

HAWKS BOOK FINALS SPOT

Hawks clinched third position and a place in the 2009 finals series with a narrow win over Eagles and Saints easily defeated Wanderers in the fifteenth and last round of Sunraysia Baseball League regular season action.

Eagles played host to Hawks at Newey field with the visitors needing a win to make sure of their place in next week's action and both sides were at full strength.

Hawks were facing Eagles starting pitcher Matt Austin and he got off to a shaky start. He walked lead-off hitter Clint Williams and Michael Wade's safe hit helped score the opening run for Hawks.

Eagles were up against Williams and his radar was also off the mark in the first two digs. Two walks gave Eagles a chance to level the score and Ben Heagerty's two-out double did the trick for the home side.

The third innings saw Hawks add one more to their tally as Wade and Dom Moras hit back to back doubles. They added another in the fifth innings when Trent Cross, Wade and Moras all hit safely.

Meanwhile, Williams had gained control on the mound and after the first five digs Eagles were still stalled on just their opening run. Heagerty and Jedd Miller both hit safely in the top of the sixth to edge Eagles closer but a costly fielding error in the bottom of the innings gave that run straight back to Hawks.

Cross took the ball for Hawks and Eagles again closed to within a run in the eighth innings when Miller and Ben Harris combined well. Miller now had the pitching duties for Eagles and kept Hawks within reach.

Holding a slim one-run lead Hawks closed down Eagles in order in the last innings to give themselves a 4-3 win and a shot at Saints in the preliminary final this weekend.

The second match saw Saints travel into town to take on Wanderers. Saints were safe in second spot and fine tuning for the finals whilst Wanderers needed a win and a Hawks loss to have any chance.

Saints were at full strength whilst Wanderers were missing Nick Carroll but welcomed back Dion Tregeagle and Lharn Howard into the lineup.

Wanderers began with Tregeagle on the mound and he shut Saints down over the first three innings. Chris Prevedello started for Saints and four walks over the first two innings plus safe hits to Joe Fleri and Tregeagle saw Wanderers take the early lead with two runs.

Things then fell apart for Wanderers in the top of the fourth dig. Saints started by scoring four runs off Tregeagle as Andrew Fairlie doubled and Shayne Haffenden singled to take advantage of two errors.

Tregeagle was replaced by Jay Fleming but two hit batters, a walk and a safe hit to Shane Trinick saw a further two runs cross the plate before coach Joe Fleri closed out the innings himself.

Enjoying a five run lead Saints rested Prevedello and gave Andrew Fairlie a pitch. He did well over the next three innings as Wanderers couldn't score.

Saints then added to their lead in the sixth innings. Hits to Shane Trinick, Tony Trinick, Matt Adair and Dean Fairlie saw Saints score four more runs and effectively put the game away.

Wanderers scattered five more hits over the last three innings but could only add one run and their season came to an end on the back of the 11-3 win to Saints.

The Mildura Sports Centre A Grade player of the week is awarded to Hawks closer Trent Cross. He had a hit and two steals but also pitched three shutout innings to preserve the win for his side.

In B Grade Wanderers had a 12-8 win over Saints. Brett Higginbotham, Tony Malycha and Dale Twaddle played well for Wanderers with Brad Gowers, Darcy Waldron and Kristian Oates playing well for Saints.

The second match saw Eagles tune up for the finals with a 8-1 win over Hawks. Zac Schurr, Tim Press and Steven Scott played well for Eagles with Dylan Rickard and Paul Holman getting Hawks only safe hits.

The Mallee Burger B Grade player of the week is awarded to Wanderers' infielder Brett Higginbotham. He pitched two innings and collected four hits for himself in the process.

In C Grade, the Qualifying Final was won by Eagles over Wanderers One 11 runs to 3. Tim Bell, Jayden Austin and Steve Edwards played well for Eagles with Hayden Petersen, Gary McNally and Daryl Hynoski playing well for Wanderers.

The Elimination Final saw Wanderers Two end Tigers season with a 7-3 win. Graeme Witte, Marcus Jeanes and Ross Witte played well for Wanderers with Nick Johns, Matt Johns and Craig Johns doing well for Tigers.

RESULTS

A GRADE

HAWKS: - 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 0 0—4

EAGLES: - 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0—3

SAFE HITS: - Hawks—M Wade 3; D Moras 2; C Williams, M Smith, T Cross and N Lynch 1.
Eagles—B Heagerty 3; J Miller 2; B Harris 1.

SAINTS: - 0 0 0 7 0 4 0 0 0—11

WANDERERS: - 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 1 0—3

SAFE HITS: - Saints—S Trinick 2; A Fairlie, T Trinick, S Haffenden, M Adair and D Fairlie 1.
Wanderers—J Fleri and T McLean 2; C Fleri, B Higginbotham, D Tregeagle and L Howard 1.

B GRADE

WANDERERS: - 1 5 4 0 2 0 X—12

SAINTS: - 1 0 0 4 3 0 0—8

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—B Higginbotham 4; T Malycha and D Twaddle 2; T McLean, T Plumridge, D Hayes, T Kortekaas and B Perry 1.

Saints—D Waldron 3; B Gowers and K Oates 2; A Gourlay, J Reid, I Burrows, E Gray and N Bennett 1.

EAGLES: - 2 5 0 1 0 0-- 8

HAWKS : - 0 0 0 0 1 0—1

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—S Scott, R Taylar, T Press and M Raymond 2; Z Schurr and C Minette 1.

Hawks—D Rickard 2; P Holman 1

C GRADE

QUALIFYING FINAL

EAGLES: - 4 1 0 0 5 1—11

WANDERERS ONE: - 0 3 0 0 0 0—3

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—S Edwards 4; J Parmenter and J Austin 3; K Nankivell 2; K Roberts and C Murray 1.

Wanderers—H Petersen 2; A Thomas, M Withnell and D Hynoski 1.

ELIMINATION FINAL

WANDERERS TWO: - 5 1 0 0 1 0—7

TIGERS: - 0 1 1 0 1 0—3

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—R Witte, G Witte and M Jeanes 2; B Lever, S Malycha, B Bertalli, D Jack and A Evans 1.

Tigers—N Johns 2; L Boston, C Johns, G McDonald, J Fitzgerald and M Johns 1.

PRELIMINARY FINAL DRAW

A GRADE

2.00pm Saints vs. Hawks (Newey Field)

B GRADE

11.30am Eagles vs. Saints (Newey Field)

C GRADE

9.00am Wanderers One vs. Wanderers Two (Newey Field)