



PAFL Round 15 – Match Report

Saturday, September 5, 2009

Author: Manoli Spell check & Layout: Dezza

How they lined up

Dingoes:

Richie Amurao, Ringo Dingrando, Peter Bartu, Robert Gilliand, Karl Malakonus, CJ Radcliffe, Fergus Mitra, Titon Mitra, Steve Scott, Andrew White.

Eureka's:

Derek Ackary, Nathan Clarke, Andrew Egan, Mark Pekin, Andrew Cumpston, Manoli Loukas, Sam Priest, Craig Wislang, Jeremy Guthrie, Ross Bray.

Central Umpires: Peter (Bluey) Lawrence

Goal Umpires: Bernard & Margaret Morgan

Statistician: M. Edge

How it all happened

Wet weather footy comes to Manila.

Finally PAFL had reached an agreement with the Polo Club to play regardless of the weather and sure enough the clouds rolled in and down came the rain. This set the scene for a classic wet weather encounter between the Dingoes and Eureka's in a do or die match in which the players commitment to win the hard ball in the slippery conditions would make all the difference. Both teams had a lot to play for - a Dingoes win meant salvation and the chance to get back into premiership contention. The Eureka's were playing for back to back flags.

The Eureka's took the field with a fairly consistent line up from previous weeks. Captain/Coach "Seagull" Dezza stressed the importance of early dominance, "break their spirit, play in front and use the ball to maximum effect" squawked the Seagull. The Dingoes looked to be in trouble without key on- ballers Robbie Powell, Mackay and Stevo. However in their place four fresh faces lined up, Andrew White, Peter Bartu, Robert Gilliand and Big Karl Malakonus and it became fairly obvious early on that these boys had come to play.

The bounce of the ball to start proceedings saw the clash of the big men with Big Karl going head to head with evergreen Eureka's ruckman Andrew Cumpston. Footy followers love seeing big guys battle it out. The wet conditions made it tough in the clinches and Rob Gilliand was in everything. Some clever play and good skills in the wet saw Steve Scott put the first one on the board for the Dingoes. The Eureka's soon equalised through Sam the Man Priest before CJ and Andy White booted one each to give the Dingoes a small break. Conditions made it tough with the ball as slippery as a bar of soap and players struggling to keep their feet. Pete Bartu was sizzling up forward and causing headaches for the Eureka's back line but another goal to Sam the Man and a magnificent running goal by last year's PAFL Carman-Murrihy winner, the Craig "the Whiz" Wislang, saw the Eureka's with a two point lead at the end of the first quarter.

The vocal crowd sensed that this game was going to be special.

The Eureka's came out of the blocks hard in the second term and so did the rain! Andrew Egan helped himself to two goals, and was proving a real handful for the Dingoes with his hard running and good use of the footy. Big Karl and Cumpston continued to slug it out in the centre and around the ground and Ravishing Ringo for the Dingoes tackled anything that moved. Both backlines worked hard with some great defensive work, reading of the play and running off by Fergus Mitra for the Dingoes with Dezza marshalling the Eureka's

last line of defence in Bray and Guthrie to nullify potential match winners in CJ, White and Bartu. Pekin, who was crippled with a back injury, snuck one home from a difficult angle while the inspirational Dingoes Captain Scotty kicked one for the Dingoes to keep them in the game. The Eureka's went into the half time break with a 13 point lead which, given the conditions, looked like a winning margin.

The Dingoes made a few changes at half time with Big Karl moving to centre half back and Titon Mitra into the ruck. The Eureka's had a sniff and were determined to get first blood. A long ball into centre half forward saw a mark to Zorba on the 30 metre line. Much to the shock of everyone on the field, big Zorba laid off a pass to Nathan Clarke who was in a much better scoring position and the Eureka's had the first goal of the term on the board. Both teams dug deep and produced quality football. Two goals to the elusive CJ and one for Rob Gilliland for the Dingoes saw them creeping closer however Sam the Man stood up for the Eureka's to also boot two and the difference going into the last term was 12 points in favour of the Eureka's.

The season came down to this, the final quarter. Despite holding a slender lead there was a sense around the ground that the Eureka's were in trouble. Zorba had twanged a hammy in the third quarter and was restricted to hobbling around the goal square and Pekin was struggling with mobility due to a back injury. This left the Eureka's short of mobile key forwards. The Dingoes knew that they had the legs to come home over the top and came out snarling.

The Eureka's backline was working overtime and cleared the ball to enable Pekin, against the odds, to snap a beauty for the Eureka's at the start of the last term to open up a 17 point lead. The game looked over. However with the two Mitra's and Amurao for the Dingoes repelling everything in defence, the next three scores were behinds. The Dingoes, with some of the most inspiring footy of the year, kicked two goals within as many minutes courtesy of the two veterans, Scotty and CJ to make it only 7 pts the difference. Another one to Gilliland and the crowd went mad. Three goals in 3 minutes! An upset was looming.

But cometh the hour cometh the man - Sam the Man – who stood tall and made the Eureka's forward line his own, capitalizing on the great work by the Eureka's midfield to kick two last quarter goals, which made it six for the game, and seal the match and the 2009 premiership flag for the Eureka's.

An inspired game of footy and all who watched it would not have been disappointed at the intensity and skill level shown by both teams. Great to see an injection of new blood into PAFL with four exciting and talented players joining us for their first game.

Thanks once again to our sponsors. Without our sponsors, none of this enjoyment would be possible. Also thanks to Bluey for umpiring solo in wet conditions, Edgey for the stats and support staff and to all those who came along and watched this great game of footy.

Final Score ...

Dingoes: 3.0, 4.2, 7.4, 10.5 (65)

Eureka's: 3.2, 6.3, 9.4, 12.6 (78)

Goal Scorers ...

Dingoes: Radcliffe 4, Scott 3, Gilliland 2, White 1.
Eurekas: Priest 6, Egan 2, Pekin 2, Wislang, Clarke 1,

2009 PAFL Premiership Table

	Wins (4 pts.)	Draws (2 pts.)	Losses (0 pts.)	For (Score)	Against (Score)	%	Premiership Points
Eurekas	6	0	3	541	505	107.00	24
Dingoes	3	0	6	505	541	93.00	12

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