



# PAFL Round 15 – Match Report

Saturday, August 23, 2008

Author: Dezza    Spell check & Layout: Dezza

## How they lined up ....

### Dingoes:

Richie Amurao, Andrew Barber, Thomas Bell, James Braithwaite, Ross Bray, Joe Cole, Brad Drinkwater, Bryan Kennedy, Michael Macaraig, Fergus Mitra, Titon Mitra, Steve Scott, CJ Radcliffe, Paul Retzlaff, Bruno Vergnes, Nick Wong.

### Eureka's:

Derek Ackary, Steve Arthur, David Bell, Michael Bell, Peter Benson, Liam Braithwaite, Sam Chittick, Nathan Clarke, Steve Findley, Mick Foreman, Jeremy Guthrie, Christian Jones, Manoli Loukas, Kurt Plummer, Eric Savina, Richard Spence.

Central Umpires: P. Lawrence, L. Martin & G. Barnes

Goal Umpires: B. Morgan & M. Morgan.

Statistician: M. Edge

## How it all happened ....

After a very disappointing washout in Round 14, everybody was fired up and ready to get out there this weekend. However, the weather was threatening again as typhoon "Nuri" was building on the northern coast of the Philippines. Luckily, after dumping a considerable amount of rain all day Wednesday, she continued her path due east towards Hong Kong leaving a lot of sunshine in her wake. So with clearance from the Polo Club, we were away!

Considering that Glass Legs Cumpston celebrated his bucks night the night before today's big clash, the turn up of players as excellent with 16 players per side. It was also great to see so many new people making their PAFL debut. Bryan Kennedy and Mick Foreman were in town from Cairns on business, and there were no less than 3 rugby players in Vergnes, Savina and Cole making their PAFL debut. Steve Findley was also back to play for his beloved Eureka's sooner than anyone expected and Nathan Clarke was also in town.

With Bluey back from hibernation, the playing arena almost resembled a roadside corpse with white maggots everywhere – three of them in fact. As the teams and umpires deliberated on how many players should be allowed on the field, the thunder in the background signalled that rain was imminent. So after some confusion, play abruptly got under way as the first rain drops pummelled the players.

### FIRST QUARTER

With Glass Legs and Batterbury both absent, it was Titon taking on Belly in the ruck. The conditions were very slippery with the first centre bounce resembling a rugby scrum with bodies falling all over the place and not too much to be seen of the ball. However, the Dingoes got the ball forward quickly scoring the first goal of the match through CJ "I'm not hung over sick" Radcliffe as they caught the Eureka's napping. From then on, it became a real old fashioned slog in the greasy conditions as both teams went toe to toe. Steve "let's slaughter the Eureka's" Scott could've extended the lead soon after but only managed a behind. The Eureka's were kept scoreless for the quarter as the Dingoes took a 7 point lead into the quarter time huddle with the rain easing slightly.

### SECOND QUARTER

With the rain just about gone, play got under way in the second quarter. Titon and Belly went at it once again and after a rushed behind to the Dingoes, it was Belly who got the Eureka's on the board with a nice running goal. This was soon followed by a goal to Zorba which saw the Eureka's hit the front by 4 points. But as usual, the Dingoes would not lie

down. After locking the ball in their forward arc due some desperate play by both teams, an unlucky turnover for the Eureka's landed right in the lap of none other than CJ who slotted through his second goal for the game, putting the Dingoes back in front by 2 points. After a behind through Dr. Nick, the Eureka's were starting to hit their targets as the weather eased, and got the ball into their forward line through some clean passages of play. Benson took a strong mark but missed a tough set shot from the angle, however a behind was still valuable under the conditions and kept the Eureka's in touch as they trailed by only 2 points at the half time break.

### **THIRD QUARTER**

The Dingoes decided to change their ruck approach by throwing PAFL debutant and rugby player Joe Cole onto big Belly. This almost had immediate effect as he was nullifying the dominance of Bell, but it was the Eureka's on-ballers that began to stand tall through Chittick, Clarke and Findley. Chittick missed a tough running shot but goals to Zorba and a miraculous snap from the Catster in the right forward pocket, saw the Eureka's hit the front as they grew in confidence. All of a sudden, the Eureka's lead was 11 points. Could they put the nail in the coffin, or would the Dingoes bounce back in typical dog style? Keep reading....

