

## WANDERERS UPSET EAGLES

Last placed Wanderers stunned ladder leaders Eagles with a convincing victory whilst Saints and Hawks played out an exciting draw in Round Eight action of the Sunraysia Baseball League O'Malley's A Grade competition.

Wanderers were missing several players and promoted Travis McLean, Andrew Thomas, Dale Twaddle, Lharn Howard and Tony Malycha whilst Eagles were missing Andrew Law and Matt Jones and included Zac Schurr and Lachlan Fuda for the important clash.

Eagles used reigning premiership pitcher Jedd Miller on the mound and a magnificent catch by centre-fielder Matt Austin kept Wanderers opening frame scoreless. In the absence of regular starting pitchers Dion Tregagle and Jay Fleming coach Joe Fleri threw the ball to Matt Gee.

Eagles' leadoff batter Adam Bell belted the second pitch of the match over the left field line and the leaders were on the scoreboard. Gee recovered well to shut Eagles down for the rest of the innings.

Eagles couldn't score in the second dig but Wanderers opened their account. A two-out error from Eagles opened the door for Wanderers and they took full advantage. A base hit to Lharn Howard, consecutive walks from Miller and a double to Nick Carroll all helped Wanderers score four runs.

Gee had found now his rhythm and shut Eagles down in the second, third, fourth and fifth innings. Wanderers then blew the game open with the bat in the bottom of the fourth. Miller was all over the place and hit three batters and safe hits to Tony Malycha, Charlie Fleri and Gee helped the home side score four more runs to extend their lead to seven runs.

Ben Heagerty and Trent Perry tried to get things going in the sixth dig for Eagles with safe hits but Gee knuckled down and struck out the side to preserve the Wanderer 8-1 lead. Wanderers added two more runs in the sixth dig as Gee, Travis McLean and Dale Twaddle all hit safely.

Eagles tried to rally in the top of the eighth as Clint Minette and Zac Schurr hit well and with one out Gee was given a well deserved rest. After giving up a lead-off run Gee was magnificent in keeping the high scoring Eagles lineup quiet over seven and one-third innings. Carroll came on and induced two ground balls to end the innings and although Eagles had scored one run they were still well behind.

Eagles fired up in the last dig to score three runs but it was too little too late and Wanderers had stunned the reigning premiers with an 11-5 victory.

The second match saw Hawks travel to Chaffey Park to tackle Saints. Saints were missing Shane Haffenden and Chris Prevedello and promoted Russell Ilsley and Ethan Gray into the lineup. Hawks were missing Tony Probert, Trent Cross and Dylan Smith but welcomed back Dom Moras and Nathan Lynch.

Saints started Dean Fairlie on the mound and he began well by shutting Hawks down in order, striking out two Hawks' batters in the process. Hawks began with Clint Williams and he was just as good, keeping Saints scoreless also recording two strikeouts.

Michael Wade hit safely to start Hawks' second dig and a Saints error combined with a hit to Scott Giles saw Hawks score the opening two runs. Saints had no reply to the pitching of Williams and were scoreless through the first three innings.

Hawks loaded the bases with one out in the top of the fourth dig but Fairlie fought back and struck out the next two batters to end the innings. Saints then transferred this momentum into their batting. They capitalized on three consecutive walks from Williams with hits to Ethan Gray and Shane Trinnick to score three runs and snatch the lead.

Hawks again loaded the bases in the fifth dig but with two out they couldn't score. They took back the lead in the sixth dig as Kerrin Smith, Williams, Nathan Lynch and Wade all hit well. Saints then leveled the score in the bottom of the dig against new Hawks' pitcher Jason Mobbs as Andrew Fairlie doubled and was sacrificed home.

Glenn Wallace took over on the mound for Saints in the top of the seventh innings and shut Hawks down in order. Mobbs kept Saints off the scoreboard in the seventh and eighth digs and Wallace did the same to Hawks in the eighth and it all came down to the last innings.

Wade worked a two out walk for Hawks in the ninth and when Moras singled Hawks had the go-ahead run in scoring position. Ben Arnold scorched a line shot but third baseman Drew Hosking dived to grab it and erase the Hawks' scoring threat.

