



## PAFL Round 9 - Match Report

Saturday, July 16, 2005

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### The surprise of the season.....

.....was Griffio turning up to Smart Stadium insisting to play for the Eureka's and yes, there are photos to prove it! Aside from some slight humidity, the day was almost perfect for footy. What was even better, was for the first time all season, we had more than nine a side which provided the luxury of a much needed interchange player. The Eureka's were desperate for a win to end a form slump that consisted of 4 straight losses, the worst in the club's short history. After an intense work out on the training track, and some ballet like stretches courtesy of Xandro, the Eureka's were fired up to make amends. Better blow the whistle Bluey!

### How They Lined Up...

#### Eureka's:

Adam Heremaia, Ben Casey, Brett Marshall, David Bell, Derek Ackary, Justin Puiu, Matt Stephens, Paul Griffiths, Richard Spence, Steve Arthur, Xandro Molato

#### Dingo's:

Aaron Holbrook, Brian Edwards, Dan Casey, Dermott Maconaghie, Mark Snowden, Michael Macaraig, Peter Stone, Phil Davis, Richie Amurao, Rob Rowell, Tyron Mangakahia

### The 1st Quarter...

From the first bounce it was the Eureka's who rushed the ball forward with the help of ring in Matt Stephens. A skilful passage of play unfortunately ended in a behind from a snap shot on the run and shortly after, it was Jacko that added another behind to the score. The Dingo's made the Eureka's pay for their misses as they ran forward and got the ball onto Bato in the blink of an eye, and he converted truly. The Eureka's looking despondent, won the ball from the centre through Griffio and onto Stephens who once again missed a tough shot on the run and added yet another behind. After some desperate play from both sides, the ball found seagull on the lead and he converted just in the 35 for the Eureka's. Big Jacko also slotted one through soon after as the Eureka's began to settle, but a late goal by Bato saw the Eureka's lead narrowed back to 4 points at quarter time. It was looking like a cracker-jack of a game.

### The 2nd Quarter...

The second quarter saw some much tougher footy played as both teams gave everything, thus forcing a considerable amount of errors and some ugly passages of play. Azza was giving his all in the ruck against the taller player in Bell, and Jacko vindicated his relocation to the forward line by slotting one through for the Eureka's. Some brilliant play out of the centre by Azza and Powell saw the Dingo's serge forward with the Dingo's new goal sneak in Casey opening his account for the day, with Maconaghie proving to be a good foil with his fitness in the Dingo's forward line. The Dingo's had a few more opportunities with Aussie Phil starting to stamp his

name on the game, but they just couldn't convert on the scoreboard as a brilliant display from Spence in defence (that rhymes!) saw Bato kept quiet for the quarter. The Eureka's defence was starting to click with Marshall, Molato and Fat Cat hitting their straps and a turn over in the Dingoes forward line found the ball in the Eureka's forward arc with the seagull marking and goaling to take the Eureka's lead out to 8 points at the main break.

### **The 3rd Quarter...**

With Mango and Ads turning up at half time, this now gave 11 players aside and brought about some confusion as the umpire, captains and several players ummed and ahed about how many players should play on the field and how long the quarters should be. After much deliberation, it was reluctantly decided that 11 would play on the field and the quarters would be extended to 15 mins. Bluey blue the whistle and play continued. The Dingoes were out of the blocks quickly as the ball found its way into the hands of BOG in Bato who continued where he left off in the first quarter slotting through yet another goal. The Dingoes were hungry for the ball with Amurao and Mango starting to shine, and it wasn't long before Bato converted again after a great overhead mark. Heremaia was starting to take advantage of his fitness across half back and young Ben Casey played his heart out as the Dingoes kept getting the ball forward. The look of desperation began to show on the face of Dingoes defector in Griffio as he slipped into the extra gear he seems to find (some call it white line fever) as he single handedly turned the tide back in the Eureka's favour helping himself to 2 goals, whilst his team mates missed just about everything registering 4 behinds from 4 players. But once again, it was Bato who steadied the ship for the Dingoes notching up his third for the quarter and pegging the Eureka's lead back to a slender 4 points.

### **The 4th Quarter...**

An absolute nail biter of a last quarter appeared to be on the cards and the players didn't disappoint the spectators. With Spence needing to leave at 3 quarter time, much to the relief of Bato, it was decided to go back to 9 a side on the field with the 15 minute quarter being retained. The Eureka's got onto the board early through Griffio to extend their lead, but some desperate play in the Dingoes forward line resulted in Aussie Phil helping himself to a tough goal on a tight angle to peg the lead back again. With two behinds in quick succession, it looked like the Eureka's were gonna kick themselves out of the game as they have done so often this season. The pressure was beginning to tell on both teams as the Dingoes scrambled the ball forward allowing Bato scoring his 6th goal for the game. Back to a 2 point lead for the Eureka's and the crowd was on the edge of their seat and the players gasping for oxygen. The Eureka's then moved it forward but found it hard to get it past the gallant defence led by Snowy and Edwards. Eventually, a great pass from Griffio to the seagull resulted in a goal and saw a buffer created with only minutes to go on the clock. In his usual determined manner, Griffio once again won the ball from the centre and took on everyone who tried to stop him and slotted through his 4th goal for the game, stretching the lead beyond the Dingoes and enabling the Eureka's to notch up a narrow and hard fought 11 point win after 4 straight losses. The premiership table shows the Dingoes in a strong position leading the series 19-6. The Eureka's face a hard task from here if they are to try and win the PAFL premiership with only 6 games remaining for the season.

### **In Conclusion...**

It was very encouraging to see 22 players turn up considering some notable absentees in Copey, Dolinsky and Gilroy. Taking this into account, the PAFL has certainly shown steady progress and we have our sights set on a solid performance in the Asian Championships. Thanks again to all our supporters who show up each week giving us something to play for. It was also great to see 3 PAFL debutants in Michael Macarig proudly waving the Filipino flag, and weekend visitors in Maconaghie and Stephens (Jakarta Bintang). This week is Griffo's last game so we encourage all to come along and watch the reigning Carman-Murrihy medallist for the last time. The big question is, will he play for the Dingoes or will he play for the Eurekas.....? You will have to be there to find out!

**>> Don't forget training EVERY Wednesday night from 7pm until Sept 7. Come along to training and secure your spot with the Philippine Eagles!**

**>> Count down to Asian Championships - 52 days! We need some of our players to start getting serious and let us know if they want to represent the Philippine Eagles in the Asian Championships. Be a part of history!**

### The Final Scores...

**Dingoes: 2.0, 3.3, 6.5, 8.7 (55)**  
**Eurekas: 2.4, 4.5, 6.9, 9.12 (66)**

### Goal kickers...

**Dingoes: Stone 6; Dan Casey, Davis 1**  
**Eurekas: Griffiths 4; Ackary 3; Puiu 2**

### The PAFL Premiership Table...

	Drawn 1 pt.	(1-17) 2 pts.	(18-35) 3 pts.	(36-53) 4 pts	(54+) 6 pts.	Premiership Points
<b>Dingoes :</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Eurekas :</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>

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