The tussle in the Dingoes forward line between Drippy and Spence was becoming one of the highlights of the game but as the Dingoes pumped the ball into the forward, Drippy took a very strong mark after some body on body bashing continued. The resultant goal and another from that man Jimmy the good cop, saw the Dingoes take the lead again in a see-sawing quarter. A rapid snap in the dying minutes by Foreman of the Eureka's only managed a behind but kept the scores level. Then as the siren sounded, Drippy once again converted with his second goal of the game giving the Dingoes a 6 point lead at three quarter time.

### **FOURTH QUARTER**

The scene was set for a nail biting finish. With the Eureka's trailing by one goal and their season in jeopardy, the call was to "just kick the bloody ball and stop stuffing around with the fancy s\*\*t". So the quarter got underway in similar fashion with Belly getting a tap down to a pack of players slipping, tripping and scrambling for the ball. Although the rain had long finished, the conditions were still very greasy.

French debutant Savina was giving his all and managed to score a behind for the Eureka's. After another rushed behind, Benson took one of his now signature strong marks and converted truly to put the Eureka's in front by 2 points. The pressure out in the middle was intense. After a few rushed behinds and near misses by both teams, the Eureka's were leading by a solitary point deep into the quarter as the Dingoes surged forward threatening to score a goal and hit the front, but the Eureka's defence held up strongly with everything being thrown at the them.

Spence with a broken arm continued his duel with Drippy, Captain Kurt was containing the under the weather CJ and young Liam Braithwaite was everywhere. In a desperate attempt to prevent a goal, young Liam rushed a behind levelling the scores with only minutes to play. Could the Eureka's get the ball down to their forward line for a quick goal, or would the Dingoes flood the centre and set up a wall and rebound for a goal from the kick-out?? You will have to read on to find out.

The ball was brought back in by the seagull and after some desperate play in the centre by both teams, the ball was cleared by the Eureka's and ended up deep in their forward pocket with Zorba's desperate attempt for goal only registering a behind. More importantly, this gave the Eureka's the lead by one point with 97 seconds left. Scotty was taking the kick out for the Dingoes and let rip with a torp that almost landed in the centre circle. More scrappy

and desperate play sees the ball stay at CHF for the Eureka's. Enter PAFL debutant and first time visitor to Manila, Mick Foreman who somehow found himself with the ball and from the forward flank snaps around his body and kicks a miraculous goal. The Eureka's erupt and the crowd goes ballistic with only 76 seconds left on the clock, the Dingoes need two goals now to win with time running out. Gazza throws the ball up as 32 players converge on the centre circle. Everyone is having a red-hot go at trying to get a clean possession as the ball eventually finds itself over the boundary on the wing just as the final siren sounds - victory to the Eureka's by 7 points in one of the best games for the year.

A fantastic day of football was had by all in a game that contained more twists and turns than the Great Ocean Road. Not to mention several new comers, the rain, the commitment and determination showed by all players. It was truly a great day.

The win now sees the Eureka's and Dingoes tied on 24 points each with the Eureka's needing to win the next two games to win their first PAFL premiership due to their poor percentage. With only two more official games left for the year (weather permitting), the season is shaping up to be a cracker!!!

Thanks once again to our umpires who actually had a good day with minimal disputes and abuse coming from the players and also to our sponsors without whom, we would not be able to enjoy our great game each weekend.

#### Final Score ...

Dingoes: 1.1, 2.3, 5.3, 5.6 (36)

Eureka's: 0.0, 2.1, 4.3, 6.7 (43)

#### Goal Scorers ...

Dingoes: Drinkwater, Radcliffe 2, Braithwaite.

Eureka's: Loukas 2, Arthur, Bell, Benson, Foreman.

#### 2008 PAFL Premiership Table

	Wins (4 pts.)	Draws (2 pts.)	Losses (0 pts.)	For (Score)	Against (Score)	%	Premiership Points
Dingoes	6	0	6	720	556	129.50	24
Eureka's	6	0	6	556	720	77.22	24

2008 PAFL Sponsors (see below)

**GOLD SPONSORS**



**SILVER SPONSORS**



**BRONZE SPONSORS**

