



PAFL Round 1 – Match Report Saturday, April 29, 2006 Brett Marshall

Manila has been sweating for weeks through the heights of summer, so the first match of the 2006 season was played in sweltering conditions on the hallowed Polo Club turf. Training had been underway through March and April. A number of new faces in the camp – with John Weston and Kamal Hussain relative new-comers to the Philippines, Chris Meyers and Peter Emmett up for their taste of a new sport, and Jerome Molato, younger brother of Xandro, being drafted in to the Dingoes line-up.

We were joined by continuing Gold Sponsor Hardys Wines, represented by Stuart Dovey, new Gold Sponsor Loscam Philippines, Inc., represented by Garry Bachell, and Bronze Sponsor Forty Winks represented by James and Esther Murrhly.

How they lined up

Dingoes:

Aaron Holbrook, Andy Byrne, John Weston, Gary Powell, Rob Powell, Richie Amurao, Jerome Molato, Chris Myers (2nd half)

Eurekas:

David Bell, Derek Ackary, Xandro Molato, Ben Casey, Dan Casey, Chris Myers, Kamal Hussain (2nd half), Peter Emmett, Richard Spence

Umpire: Michael Templeton

From the ball up

It was a passionate opening to the first quarter as “Ding Dong” Bell and the “Hitman” Holbrook crunched at the centre bounce for the first time. No team could get a clear break, but the pre-season training brought dividends with good skill levels in kicking, marking and hand-balling.

Andy Byrne had the first chance to get on the scoreboard with a free in front, but with Irish flair missed everything. The Eurekas attacks forward were being repelled by Weston who was marking everything coming his way. First goal of the match went to a tasty snap from Robby Powell roving the pack in the Dingoes forward line. The Dingoes lifted, Holbrook gathered nicely but missed for a behind. A beautiful torpedo by Emmett from the kick out was gather in the centre by Gary Powell who slotted the handball to Holbrook, who with a short pass found Jerome Molato on his own in the square and the youngster goaled for the Dingoes.

After the ball up, Seagull Ackary found himself with a free kick and with no one on the mark, helped himself to a bounce, and kicked truly for the Eurekas first goal. This lifted the Eurekas, but they could not capitalize. A clearing kick from Gary Powell was marked by Jerome Molato on the wing; he passed to a running Robby Powell who kicked truly for his second. A Quarter time whistle gratefully met by the players saw the Dingoes 3.1.19 to the Eurekas 1.2.8.

Second Quarter

The opening of the second quarter was again tight, but it was the Dingoes who broke free, Gary Powell marking in front, and kicking truly for a goal. The Eurekas responded with a nice centre clearance from Bell, Ben Casey handballed to Dan Casey who goaled. Bell was having a purple patch in the centre, cleared the ball to Xandro Molato who passed to Ackary, who handballed to Ben Casey, but the kick went wide. Dan Casey swooped on the clearance and passed to Xandro Molato to marked strongly in front and goaled.

The Dingoes lifted in the remainder of the quarter, but shots outside the circle prevented them scoring, until Gary Powell from a free found Robert Powell loose just inside the 35 and kicked truly for a tidy goal.

At the main break, it was Dingoes 5.1. 31 to Eurekas 3. 4. 22, the heat was making it hard work, but it was entertaining stuff!

Third Quarter

The Eurekas showed a great brand of running football to open the second half highlighted by an Ackary handball to newcomer Kamal Hussain, but the resulting kick hit the post. Thereafter it was end to end stuff, tight in the packs, and long kicks. Rob Powell out of defence held the Eurekas out, until Spence found himself free with the ball in the centre, took 3 bounces and goaled from in front for the Eurekas.

Against the run of play, Rob Powell put a long bomb into the forward line, Andy Byrne pounced on

it and goaled for the Dingoes. But the Eureka's bounced back with some great teamwork, Xandro Molato passed to Spence to handballed to Dan Casey who handballed to Ackary to goaled from the square. At the three quarter break, the Eureka's were back in the hunt trailing 5. 4. 34 to the Dingoes 6. 1. 37, and we were set for a tense last quarter.

The run home

The heat was really telling as the boys dragged weary bodies into battle for the last term. The Dingoes, keen to quell Eureka enthusiasm early, teamed nicely with Amurao passing to Gary Powell, whose pass was marked nicely by Jerome Molato who converted for a goal.

The Eureka's lost Dan Casey with a hand injury, but lifted as Ackary goaled from a set shot in front. When Ackary goaled again a few minutes later, the Eureka's were in front for the first time and fighting hard to keep the Dingoes out of the forward line. It was tense – with the Dingoes down, Holbrook kept asking Umpire Tempo if the heat was getting to him and was lucky not get more than a fifty for his persistence. As the clock ticked into the final minute, Gary Powell received a free kick 35 meters out, he found Rob Powell loose in the goal square and the Dingoes were back in front. As the final siren sounded, the Dingoes hung on for a 3 point victory in a well fought game by both teams.

Final Score: Dingoes 8. 1. 49 to Eureka's 7. 4. 46.

Final Score

Dingoes: 3.1, 5.1, 6.1, 8.1 (49)

Eureka's: 1.2, 3.4, 5.4, 7.4 (46)

The Goal Kickers

Dingoes: R. Powell 4, J. Molato 2, G. Powell, A. Byrne 1

Eureka's: D. Ackary 4, D. Casey, X. Molato, R. Spence 1

In Conclusion

The match was a great start to the new PAFL season, positive to see new faces joining in, and strong performances from the Filipino boys Jerome, Xandro and Richie. Peter Emmett's 40 meter drop kick, though ruled foul, was a reminder of the skills of the game in times past. Tempo was in fine form with the whistle during the afternoon – many thanks for a top effort in warm conditions. The traditional month-end BBQ followed the game and we are grateful to our BBQ Sponsor for this weekend, Peter Lawrence, for his support and generosity.

2006 PAFL Premiership Table

	Drawn 1 pt.	(1-17) 2 pts.	(18-35) 3 pts.	(36-53) 4 pts.	(54+) 6 pts.	Premiership Points
Dingoes :	0	2	0	0	0	2
Eureka's :	0	0	0	0	0	0

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