

SUNRAYSIA BASEBALL LEAGUE REPORT – ROUND 2 17/5/09

EAGLES & WANDERERS PLAY THRILLING DRAW

Reigning premiers Eagles were held to a high quality draw by big improvers Wanderers and Hawks accounted for Saints in Round Two action of the O'Malley's Sunraysia Baseball League A Grade competition played on the weekend.

Both Eagles and Wanderers travelled to Quandong Park in Red Cliffs for their Round Two clash. With the new side Red Cliffs Tigers starting up, the A Grade game was scheduled to give the home Club a boost.

Eagles were missing Mark Lang (injured) and promoted Clinton Minette after his good game in B Grade last week. Wanderers were without Charlie Fleri and Vern Howard and welcomed Lharn Howard, Troy Kortekaas and Brad McGrath into their team.

Wanderers started Jay Fleming on the mound and he started very well by striking out two batters on route to shutting Eagles down in order. Eagles used premiership pitcher Jedd Miller on the hill and although he gave up a hit to veteran Nick Carroll, Wanderers couldn't score.

Minette was walked and Tim Press hit safely but Fleming knuckled down to keep Eagles scoreless. Fleming and Kortekaas hit safely and Dale Twaddle was hit for Wanderers in the second dig to load the bases but tight infielding by Eagles nullified the threat.

Wanderers retired nine out of the next ten Eagles' hitters as Fleming was in a groove and pitching well and Eagles were scoreless through the first five innings. Wanderers wasted scoring chances in the third dig as Matt Gee doubled and again in the fourth innings as Carroll doubled but Miller and his field was up to the task.

Adam Bell led off the sixth dig by getting hit and after he stole second Trent Perry's single and Andrew Law's sacrifice fly scored him as Eagles posted the first run of the game. Wanderers tried to reply in the seventh innings as Adam Job worked a walk and Carroll bunted safely. A wild pitch got runners at two and three for Wanderers but a poor piece of base running and tight fielding by Eagles saw the tying run thrown out at the plate.

Gee was now pitching for Wanderers and he retired nine batters in a row before Law tripled down the right field line to give Eagles another scoring opportunity in the top of the ninth. Gee was equal to the task, however, and struck out Miller and got Minette to ground out to keep the scoreline at 1-0.

Wanderers' last chance came in the bottom of the ninth. Heagerty took over from Miller to pitch the ninth dig after preferred closer Trent Perry was unable to pitch as he had misplaced his pitch card. The first two outs came and went as Heagerty pitched well. Carroll worked a seven-pitch walk to give Wanderers a glimmer of hope.

Joe Fleri hit safely to move the tying run to second base and Howard's infield hit was fumbled by Press to load the bases. Gee's six-pitch walk then pushed the tying run across the plate and as Fleming's hard hit ground ball was fielded by Press to make the final out a pulsating game finished in a deserving 1-1 tie.

Hawks played host to Saints with Hawks coming off a loss and Saints off a strong win. Hawks were at full strength and Saints dropped Brad Gowers to B Grade in favour of Tony Trinnick coming back into the side.

Hawks began with Matt Smith on the mound and Shane Trinnick greeted him with a lead-off single but the resulting double play and strikeout shut Saints down. Saints put Dean Fairlie on the hill and he ran into immediate trouble. Clint Williams hit Fairlie's third pitch over the left-field fence to get Hawks on the board.

Smith was in good form and shut Saints down in the second, third and fourth innings' without allowing a safe hit. The Hawks' hitters backed up their pitcher over the same time by scoring another four runs as Michael Wade homered and Trent Cross, Aaron McGlashan and Scott Giles hit safely to post a five-nil lead.

Saints rallied briefly in the seventh innings as hits to Drew Hosking, Glenn Wallace and Andrew Fairlie scored two runs. Hawks answered with two of their own as Jason Mobbs, McGlashan and Williams all hit well and when they added another in the seventh dig as Wade, Giles and Tony Probert hit well, they had a six-run lead.

Smith was still going strong on the mound and he closed out a 94-pitch, four-hit ballgame to lead his side to an emphatic 8-2 win over the strong hitting Saints side.

The Mildura Sports Centre A Grade player of the week is awarded to Hawks' pitcher Matt Smith. Smith pitched nine innings and led his side to a win over Saints.

