

SAINTS CONFIRM SECOND SPOT

Saints defeated Hawks to consolidate second place on the ladder and Eagles defeated Wanderers to all but end their season in Round 14 action of the Sunraysia Baseball League A Grade competition.

Hawks travelled to Chaffey Park with both sides needing to win as a finals' spot was on the line. Saints were missing Andrew Fairlie and Hawks welcomed back Nathan Lynch in to their lineup.

Saints began with Dean Fairlie on the mound and although he gave up hits to Clint Williams and Michael Wade, strikeouts of Matt Smith and Trent Cross kept Hawks from scoring. In a surprise move Hawks threw the ball to youngster Aaron McGlashan for his first A Grade start on the hill.

The move backfired for the visitors as McGlashan walked four of the first seven hitters and gave up safe hits to Chris Prevedello and Matt Adair as Saints jumped out to score five runs.

Hawks got on the board in the second dig as Ben Arnold beat one out to help score a run. Wade replaced McGlashan on the mound for Hawks but Saints kept on scoring. Hits to Shane Trinick and Tony Trinick plus two errors from Hawks saw the home side add three more runs to their tally.

Fairlie was doing well on the mound for Saints and Hawks could only manage two runs over the first four digs. Meanwhile, the home side kept rolling along and with hits to Drew Hosking and Glenn Wallace Saints piled on four more runs to take a 10 run lead.

Hawks knuckled down in the field for the remaining four innings to keep Saints on twelve runs and even though they added four more runs to their tally it was too little, too late and Saints ran out easy winners 12-6.

The second match saw first versus fourth with Eagles taking on Wanderers. Eagles were fine tuning for the finals and Wanderers were looking for a win to keep their season alive.

Wanderers started with Matt Gee on the mound and with hits to Trent Perry, Jedd Miller and Mark Lang Eagles jumped out to score the first three runs. Wanderers were facing Miller and with hits to Nick Carroll and Charlie Fleri they scored a run to stay in touch.

Eagles rallied again in the third innings and with consecutive hits to Miller, Ben Heagerty, Andrew Law and Mark Lang they scored three more runs.

Eagles continued to pitch and field well and kept Wanderers to one run over the first five innings. Wanderers settled down with the ball and slowed Eagles offense down to keep Eagles to a 6-1 lead.

Wanderers rallied in the sixth dig as Gee, Joe Fleri, Brad McGrath, Dale Twaddle and Adam Job all batted well to score four runs and pull to within a run.

Eagles added their seventh run in the top of the seventh but Wanderers scored two runs in the bottom of the dig to tie the match as the intensity went up a notch.

Perry, Heagerty and Law batted well in the top of the eighth as Eagles opened up a two run lead. Carroll ran the bases well to score another for Wanderers but the home side was still behind.

Eagles added an insurance run in the top of the ninth and when Wanderers couldn't rally in their turn at bat Eagles had taken the win 10-8.

The Mildura Sports Centre A Grade player of the week is awarded to Eagles' second baseman Trent Perry. He had three hits and made several outs in his sides' win over Wanderers.

In B Grade Wanderers thumped Saints 14-5. Marcus Jeanes, Vern Howard and Travis McLean played well for Wanderers with Brad Gowers, Russell Ilsley and Ethan Gray getting Saints only safe hits.

The second match saw Hawks defeat Tigers 21-1. Craig Storer, George Hancock and Dylan Smith played well for Hawks with Damien Eastwood, Michael Thornton and Matt Boston getting Tigers only safe hits.

The Mallee Burger B Grade player of the week is awarded to Hawks first baseman Craig Storer. He had three hits in his sides' big win over Tigers.

In C Grade, Wanderers One ended Saints season with a hard fought 6-5 win. Colin Clifford, Andrew Thomas and Daryl Hynoski played well for Wanderers with Alister McBain, John Doyle and Aaron Jeffries playing well for Saints.

The second match saw Wanderers Two sneak home against Hawks Two 6-5. Shane Malycha, Brad Lever and Marcus Jeanes played well for Wanderers with Phil Pain, Jason Gregory and Travis Carter playing well for Hawks.

The third match saw Tigers cement their finals position by defeating Hawks One 15-6. Matt Johns, Gavin McDonald and Matt Boston played well for Tigers with Tyler McPhee, Corey Barbary and Neville Rickard playing well for Hawks.

The Mallee Burger C Grade player of the week is awarded to Tigers catcher Michael Thornton. He had three hits in his sides' must win game over Hawks.

RESULTS

A GRADE

EAGLES: - 3 0 3 0 0 0 1 2 1—10

WANDERERS: - 1 0 0 0 0 4 2 1 0—8

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

Wanderers—C Fleri 3; M Gee and B McGrath 2; N Carroll, J Fleri, D Twaddle and A Job 1.

SAINTS: - 5 3 0 4 0 0 0 0—12

HAWKS: - 0 1 0 1 2 1 0 1—6

SAFE HITS: - Saints—G Wallace and S Trinick 2; C Prevedello, T Trinnick, M Adair and D Hosking 1.

Hawks—M Smith and D Moras 3; M Wade 2; C Williams, T Cross, B Arnold and N Lynch 1.

B GRADE

WANDERERS: - 3 4 7 0 0—14

SAINTS: - 3 1 0 0 1—5

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—T McLean 3; V Howard and L Howard 2; B Higginbotham, T Malycha, D Hayes, T Plumridge and M Jeanes 1.

Saints—B Gowers, R Ilsley and E Gray 1.

HAWKS: - 2 0 19 X—21

TIGERS: - 0 0 1 0—1

SAFE HITS: - Hawks—C Storer 3; D Smith and G Hancock 2; M McGlashan, T Carter, P Holman and J Orr 1.

Tigers—D Eastwood, M Thornton and M Boston 1.

C GRADE

WANDERERS ONE: - 3 2 1 0 0 0—6

SAINTS: - 0 5 0 0 0 0—5

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—Colin Clifford 2; D Hynoski and A Thomas 1.

Saints—A Gourlay, A McBain and J Doyle 2; G Kelly, D Prevedello, A Jeffries and J Reid 1.

WANDERERS TWO: - 0 0 0 0 0 5 1—6

HAWKS TWO: - 3 0 1 0 0 0 1—5

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—B Lever and S Malycha 2; M Jeanes 1.

Hawks—P Pain 3; J Gregory 2; T Carter and I Withers 1.

TIGERS: - 1 4 0 5 5—15

HAWKS ONE: - 1 1 4 0 0—6

SAFE HITS: - Tigers—M Boston, M Thornton and G McDonald 3; L Boston and C Johns 2; W Chaplin and J Smith 1.

Hawks—T McPhee 2; P Holman, C Barbary, D Rickard and N Rickard 1.