

HAWKS GRAB THIRD SPOT

Hawks edged ahead in the battle for third spot as they thumped Wanderers and Eagles clinched top spot with a win over Saints in Round 13 action of the Sunraysia Baseball League A Grade competition.

Hawks played host to Wanderers at the Southern Cross Ballpark with the winner to go one game clear in the race for third spot and a finals position. Wanderers were missing Troy Kortekaas and Adam Job and promoted Brad McGrath and Tony Malycha whilst Hawks were at full strength.

Hawks started with Matt Smith on the mound and although he hit Jay Fleming a double play from his fielders got Hawks out of the first innings. Wanderers used Jay Fleming on the hill and with hits to Clint Williams, Trent Cross and Michael Wade, Hawks scored two runs.

Wanderers replied well in the second dig as Smith lost his radar. Three walks combined with Brad McGrath's base hit scored two runs for Wanderers to level the score. Wanderers then took the lead in the third innings as Travis McLean and Joe Fleri hit well to help Wanderers score two more runs.

Hawks then tied the scores up again in the fourth innings when Ben Arnold, Tony Probert and Clint Williams all hit safely and a good contest was ensuing. Hawks changed pitchers and used Wade to relieve Smith. He had immediate success and shut Wanderers down in the fifth and sixth innings.

Wanderers replaced Fleming with Matt Gee in the fifth dig but this backfired as the usually reliable Gee hit three batters and gave up two hits as Hawks scored three runs to jump ahead.

Hawks added their eighth run, this time off Wanderers' third pitcher Dion Tregeagle in the bottom of the sixth dig. Meanwhile Wanderers were stalled on four runs as Wade had their measure.

Things fell apart for Wanderers in the seventh innings and Hawks powered ahead as Aaron McGlashan, Smith, Wade, Dom Moras and Arnold all hit safely and as time expired Hawks had run out easy 13-4 winners.

The second match saw ladder leaders Eagles travel to Chaffey Park to take on Saints. An Eagles win would see them clinch top spot and an automatic grand final berth so there was plenty on the line.

Saints began with Chris Prevedello on the mound and he began poorly as he walked three and gave up safe hits to Trent Perry, Ben Heagerty and Andrew Law that saw Eagles score three runs. Eagles threw the ball to Matt Austin and he walked two and gave up a hit to Prevedello but kept Saints off the scoreboard.

Prevedello got back on track in the second dig and shut Eagles down and Saints then leveled the match as Shayne Haffenden, Shane Trinick and Andrew Fairlie all hit well.

Eagles blew the match open in the third dig as they scored five runs with three walks and hits to Mark Lang and Adam Bell. Austin had found his rhythm and shut Saints down in the third, fourth and fifth digs.

Eagles then put the match out of reach in the fifth and sixth innings' as they scored six runs when Bell, Perry, Matt Jones and Austin all hit safely.

Saints rallied in the bottom of the sixth dig as they scored five runs when Drew Hosking, Shane Trinick, Glenn Wallace, Prevedello, Ben Kerr and Tony Trinick all hit well. However, Eagles added another four runs to finish the match out and they had cruised to an 18-8 victory.

The Mildura Sports Centre A Grade player of the week is awarded to Hawks Michael Wade. He shut down Wanderers in a tight match and batted well in his sides' vital win.

In B Grade Wanderers defeated Tigers easily 16-2. Tim Plumridge, Vern Howard, Daniel Hayes and Brett Higginbotham played well for Wanderers with Rob Purgar, John Fitzgerald, Matt Boston and Damien Eastwood getting Tigers only safe hits.

The second match saw Saints upset the higher placed Eagles to win 14-8. Tom Harrington, Neale Bennett and Matt Adair played well for Saints with Lachlan Fuda, Jason Alderton and Jason McGregor playing well for Eagles.

The Mallee Burger B Grade player of the week is awarded to Saints outfielder Matt Adair. He had two hits, two walks and an outfield assist in his sides' win over Eagles.

In C Grade, Wanderers One defeated club mates Wanderers Two 15-3. Mark Withnell, Clayton Clifford, Andrew Thomas and Daryl Hynoski played well for Wanderers One with Graeme Witte, Brad Lever and Kelly Morrison doing well for Wanderers Two.

The second match saw Eagles defeat Hawks One 16-0. Shane Harvey, Ben Gathercole, Tim O'Connor and Jason Parmenter played well for Eagles with Brad Neaylon, Tyler McPhee and Craig Storer playing well for Hawks.

The third match saw Hawks Two cause a major boil over by defeating Saints 12-10. Travis Carter, Bhoeman Wood and Dylan Cross played well for Hawks with Glenn Kelly, Kristian Oats and Aaron Jeffreys doing well for Saints.

The Mallee Burger C Grade player of the week is awarded to Wanderers' outfielder Clayton Clifford. He had four hits in his sides' big win.

RESULTS

A GRADE

HAWKS: - 2 0 0 2 3 1 5—13

WANDERERS: - 0 2 2 0 0 0 0—4

SAFE HITS: - Hawks—B Arnold 3; C Williams, T Cross and M Wade 2; A McGlashan, M Smith, D Moras, D Smith and T Probert 1.
Wanderers—N Carroll, T McLean, J Fleri and B McGrath 1.

EAGLES: - 3 0 5 0 3 3 1 3—18

SAINTS: - 0 3 0 0 0 5 0 0—8

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—A Law 3; A Bell, T Perry and M Jones 2; B Heagerty, J Miller, M Lang and M Austin 1.

Saints—S Trinick 4; C Prevedello 2; G Wallace, A Fairlie, B Kerr, T Trinick, D Haffenden and D Hosking 1.

B GRADE

WANDERERS: - 11 1 0 0 4 0—16

TIGERS: - 1 0 0 0 1 0—2

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—V Howard 3; B Higginbotham, D Hayes and T Plumridge 2; M Withnell, Clayton Clifford, L Howard and R Russell 1.

Tigers—R Purgar, J Fitzgerald, M Boston and D Eastwood 1.

SAINTS: - 8 1 0 4 0 1 X—14

EAGLES: - 0 2 1 0 0 1 4—8

SAFE HITS: - Saints—M Adair, A Gourlay and D Waldron 2; B Gowers, J Doyle, T Harrington, J Reid, N Bennett and I Burrows 1.

Eagles—J Alderton and J McGregor 2; S Scott, L Fuda, T Pay and M Crosbie 1.

C GRADE

WANDERERS ONE: - 3 0 0 3 0 5 4—15

WANDERERS TWO: - 0 2 0 0 0 0 1—3

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers One—Clayton Clifford 4; D Hynoski and A Thomas 3; P Gee, M Withnell and G McNally 2; J Williams 1.

Wanderers Two—R Witte, B Lever, C Ashcroft, G Witte and K Morrison 1.

EAGLES: - 5 5 5 0 1 0—16

HAWKS ONE: - 0 0 0 0 0 0—0

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—J Parmenter 4; T O'Connor 3; B Gathercole 2; C Cooksley, K Roberts, L Fuda, K Nankivell and C Murray 1.

Hawks—B Neaylon and T McPhee 3; D Rickard and C Storer 1.

HAWKS TWO: - 1 2 5 1 3—12

SAINTS: - 0 2 5 1 2—10

SAFE HITS: - Hawks—T Carter 2; D Cross, M McGlashan, B Wood and C Anderson 1.

Saints—G Kelly 2; B Thomson and A Jeffreys 1.