In B Grade, Tigers rallied from a two-out, three run deficit to pinch an 11-10 come from behind win over Eagles. Jamie Grey, Rob Purgar and Ethan Keating played well for Tigers with Steven Scott, Jason McGregor and Zac Schurr playing well for Eagles.

The second match saw Saints record a 14-8 win over Hawks. Ethan Gray, Ian Burrows and Jim Reid played well for saints whilst Kerrin Smith, Mitch McGlashan and Josh Hall played well for Hawks.

The Mallee Burger B Grade player of the week is awarded to Saints outfielder Ethan Gray. He had three hits in his sides' win over Hawks.

In C Grade, Wanderers One defeated Wanderers Two 16-4. Colin Clifford, Andrew Thomas, Gary McNally and Mark Withnell played well for Wanderers One and Shane Malycha, Daniel Hayes, Jenny Donnelly and Kelly Morrison played well for Wanderers Two.

The second match saw Eagles defeat Tigers 19-3. Jayden Austin, Ben Gathercole and Chris Murray played well for Eagles with Luke Boston, Michael Thornton and Matthew French getting Tigers' only safe hits.

The third match saw Saints defeat Hawks Two 13-7. Glenn Kelly, Alister McBain and Dan Prevedello played well for Saints with Phillip Pain, Josh Perry and Casey Andersen getting Hawks' only safe hits.

The Mallee Burger C Grade player of the week is awarded to Eagles catcher Jayden Austin. He went 5 from 5 in his sides' win over Tigers.

RESULTS

A GRADE

WANDERERS: - 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1—1

EAGLES: - 0 0 0 0 1 0 0—1

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—N Carroll 3; J Fleri, M Gee, J Fleming and T Kortekaas 1.

Eagles—A Law 2; T Perry and T Press 1.

HAWKS: - 1 0 4 0 0 2 1 0 X—8

SAINTS: - 0 0 0 0 0 2 0 0—2

SAFE HITS: - Hawks—C Williams (inc 1 home run), T Cross, S Giles and A McGlashan 2; M Wade (hr), T Probert, J Mobbs and B Barker 1.

Saints—S Trinnick, D Hosking, G Wallace and A Fairlie 1.

B GRADE

TIGERS: - 1 5 0 1 4—11

EAGLES: - 0 0 3 5 2—10

SAFE HITS: - Tigers—R Purgar and E Keating 2; M Boston, B Myers, J Grey and S Eastwood 1.

Eagles—S Scott and J McGregor 2; R Taylor, Z Schurr, T Pay and M Rammond 1.

SAINTS: - 0 0 9 3 0 2—14

HAWKS—0 6 0 0 1 1—8

SAFE HITS: - Saints—E Gray 3; P Shadwick, A Gourlay and J Reid 2; B Gowers, W Copeman and I Burrows 1.

Hawks—K Smith and C Phillips 2; M McGlashan, J Hall, D Rickard and C Storer 1.

C GRADE

WANDERERS ONE: - 3 1 0 5 4 3—16

WANDERERS TWO: - 2 1 0 0 0 1—4

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers One—Andrew Thomas 3; Colin Clifford 2; Clayton Clifford, P Gee, B McGrath, G McNally, D Hynoski and M Petersen 1.

Wanderers Two—K Morrison 3; S Malycha and D Hayes 2; B Lever and R Russell 1.

EAGLES: - 5 5 3 3 1 0 2—19

TIGERS: - 0 0 0 1 0 1 1—3

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—J Austin 5; M Pay and C Murray 2; C Cooksley, S Harvey, K Nankivell, B Gathercole and K Roberts 1.

Tigers—L Boston, M Thornton and M French 1.

SAINTS: - 5 4 0 2 2—13

HAWKS TWO: - 5 0 0 0 2—7

SAFE HITS: - Saints—G Kelly and A Mc Bain 3; A Gourlay, B Thomson, M Adair and D Prevedello 2; A Sluiter and K Grasso 1.

Hawks—P Pain, J Perry and C Andersen 1.

DRAW FOR ROUND 3

A GRADE

Saints vs. Wanderers (Chaffey Park)

Hawks vs. Eagles (Southern Cross Ballpark)

B GRADE

Wanderers vs. Eagles (Southern Cross Ballpark)

Hawks vs Tigers (Newey Field)

Saints have the bye.

C GRADE

Saints vs Wanderers Two (Chaffey Park)

Hawks One vs Eagles (Southern Cross Ballpark)

Hawks Two vs Tigers (Newey Field)

Wanderers One have the bye