

EAGLES FLYING HIGH

Eagles outplayed Wanderers to consolidate top spot on the ladder and Saints held off Hawks in a fiery clash at Quandong Park in Round 11 action of the Sunraysia Baseball League O'Malley's A Grade competition.

Eagles played host to Wanderers with the visitors on a five game unbeaten streak and the home side at full strength for this vital clash.

Eagles started Matt Austin on the mound and an early fielding error from Eagles wasn't capitalized on by Wanderers as a squeeze bunt went wrong. Eagles were facing Wanderers pitcher Dion Tregagle and he started well by shutting Eagles down in order.

Brad McGrath tripled in the second dig to give Wanderers a scoring chance but another bunt went wrong and the ensuing double play ended the innings. Eagles then opened the scoring with two walks, a hit to Jedd Miller to score one and Austin's end of the bat, two-out bloop scored two more runs.

Eagles continued to hit the ball in the third dig. Safe hits to Trent Perry, Matt Jones, Ben Heagerty and Miller saw the home side pile on four more runs and take a stranglehold on the match.

Wanderers rallied in the top of the fourth to load the bases with one out but Austin remained in control on the mound and kept Wanderers off the score sheet. Eagles continued to pound Tregagle and with a hit to Adam Bell and a double to Heagerty, Eagles had nine runs on the board.

Austin was in a good rhythm and Wanderers couldn't find an answer to his pitching and were scoreless after seven innings. Matt Gee took the ball from Tregagle and succeeded in slowing the Eagles' scoring down over the last four innings.

Wanderers added some consolation runs in the last two innings as Jones relieved Austin but it was too little too late and Eagles had run out comfortable 10-3 winners.

The second match saw Hawks and Saints travel to Quandong Park to do battle. Hawks welcomed back Tony Probert whilst Saints were missing Drew Hosking and promoted Alan Gourlay for his A Grade debut.

Saints began with Chris Prevedello on the mound and although Trent Cross doubled Prevedello struck out the side to shut Hawks down. Hawks used Matt Smith on the hill and although he issued two walks Saints were unable to score.

Saints opened the scoring in the second dig as Tony Trinick and Shane Trinick hit safely and Saints received a walk and two errors from Hawks as they scored four runs. They added another run in the next innings as Ben Kerr, Matt Adair and Alan Gourlay all hit well.

Meanwhile, Prevedello was keeping the Hawks hitters quiet and they couldn't score in the first four innings. The match tightened up in the fifth dig as Hawks scored three runs when Nathan Lynch and Ben Barker hit safely.

Saints edged away in the sixth innings and added their sixth run for the match as Prevedello and Andrew Fairlie hit well. Glenn Wallace relieved Prevedello in the bottom of the sixth innings and Hawks stayed in touch as Tony Probert's safe hit combined with two errors from Saints to give Hawks another run.

Williams took over from Smith in the seventh dig and kept Saints on six runs. Cross reached base for Hawks in the bottom of the inning as they challenged for the lead. Cross was thrown out at home trying to score and the match erupted as both benches cleared and tempers flared.

Saints recovered first from the melee and scored three runs in the top of the eighth dig when Prevedello, Wallace and Tony Trinick all hit safely. Hawks just stayed in touch as Williams' hit scored their fifth run.

Saints were shut down in the top of the ninth and Hawks had one last chance. Cross doubled but Wallace got the next two outs and although Jason Mobbs' hit scored Cross, Wallace got the last out to preserve the 9-6 win for Saints.

The Mildura Sports Centre A Grade player of the week is awarded to Eagles pitcher Matt Austin. He kept the hot Wanderers side in check and scoreless for seven innings in his sides' win.

In B Grade Saints snuck past a persistent Tigers side to win 9-6. Matt Adair, Peter Shadwick and Dean Fairlie played well for Saints with Matt Boston, John Fitzgerald and Rob Purgar collected Tigers only safe hits.

The second match saw Eagles shutout Hawks to win 15-0. Roger Taylor, Steven Scott and Taylor Pay played for Eagles with Josh Hall, Travis Carter and Craig Storer getting Hawks only safe hits.

The Mallee Burger B Grade player of the week is awarded to Eagles pitcher Roger Taylor. He pitched a shutout and collected three hits in the process in his sides' win over Hawks.

In C Grade Tigers got home against Hawks Two 9-8. Craig Johns, Matt Johns, Ian Gill and Luke Boston played well for Tigers with Casey Andersen, Dylan Cross and Jason Gregory playing well for Hawks.

The second match saw Wanderers Two defeat Hawks One 12-2. Graeme Witte, Shane Malycha, Jason Ashcroft and Charlie Ashcroft played well for Wanderers with George Hancock, Craig Storer and Dylan Rickard playing well for Hawks.

The third match went the way of Eagles 6-0 over Wanderers One. Tim Bell, Jayden Austin and Kurt Roberts played well for Eagles with Bevan Perry, Mark Withnell and Brian Begg playing well for Wanderers.

The Mallee Burger C Grade player of the week is awarded to Tigers third baseman Craig Johns. Johns had three hits, including a game winning two-run home run in his sides' win over Hawks.

RESULTS

A GRADE

EAGLES: - 0 3 4 2 0 1 0 0 X: - 10

WANDERERS: - 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 1—3

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—J Miller 4; A Bell, B Heagerty and A Law 2; T Perry, M Jones and M Austin 1.

Wanderers—B McGrath, J Fleri, D Tregeagle and T Malycha 1.

SAINTS: - 0 4 1 0 0 1 0 3 0—9

HAWKS: - 0 0 0 0 3 1 0 1 1—6

SAFE HITS: - Saints—C Prevedello 3; T Trinick and M Adair 2; S Trinick, G Wallace, B Kerr, D Fairlie and A Gourlay 1.

Hawks—T Cross 3; C Williams, B Arnold, J Mobbs, N Lynch, B Barker and T Probert 1.

B GRADE

SAINTS: - 0 7 0 2 0 0—9

TIGERS: - 0 0 2 0 2 2—6

SAFE HITS: - Saints—M Adair (inc. 1 home run) 2; D Fairlie, D Waldron and P Shadwick 1. Tigers—M Boston, J Fitzgerald and R Purgar 1.

EAGLES: - 2 4 4 1 2 2—15

HAWKS: - 0 0 0 0 0 0—0

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—R Taylor 3; S Scott, L Fuda and M Lang 2; Z Schurr, T Pay and J McGregor 1.

Hawks—J Hall 2; T Carter and C Storer 1.

C GRADE

EAGLES: - 0 0 4 0 2—6

WANDERERS ONE: - 0 0 0 0 0—0

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—J Austin 2; T Bell, J Parmenter and K Roberts 1.

Wanderers—M Withnell, B Perry and B Begg 1.

TIGERS: - 2 2 2 1 0 2—9

HAWKS TWO: - 4 0 0 3 0 1—8

SAFE HITS: - Tigers—C Johns 3 (inc. 1 home run); I Gill and L Boston 2; P Brain, M French and J Smith 1.

Hawks Two—C Andersen, D Cross and J Gregory 2; J Stephenson, B Kirk and S Gunston 1.

WANDERERS TWO: - 5 0 0 0 4 3—12

HAWKS ONE: - 0 0 0 0 0 0 2—2

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers- S Malycha, J Ashcroft and C Ashcroft 3; B Lever and M Jeanes (inc. 1 home run) 2; R Witte, B Bertalli, D Jack and A Evans 1.

Hawks—G Hancock 2; D Rickard, T Rickard and C Storer 1.