Mobbs got the first two Saints hitters but Ben Kerr doubled to give Saints a chance at pinching a win however Mobbs induced the ground ball third out to leave the match hanging at a thrilling 4-all draw.

The Mildura Sports Centre A Grade player of the week is awarded to Wanderers' pitcher Matt Gee. Gee was outstanding against the high flying Eagles as he kept them to just two runs and picked up two base hits for himself in the process.

In the B Grade competition Wanderers broke open a tight game against Tigers by scoring 12 runs in an innings to win 16-4. Daryl Hynoski, Colin Clifford and Ryan Russell played well for Wanderers with Jamie Grey, Wes Chaplin and Michael Thornton playing well for Tigers.

The second match saw Saints defeat Hawks 12-11. Peter Shadwick, Neale Bennett and Drew Hosking played well for Saints with Dom Moras, Josh Hall and Chris Irons playing well for Hawks.

The Mallee Burger B Grade player of the week is awarded to Saints infielder Peter Shadwick. He went 4-4 with the winning RBI's against Hawks.

In C Grade Wanderers Two were outhit by Eagles but took the points 7-4. Marcus Jeanes, Charlie Ashcroft and Graeme Witte played well for Wanderers with Tim Bell, Jason Parmenter and Ben Gathercole playing well for Eagles.

The second match saw Saints defeat an eight-player Hawks One side 20-9. Rod Pate, Glen Kelly and Dan Prevedello played well for Saints with Paul Holman, Beau Darley and Hanna Stephenson playing well for Hawks.

The third match saw Wanderers receive a 9-0 forfeit from Tigers.

The Mallee Burger C Grade player of the week is awarded to Saints infielder Rod Pate. He went 4-4 in his sides win over Hawks.

## **RESULTS**

### **A GRADE**

**WANDERERS: - 0 4 0 4 0 2 1 0 X—11**

**EAGLES: - 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 3—5**

**SAFE HITS:** - Wanderers—M Gee, T McLean and T Malycha 2; N Carroll, C Fleri, L Howard and D Twaddle 1.

Eagles—B Heagerty and Z Schurr 3; J Miller and C Minette 2; A Bell (home run), M Austin, T Perry and M Lang 1.

**SAINTS: - 0 0 0 3 0 1 0 0 0—4**

**HAWKS: - 0 2 0 0 0 2 0 0 0—4**

**SAFE HITS:** - Saints—A Fairlie and E Gray 2; S Trinnick, D Hosking and B Kerr 1.

Hawks—N Lynch, M Wade and D Moras 2; C Williams, B Arnold, S Giles and K Smith 1.

### **B GRADE**

**WANDERERS: - 0 2 0 0 2 12—16**

**TIGERS: - 0 1 0 1 0 2—4**

**SAFE HITS:** - Wanderers—Colin Clifford and R Russell 4; B McGrath and B Perry 2; B Begg, T Plumridge, D Hayes, A Thomas and D Hynoski 1.

Tigers—W Chaplin 2; M Thornton, P Brain, J Grey and Luke Boston 1.

**SAINTS: - 0 5 2 2 3—12**

**HAWKS: - 1 4 0 1 5—11**

**SAFE HITS:** - Saints—P Shadwick 4; D Hosking 2; D Russell, S Trinnick, R Ilsley, I Burrows and N Bennett 1.

Hawks—D Moras 4; J Hall 2; K Smith and C Irons 1.

### **C GRADE**

**WANDERERS TWO: - 2 0 0 5 0 0—7**

**EAGLES: - 0 0 4 0 0 0—4**

**SAFE HITS:** - Wanderers—C Ashcroft and D Jack 2; B Bertalli, M Jeanes, G Witte and K Morrison 1.

Eagles—J Parmenter, T Bell and B Gathercole 2; K Nankivell, C Cooksley, T O'Connor and C Murray 1.

**SAINTS: - 5 5 5 5 X—20**

**HAWKS ONE: - 3 2 2 0 2—9**

**SAFE HITS:** - Saints—R Pate (inc. 1 home run ) 4; G Kelly 3; A Jeffrey, A McBain, D Prevedello and K Oats 2; A Gourlay 1.

Hawks—P Holman and B Darley 2; S Mansell, T Rickard and N Kirk 1.

**WANDERERS ONE: - 9**

**TIGERS: - 0**