

SAINTS STUN REIGNING PREMIERS

Saints blew Eagles off the diamond to take the points and Hawks led from the start to defeat the light-hitting Wanderers side in Round 4 action of the Sunraysia Baseball League O'Malley's A Grade competition.

In cold and wet conditions reigning premiers Eagles travelled to Chaffey Park to take on big improvers Saints. Eagles were light on in the pitching department, missing the injured Trent Perry and with Jedd Miller nursing a sore arm. Saints welcomed back coach Glenn Wallace and were at full strength.

Saints began with Chris Prevedello on the mound and he survived a couple of fielding errors in the first dig to shut Eagles down for no score. Eagles used Coach Ben Heagerty on the mound and he was similarly effective in keeping the home side scoreless.

Eagles couldn't score in the second and Saints took the early lead as Wallace hit safely to help score the opening run.

Eagles leveled the scores in the third innings as youngsters Ben Harris and Tim Press both hit safely. The fourth innings saw Saints edge to the front as they scored two runs when Wallace and Andrew Fairlie batted well.

It was Eagles turn to take the lead in the top of the fifth dig as the match tightened up. Prevedello walked three batters and hit one and with safe hits to Press and Heagerty Eagles scored four runs.

A close game was then blown wide open in the bottom of the innings. Saints piled on eleven runs as Prevedello (twice), Shane Trinnick, Ben Kerr, Wallace and Andrew Fairlie all hit safely and the Eagles' field fell apart.

Both sides changed pitchers in the sixth innings. Wallace came on for Saints and Adam Bell for Eagles. Eagles had the better of the last four innings as they scored three runs to Saints one but it wasn't enough to close the gap and Saints had run out comfortable 15-8 winners.

The second match saw Wanderers host Hawks. Both sides were at full strength with Wanderers welcoming back Dale Twaddle and Jay Fleming and Hawks using youngster Dylan Smith.

Wanderers began with Fleming on the mound and he looked to be out of the first innings before two fielding errors from Wanderers gifted Hawks their opening two runs. Hawks used regular infielder Michael Wade on the mound. He was rusty early, hitting leadoff Nick Carroll and walking Twaddle as Wanderers scored one run.

Hawks added three more runs in the third dig as Trent Cross, Wade and Tony Probert all hit well. Wade was now in a groove and kept Wanderers stuck on one run.

Hawks scored steadily as the game continued in soaking rain. They scored one run in the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh innings to slowly but surely take the game away from Wanderers.

Cross, Wade, Ben Arnold, Jason Mobbs and Dylan Smith all picked up safe hits for Hawks to combine with some good base running from Probert. In contrast Wanderers had runners on in every innings as they tried to respond but good pitching from Wade and tight fielding from his team mates kept the lead intact for Hawks.

As darkness descended the match ended quietly as Hawks maintained pressure on the ladder leaders with a 9-2 victory.

The Mildura Sports Centre A Grade player of the week is awarded to Saints infielder Glenn Wallace. He had three hits and shut down Eagles over the last four innings in his side's win over Eagles.

In B Grade Wanderers defeated Hawks 12-4. Travis McLean, Tony Malycha, Daryl Hynoski and Brett Higginbotham played well for Wanderers with Aaron McGlashan, Kerrin Smith, Josh Hall, Tyler McPhee and Casey Andersen getting Hawks' safe hits.

The second match saw Saints hammer Tigers 22-4. Dale Russell, Russell Ilesley and Wayne Copeman played well for Saints with Rob Purgar Travis Landells and Brayden Myers doing well for Tigers.

The Mallee Burger B Grade player of the week is awarded to Saints' Dale Russell. He had three hits in his teams' big win over Tigers.

In C Grade Wanderers One defeated Tigers 15-3. Mark Withnell, Hayden Petersen and Colin Clifford played well for Wanderers with Craig Johns, Luke Boston and Gavin McDonald doing well for Tigers.

The second match saw Wanderers Two eke out a 9-8 win over Hawks One. Graeme Witte, Brett Bertalli and Shane Malycha played well for Wanderers with Paul Holman, Dylan Rickard and Wayne Dowson playing well for Hawks.

The third match saw Eagles continue their unbeaten run with a 15-5 win over Hawks Two. Tim bell, Tim O'Connor and Kurt Roberts played well for Eagles with Phillip Pain, Casey Andersen and Dylan Cross playing well for Hawks.

The Mallee Burger C Grade player of the week is awarded to Wanderers pitcher Graeme Witte. He struck out 10 in five innings to lead his side to a win.

RESULTS

A GRADE

SAINTS: - 0 1 0 2 11 0 0 0 1—15

EAGLES: - 0 0 1 0 4 0 1 0 2—8

SAFE HITS: - Saints—C Prevedello and G Wallace 3; B Kerr 2; S Trinnick, D Hosking, A Fairlie and S Haffenden 1.

Eagles—J Miller and G Wallace 2; A Bell, T Press, B Heagerty, Z Schurr and M Lang 1.

HAWKS: - 2 0 3 1 1 1 1 0—9

WANDERERS: - 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0—2

SAFE HITS: - Hawks—T Cross, M Wade and D Smith 2; M Smith, T Probert, B Arnold and J Mobbs 1.

Wanderers—N Carroll, J Fleri, T Kortekaas and B McGrath 1.

B GRADE

WANDERERS: - 3 3 3 0 3—12

HAWKS: - 3 0 1 0 0—4

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—B Higginbotham, T Malycha, V Howard and T McLean 2; T Kortekaas, B Begg, D Hayes, R Russell and D Hynoski 1.

Hawks—K Smith, J Hall, A McGlashan (hr), T McPhee and C Andersen 1.

SAINTS: - 7 12 2 0 1—22

TIGERS: - 0 0 2 0 2—4

SAFE HITS: - Saints—D Russell 3; W Copeman 2; B Gowers, E ray, R Ilsley, N Bennett and D Waldron 1.

Tigers—R Purgar 2; T Landells, J Gray, E Keating, M French and J Smith 1.

C GRADE

WANDERERS ONE: - 2 5 0 2 1 5—15

TIGERS: - 2 0 0 0 0 1—3

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—M Withnell 3; Colin Clifford, H Petersen and T Job 2; Clayton Clifford 1
Tigers—L Boston, C Johns, M French and G McDonald 1.

WANDERERS TWO: - 0 4 1 1 2 1—9

HAWKS ONE: - 2 0 3 0 2 1—8

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—S Malycha and B Bertalli 3; B Lever 2; C Ashcroft, K Morrison, J Gray and M Jeanes 1.

Hawks—P Holman 4; D Rickard 3; W Dowson 2.

EAGLES: - 1 5 0 5 4—15

HAWKS TWO: - 0 1 0 0 1 3—5

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—T O'Connor, K Roberts and B Gathercole 2; T Bell and K Nankivell 1.

Hawks—P Pain and C Andersen 2; B Kirk, T Dowdy and D Cross 1.