

SAINTS WIN TOP OF TABLE CLASH

Saints led from start to finish to overpower Hawks and Eagles accounted for Wanderers in Round 5 action of the Sunraysia Baseball League O'Malley's A Grade competition played on the weekend.

Hawks travelled to Chaffey Park to take on Saints with top place on the ladder the prize for the winner. Hawks were without Tony Probert and Dylan Smith but welcomed Scott Giles and Aaron McGlashan into the lineup. Saints were missing Andrew Fairlie and promoted Ethan Gray.

Saints began with Dean Fairlie on the mound and an error and then a safe hit to Matt Smith allowed Hawks to score the opening run. Hawks used Smith on the hill and although he got the first two outs quickly, safe hits to Fairlie, Shane Trinnick and Chris Prevedello helped Saints score two runs and take the lead.

Saints extended their lead in the second and third digs when they scored four runs as Tony Trinnick (twice), Ben Kerr, Shane Trinnick, Ethan Gray and Glenn Wallace hit safely. Hawks just stayed in touch as Jason Mobbs and Clint Williams hit well to score one run.

Saints continued to score as the innings' rolled along. Two in the fourth, four more in the fifth and two more runs in the sixth dig saw them take a commanding lead in the game. Gray, Prevedello, Wallace, Kerr and Tony Trinnick were all hitting the ball well to take the game away from their opponents.

Hawks battled on gamely and scored three runs in the fifth inning and then four more in the last as Williams (twice), Michael Wade, Giles and Mobbs hit safely but it wasn't enough to overhaul Saints total with the home side running out 18-9 winners.

Eagles played host to Wanderers with the home side looking to keep touch with the ladder leaders and Wanderers searching for their first win.

Eagles were at full strength, welcoming Matt Jones and Matt Austin into their lineup whilst Wanderers were without Dale Twaddle and promoted Tony Malycha.

Eagles put Austin on the mound and although he walked two batters he escaped the first innings without Wanderers scoring. Wanderers used Joe Fleri for his first start and safe hits to Austin and Jones helped Eagles score the first two runs of the match.

Eagles added their third run in the second innings as an error and a walk did the damage. Wanderers leveled the scores in the top of the third as Adam Job, Troy Kortekaas and Joe Fleri all hit safely.

Eagles regained the lead in the bottom of the innings as Ben Heagerty doubled and Jedd Miller hit him home. They extended their lead in the fifth innings when Miller and Andrew Law hit well and the home side held 7-3 advantage.

Wanderers closed the gap slightly in the seventh dig as Nick Carroll and Kortekaas hit well but Jones grabbed back that run for Eagles with a lead-off home run.

With time expiring Miller relieved Austin and kept Wanderers off the score sheet to preserve the 9-4 victory.

The Mildura Sports Centre A Grade player of the week is awarded to Saints outfielder Tony Trinnick. He had four hits in his side's win against Hawks.

In B Grade Eagles overpowered Tigers to win 16-2. Zac Schurr, Roger Taylor and Matt Raymond played well for Eagles with Jamie Grey, Matt Boston and Brayden Myer doing well for Tigers.

The second match saw Hawks upset Saints to win 6-4. Kerrin Smith, Mitchell McGlashan and Josh Hall played well for Hawks with Ethan Gray, Peter Shadwick and Dale Russell doing well for Saints.

The Mallee Burger B Grade player of the week is awarded to Eagles pitcher Zac Schurr. Schurr kept Tigers to two runs over seven innings and picked up two hits for himself also.

In the C Grade competition Wanderers Two upset the previously undefeated Eagles side to win 12-4. Tim Plumridge, Ross Witte and Shane Malycha played well for Wanderers with Tim Bell, Jason Alderton and Kris Nankivell doing well for Eagles.

Saints defeated Hawks One 15-8 in the second match. Glenn Kelly, Alan Gourlay and Alister McBain played well for Saints with George Hancock, Trista Rickard and Beau Darley doing well for Hawks.

The third match saw Wanderers One sneak home against Hawks Two 10-7. Tim Job, Mark Withnell and Andrew Thomas played well for Wanderers with Josh Perry, Jason Gregory and Dylan Cross doing well for Hawks.

The Mallee Burger C Grade player of the week is awarded to Wanderers' pitcher Tim Plumridge. He kept the unbeaten Eagles side to just four runs and picked up three hits himself in the process.

RESULTS

A GRADE

SAINTS: - 2 3 1 2 4 2 4 X—18

HAWKS: - 1 0 1 0 3 0 0 4—9

SAFE HITS: - Saints—S Trinnick and T Trinnick 4; G Wallace, B Kerr, C Prevedello and E Gray 2; D Fairlie and N Bennett 1.

Hawks—C Williams 3; M Wade and J Mobbs 2; M Smith, B Arnold and S Giles 1.

EAGLES: - 2 1 1 0 3 2 0 0 X—9

WANDERERS: - 0 0 3 0 0 0 1 0 0—4

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—J Miller 3; M Austin, M Jones (inc. 1 home run), B Heagerty and A Law 2; A Bell 1.
Wanderers—T Kortekaas 2; N Carroll, J Fleri, B McGrath and A Job 1.

B GRADE

EAGLES: - 1 0 7 1 1 3 3—16

TIGERS: - 0 0 0 0 0 2 0—2

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—R Taylor 4; Z Schurr, J McGregor and M Raymond 2; M Crosbie, L Fuda, K Nankivell, T Cooksley and T Pay 1.

Tigers—M Boston 2; R Purgar, B Meyer and J Grey 1.

HAWKS: - 0 0 3 0 2 0 1—6

SAINTS: - 1 1 0 0 2 0 0—4

SAFE HITS: - Hawks—K Smith 3; M McGlashan and D Smith 2; B Barker 1.

Saints—E Gray 3; P Shadwick 2; D Russell and A Gourlay 1.

C GRADE

WANDERERS TWO: - 0 3 5 0 4—12

EAGLES: - 0 0 0 4 0—4

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—T Plumridge 3; R Witte and S Malycha 2; B Lever, M Jeanes and A Evans 1.

Eagles—T Bell and J Alderton 2; K Nankivell and K Roberts 1.

SAINTS: - 2 5 1 5 2—15

HAWKS ONE: - 0 1 5 0 2—8

SAFE HITS: - Saints—A Gourlay, G Kelly and A McBain 3; M Adair 2; B Thompson, D Prevedello, R Pate, A Sluiter and K Grasso 1.

Hawks—G Hancock, B Darley and T Rickard 2.

WANDERERS ONE: - 0 0 5 2 0 3—10

HAWKS TWO: - 1 1 0 0 2 3—7

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—T Job 2; M Withnell, A Thomas, J Williams and B Perry 1.

Hawks—J Perry and J Gregory 2; P Pain, B Kirk, S Gunston and I Withers 1.