



PAFL / Asian Tigers Gaelic Match

Saturday, September 6th, 2008

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How they lined up

Dingoes:

Richie Amurao, Steve Ayling, Thomas Bell, Philip Bongcahig, Anna-Kate Braithwaite, James Braithwaite, Liam Braithwaite, Steve Dare, Ringo Dingrando, Stephanie Todd, Steve Dodd, Chris Lark, Gerard Laoang, Rosie Lenehan, Michael Macaraig, Ben Maughan, Joni Mertz, Brendan Murphy, Lachie Sandor, Peter Sandor, Evie Vaiga, Meg Vinson, Neil Woods.

Eureka's:

Derek Ackary, Michael Bell, Peter Benson, Fred Biggar, James Braithwaite, Dan Casey, Daniel Edge, Scott Fittock, Ben Gaffney, Mark Gilroy, Ryan Gilroy, Tiffany Gilroy, Jeremy Guthrie, Adam Heremaia, Max Jenson, Christian Jones, Roberta Lark, Kurt Plummer, Peter Solomon, Andrew Young.

Central Umpires: P. Lawrence & L. Martin

Goal Umpires: M. Morgan & B. Morgan.

Statistician: M. Edge

How it all happened

It wasn't supposed to be a thrilling tie: as the teams warmed up and donned their guernseys for the much-awaited Gaelic Match mutterings were heard from the large crowd building that the predominantly Irish/International crew pulling on the Dingoes strip had not recruited enough of the regular, battle-hardened PAFL performers to be a competitive force against the Eureka's.

It wasn't supposed to be draw when at half-time the Dingoes, showing flagrant disregard for the armchair experts, shot out to a 21 point lead with the Eureka's having managed a solitary point by that stage.

But a thrilling, nail-biting, fast-paced tie it was.

The earlier prognostications proved wide of the mark as the Dingoes adapted to the abridged rules and the round ball far quicker than the Eureka's. In the PAFL Gaelic form of the match full tackling is not allowed, scoring is by unders (the ball into the net) of six points, overs (the ball between the big sticks but not into the net) of three points and behinds worth one point, between the big and small sticks either side.

The first quarter was dominated by the Dingoes with heavy use of handball, tactically taking advantage of the no tackle rule allowing the ball to be manoeuvred close to the goal which allowed the two Steves (Ayling and Dodd) to nail two unders, and Thomas Bell chiming in with an over. Together with the two behinds scored the Dingoes were 17 points ahead by quarter time.

Hurried deliberations amongst the Eureka camp led to a heavier defensive effort in the second quarter and although Joni Mertz added another Dingo over for the quarter, the Eureka's managed to get on the scoreboard with their first behind while the Dingoes added two minors, leaving the score at 22 to 1 to the Dingoes at half-time. The second quarter also featured all the children on the field and they were not daunted by some of the larger bodies flying around them, with young Ryan Gilroy noticeable in defence.

Half-time arrived and having reduced the Dingo surge the Eureka's then played a master card. Andrew Young, the young Scot who plays PAFL every chance he gets when on vacation in Manila, was thrown forward and his Celtic genes kicked in as he started to find the formula to get that swirling round ball into the net. In the third quarter, he snaffled two unders for the Eureka's while Jeremy Guthrie (with the Celtic pedigree of Barack Obama) managed a couple of behinds.

Another over to Joni, with three rushed behinds to the Dingoes meant the Dingoes still had a comfortable lead of 28 to 15 at three quarter time.

43 players had contributed to this great day and most of them, including all the kids were on for the last quarter. In a moment of exuberance mixed with over-confidence, CJ, the Dingo coach suggested to the officials that the last quarter be extended as the crowd and players were enjoying themselves so much. His qualifying words that "so long as there was no risk of a Dingo defeat" were probably ringing in his ears as the Eureka's surged forward time and again in the last quarter with Young and Scotty Fittock, nailing unders and Dan Casey chiming in with an over. Suddenly, and from nowhere, the Eureka's were in front by a point and time was running out.

She had been dangerous all day and when it counted, Joni Mertz restored the Dingo lead with a fantastic over from a tight angle. Peter (Soli) Solomon pulled one back for the Eureka's with a behind, and then Guthrie had a chance to cover himself in glory, but the ball went wide and the scores were level. One last roll of the dice for the Eureka's from the kick-in but they were out of time – 35 apiece - and the combatants retired to their tents into the arms of their adoring fans.

Final Score ...

Dingoes: 2.1.2, 2.2.4, 2.3.7, 2.4.11 (35)

Eureka's: 0.0.0, 0.0.1, 2.0.3, 4.1.8 (35)

Goal Scorers ...

Dingoes: Unders: S.Dodd 1, S.Ayling 1 Overs: J.Mertz 3, T.Bell 1

Eurekas: Unders: A.Young 3, S.Fittock 1 Overs: D.Casey 1

Wrap up...

Many thanks to Lane Moving/Asian Tigers for sponsoring the after-match BBQ. It was a very special day. Thanks also to the many International School teachers and their friends for their contribution. We hope to see you down when you can make it for the regular PAFL matches.

The last regular match awaits us this week, followed by the Howzat match on Saturday, September 20.



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