

WANDERERS CONTINUE MID-SEASON SURGE

Wanderers led from start to finish and defeated Saints to continue their good form and Hawks came back from the dead to stun Eagles in Round 9 action of the Sunraysia Baseball League O'Malley's A Grade competition.

Wanderers travelled to Chaffey Park to take on Saints with both sides eager for a win. Wanderers welcomed back Dion Tregagle, Jay Fleming and Adam Job and Saints were at full strength.

Saints began with young left-hander Chris Prevedello on the mound. With two out Charlie Fleri hit safely but then Prevedello hit two batters and walked another to push the first run across the plate and load the bases for Wanderers. Tregagles' double cleared the bases and Wanderers had jumped out and scored four runs.

Wanderers utilised Tregagle on the mound and although he walked Shane Trinnick and Glenn Wallace got a safe hit, Saints were unable to score.

Adam Job and Nick Carroll walked and hit safely to start Wanderers' second dig and when Troy Kortekaas' bunt was thrown wild Wanderers had added two more runs to their tally. Tregagle shut Saints down in their turn at bat to hold Wanderers' six run lead.

Wallace replaced Prevedello on the mound and as Fleming, Carroll and Kortekaas all hit safely Wanderers added another run to their tally. Saints got their score started as Andrew Fairlie's double helped post the home side's first run.

Wallace was successful in keeping Wanderers quiet over the fourth, fifth and sixth innings and Saints then worked to close the gap. They made a move in the fifth dig and scored three runs as Shane Trinnick, Ben Kerr and Andrew Fairlie hit well.

The two teams traded runs in the seventh dig as Fleming, Job, Kortekaas and Charlie Fleri batted well for Wanderers and Ben Kerr, Andrew Fairlie and Brad Gowers batted well for Saints.

With the game still in the balance Wanderers then put the game away in the eighth innings. They scored four runs as Travis Mclean, Joe Fleri, Tregagle, Carroll, Kortekaas and Charlie Fleri all hit safely to extend their lead to seven runs.

Andrew Fairlie picked up his fourth hit as he doubled in the ninth but Tregagle held firm and finished what he started to close Saints out and propel Wanderers to the 13-6 win.

The second match was between Hawks and Eagles. Hawks were without Matt Smith and Tony Probert but welcomed back Dylan Smith into their lineup and Eagles were missing Andrew Law, Matt Jones and Tim Press but had Ben Harris back for the important match.

Hawks threw the ball to veteran Jason Mobbs and Eagles fired the opening salvo as Ben Heagerty sacrificed home the opening run. Eagles used Matt Austin on the mound and he was in

good form through the first three innings, keeping Hawks scoreless striking out the side in order in the second dig.

Eagles opened things up in the fourth innings as Heagerty, Trent Perry and Adam Bell all hit safely to help score four runs. Austin was still in control with the ball for Eagles although a hit to Michael Wade in the bottom of the fourth dig helped Hawks get on the scoreboard.

In the sixth innings Eagles stretched their score to seven runs and their lead to six as hits to Heagerty, Perry and Lachlan Fuda scored two more runs. Hawks clawed one back as Wade hit safely and Austin walked two batters.

Eagles couldn't score in the top of the seventh dig and then match took an amazing twist. Austin was beginning to tire and two walks combined with safe hits to Trent Cross and Wade spelt the end of his day. Jedd Miller was next on the mound but his wildness from last week continued as he gave up a hit to Ben Arnold and then hit one batter and walked the next two.

All this had happened with Eagles only recording one out and they had seen their five run lead dwindle to just one. Heagerty didn't waste any time in replacing the wayward Miller but the next hit to Clint Williams saw Hawks turn their deficit into a lead.

Two further walks, this time from Heagerty, saw Hawks score their seventh run for the innings and grab a two run lead. Eagles rallied to score one more run in the eighth dig but Mobbs remained calm to record the final out and give Hawks an improbable victory.

The Mildura Sports Centre A Grade player of the week is awarded to Wanderers' pitcher Dion Tregeagle. He pitched all nine innings, keeping Saints to six runs and picking up three hits and four RBI's in the process.

