promoted youngster Matt Adair for his first A Grade match and Eagles welcomed back Matt Jones, Andrew Law and Tim Press.

In somewhat of a surprise Eagles promoted regular B Grade pitcher Zac Schurr and threw him the ball for this important match. He responded well to the challenge and shut Saints down in the first innings. Saints used Dean Fairlie on the hill and he was also well supported in the field and shut Eagles down early.

Eagles faltered in the field in the second innings and the resulting two walks and two errors saw Saints score three runs. Eagles worked three walks in the second and third innings but couldn't get the runners around to score.

Eagles loaded the bases with none out in the bottom of the fourth dig and looked certain to score. One of the rarest plays in baseball then occurred to keep the home side off the scoreboard. Saints rolled a triple play with a great catch from Shane Trinick and throwing out the baserunners to preserve Saints' three run lead.

Eagles continued to bat well and made their move in the fifth dig. A walk to Schurr, sacrifices to Matt Austin and Jones and double to Ben Heagerty and Jedd Miller saw Eagles score three runs and tie the scores.

Schurr completed his five innings of good work on the hill and showed he wasn't out of his depth at the top level. Miller relieved him in the sixth dig and was in better touch this week and shut down Saints in order.

Andrew Fairlie replaced his brother on the mound, also in the sixth dig, for Saints and he pitched two strong innings to keep Eagles stalled at three runs in the sixth and seventh digs.

With the match in the balance both sides had opportunities to score in the last two innings. Ben Kerr and Glenn Wallace hit well for Saints but couldn't score. Wallace was now pitching the last two digs for Saints and although Ben Harris and Tim Press hit safely the Saints field held tight and rolled two double plays.

Neither side could break the deadlock and the match remained all tied up at three runs each after nine innings.

The second match was more high scoring and just as exciting as Hawks and Wanderers did battle. Hawks welcomed back Matt Smith and promoted young Josh Hall for his debut whilst Wanderers were without Nick Carroll and Troy Kortekaas and included Brett Higginbotham and Brad McGrath in the lineup.

Wanderers used Dion Tregagle on the mound and Hawks scored early in the first two innings. Safe hits to Michael Wade, Hall, Clint Williams and Trent Cross saw Hawks score four runs for the early lead.

Wanderers were facing Matt Smith and he was effectively wild early. A walk and an error saw Wanderers get one run on the board in the first dig but they couldn't score in the second.

Hawks added another run in the third dig as Jason Mobbs and Ben Barker hit well and Jay Fleming relieved Tregagle on the mound. Wanderers added their second run in the fourth innings as Fleming and Adam Job hit well.

With a three run lead Smith then struggled in the sixth dig. He walked two batters and hit another and with hits to Fleming and Brad McGrath Wanderers had two runs in. Trent Cross replaced Smith and with a walk, a sacrifice bunt and a crucial two-out error Wanderers added four more runs to grab a three run lead.

Hawks then rallied in the top of the seventh innings. Consecutive hits to Barker and Hall and an error from the ensuing bunt spelt the end of Fleming on the mound as Hawks got one run closer. Matt Gee was now pitching and Hawks greeted him with hits to Smith and Cross and two walks and two bunts later Hawks piled on five runs to grab back the lead.

Wanderers now had one last turn at bat. With Wade now on the mound to try and close it out for Hawks, Travis Mclean got things going for Wanderers with a lead-off hit. Fleming was hit by the pitch and then a crucial dropped outfield fly ball scored McLean and helped keep the innings going.

A bunt to Job scored Fleming for the tying run and with two out and a runner at third Wade got the last out to leave the match hanging in a high scoring 10-all draw.

The Mildura Sports Centre A Grade player of the week is awarded to Eagles young pitcher Zac Schurr. He pitched five strong innings, with no earned runs in his teams match against Saints.

In the B Grade competition, Wanderers overran Hawks to win 17-3. Marcus Jeanes, Daniel Hayes, Vern Howard and Clayton Clifford played well for Wanderers with Paul Holman, Craig Storer, Dylan Smith and Nathan Lynch getting Hawks only safe hits.

The second match saw Eagles defeat Saints 18-7. Taylor Pay, Steven Scott and Roger Taylar played well for Eagles with Kale McBain, Matt Adair and Darcy Waldron playing well for Saints.

The Mallee Burger B Grade player of the week is awarded to Wanderers pitcher Marcus Jeanes. He pitched seven innings for just one earned run and picked up two hits in his teams' win against Hawks.

In C Grade Eagles defeated Saints 15-6. Tim Bell, Kurt Roberts and Jayden Austin played well for Eagles with Rod Pate and Aaron Jeffrey playing well for Saints

The second match saw Wanderers Two defeat Tigers 10-7. Andrew Evans, Ross Witte and Charlie Ashcroft played well for Wanderers with Nick Johns, Michael Thornton and Luke Boston playing well for Tigers.

The third match saw an eight-all draw between Hawks One and Hawks Two. Corey Barbary, Tyler McPhee and George Hancock played well for Hawks One with Casey Anderson, Dylan Cross and Mitchell McGlashan playing well for Hawks Two.

The Mallee Burger C Grade player of the week is awarded to Wanderers' outfielder Andrew Evans. He had two hits and an outfield assist in his match against Tigers.

RESULTS

A GRADE

SAINTS: - 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—3

EAGLES: - 0 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 0—3

SAFE HITS: - Saints—B Kerr 2; G Wallace, A Fairlie, T Trinick and D Fairlie 1.

Eagles—A Bell, J Miller and T Press 2; M Jones, B Heagerty, A Law and B Harris 1.

WANDERERS: - 1 0 0 1 0 6 2—10

HAWKS: - 2 2 1 0 0 0 5—10

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—J Fleming 2; J Fleri, T McLean, B McGrath and A Job 1.

Hawks—M Wade 3; M Smith, T Cross, B Barker and J Hall 2; C Williams and J Mobbs 1.

B GRADE

WANDERERS: - 1 0 0 4 1 11 X—17

HAWKS: - 0 0 0 0 2 1 0—3

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—V Howard, D Hayes, T Malycha, Clayton Clifford, S Malycha and M Jeanes 2; D Twaddle and M Withnell 1.

Hawks—C Storer and P Holman 2; D Smith and N Lynch 1.

EAGLES: - 7 1 0 0 10—18

SAINTS: - 4 0 0 1 2—7

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—S Scott and R Taylor 2; T Perry, M Lang and J McGregor 1.

Saints—K McBain and M Adair 2; A Gourlay, P Shadwick, D Waldron and I Burrows 1.

C GRADE

EAGLES: - 4 5 1 5 X—15

SAINTS: - 4 0 2 0 0—6

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—T Bell, K Roberts, J Austin, K Nankivell, B Gathercole and L Fuda 1.

Saints—R Pate and A Jeffrey 2; A Gourlay, J Doyle and K Oats 1.

WANDERER TWO: - 1 1 2 1 0 5—10

TIGERS: - 1 2 2 1 0 1—7

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—R Witte and A Evans 2; D Jack, S Malycha, J Ashcroft, B Bertalli, G Witte and C Ashcroft 1.
Tigers—N Johns 3; L Boston and M Thornton 2; G McDonald, C Johns and M Johns 1.

HAWKS ONE: - 0 0 0 5 3 0—8

HAWKS TWO: - 1 0 2 2 0 3—8

SAFE HITS: - Hawks One—C Barbary and T McPhee 2; P Holman, D Rickard and T Rickard 1
Hawks Two—C Anderson 3; D Cross 2; M McGlashan, B Kirk, J Stephenson and S Gunston 1.