In the B Grade competition Eagles ended Wanderers' unbeaten run with a convincing 9-3 victory. Zac Schurr, Luke Gathercole and Jayden Austin played well for Eagles with Travis McLean, Colin Clifford and Brad McGrath playing well for Wanderers.

The second match saw Hawks defeat Tigers 10-2. Josh Hall, Aaron McGlashan and Dylan Smith played well for Hawks with Scott Eastwood and Brendan Purgar getting Tigers only hits.

The Mallee Burger B Grade player of the round is awarded to Eagles pitcher Zac Schurr. He kept the strong Wanderers side to just three runs and grabbed a hit for himself in the process.

In the C Grade competition Wanderers Two came from behind to defeat Saints 8-7. Brad Lever, Shane Malycha and Marcus Jeanes played well for Wanderers with Glenn Kelly, Aaron Jeffries and Alister McBain playing well for Saints.

Wanderers One defeated an undermanned Hawks Two side 16-5. Gary McNally, Phil Gee and Mark Withnell played well for Wanderers with Casey Anderson and Shane Gunston getting Hawks' only hits.

The third match saw Eagles defeat Tigers 15-10. Tim Bell, Jayden Austin and Shane Harvey played well for Eagles with Craig Johns, Luke Boston and Gavin McDonald playing well for Tigers.

The Mallee Burger C Grade player of the week is awarded to Saints Glenn Kelly. He had three hits in his sides' narrow loss to Wanderers.

RESULTS

A GRADE

WANDERERS: - 4 2 1 0 0 0 2 4 0—13

SAINTS: - 0 0 1 0 3 0 2 0 0—6

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—N Carroll, T Kortekaas, C Fleri and D Tregagle 3; T McLean and J Fleming 2; J Fleri 1.

Saints—A Fairlie 4; S Trinnick, G Wallace, B Kerr and B Gowers 1.

HAWKS: - 0 0 0 1 0 1 7 X—9

EAGLES: - 1 0 0 4 2 0 0 1—8

SAFE HITS: - Hawks—M Wade 3; C Williams 2; N Lynch, T Cross, B Arnold and B Barker 1.

Eagles—B Heagerty and T Perry 2; A Bell, J Miller, L Fuda and B Harris 1.

B GRADE

EAGLES: - 3 5 0 1 0 0—9

WANDERERS: - 1 0 0 1 0 1—3

SAFE HITS: -Eagles—J Austin, M Lang and L Gathercole 2; Z Schurr, T Cooksley and T Pay 1

Wanderers—C Clifford and B McGrath 2; T Malycha, D Twaddle, T McLean and A Thomas 1.

HAWKS: - 3 1 0 1 5 X—10

TIGERS: - 0 1 0 1 0 0—2

SAFE HITS: - Hawks—D Smith 2; A McGlashan, T Probert, N Lynch and M McGlashan 1.

Tigers—S Eastwood and B Purgar 1.

C GRADE

WANDERERS TWO: - 0 0 5 0 0 3—8

SAINTS: - 3 0 3 0 1 0—7

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—B Lever and S Malycha 2; G Witte and K Morrison 1.

Saints—G Kelly 3; A McBain and A Jeffries 2; A Gourlay, R Pate, D Prevedello, M Robinson and M Adair 1.

WANDERERS ONE: - 1 5 5 3 2—16

HAWKS TWO: - 2 2 0 1 0—5

SAFE HITS: - Wanderers—G McNally 3; P Gee 2; Clayton Clifford, D Hynoski, B Begg and T Job 1.

Hawks—C Anderson and S Gunston 1.

EAGLES: - 5 5 5 0—15

TIGERS: - 4 1 5 0—10

SAFE HITS: - Eagles—J Austin and B Gathercole 2; S Harvey and T O'Connor 1.
Tigers—C Johns 3; G McDonald, N Johns, J Smith, L Boston, I Gill, G John and J Fitzgerald 1.