



PAFL Round 18 – Match Report

Saturday, August 26, 2006

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As it was

So here we were at the final game of the season, and the winner on this day would be crowned 2006 Premiers. The Eureka's were ahead on the points table and threatening to take the trophy for the first time. But the Dingoes were just as hungry to claim their third consecutive title.

Both sides were counting the big names missing. Winner Santos was in Jakarta for the Asian Champs robbing the Eureka's of much needed speed at the breakaway and bustling full-back Peter Emmett was out with a hamstring injury. The Dingoes were without their captain Hitman Holbrook (off eating monkey brains and scorpions in China), and Rob Powell's explosive pace was missing also. The spectators were abuzz in anticipation, the photographers and video crew were flashing away, and though the Manila sky was threatening to chuck it down, even the weather was showing respect for the moment.

How they lined up

Dingoes:

Peter Stone, Luke Crowley, Michael Macaraig, Jobe Nkemakolam, Steve Keesing, Jerome Molato, Mark Snowden, Phil Davis, Boom Guevara, James Braithwaite, Dan Casey, Glen Wright, Donal Walsh, Richie Amurao

Eureka's:

David Bell, Richard Spence, Andrew Cope, Xandro Molato, Ben Casey, Alan Fine, Derek Ackary, Quinten, Rishie Sadwhani, Mark Lewis, Michael Nelson, Thomas Bell, Graham Miles, Mark Gilroy

Umpire: Bluey (Sandy) Lawrence

From the ball up....

With Bluey in his customary controversial role as the target...no...the man in white, his throw saw the boys explode into action. Bell and Crowley tussled in the ruck, and Eureka's got the first break from Eureka debutant Mark Lewis, showing he could play a bit and hitting Ackary on the chest with a spear-like pass in the forward pocket for the Eureka's. The Seagull kicked a behind. Copey marked the kick out and again found the Seagull marking on the 35 meter line which resulted in another behind to the Eureka's. Ben Casey kicked another Eureka behind.

The Dingoes started to wake from their slumber getting ball forward for the first time. Big Jobe loped onto a loose ball, handpassed to a running Wright who kicked the game's first goal for the Dingoes. From the restart the Dingoes again pressed forward, and a neat gather by Walsh was followed by a Stoney mark but the resulting kick went wide. The Eureka's cleared the ball from the kick-out and pushed deep into their forward line, before a mark in the last line of defence by Walsh saw the start of a chain of passes, to Jobe, to Stoney and onto Wright for a stirring goal to the Dingoes. The Doggies finished the quarter strongly with a mark in the goal-mouth by Stoney giving them a third goal, and they went to the break 13 points up and the Eureka's goalless for the quarter.

There was some evil squawking from the Eureka huddle during the break, and they responded sharply as the opening of the second term saw a snap from Rishie for a behind followed by a towering goal to Bell. From the restart the Eureka's continued the forward surge and Nelson gathered on the run but did not steady and kicked wide. From the kick in, the Dingoes took control of the clinches and fought their way forward to where Stoney snapped another behind. The Dingoes radar was off for the quarter and Crowley's shot at goal also went wide. The Eureka's fought back, and it was searing stuff in the packs, which reminded spectators of what was at stake on the day. Fine gathered the loose ball and goaled on the run for the Eureka's, and then Copey was inspirational in extracting himself from the pack with the ball and scoring a brilliant running goal. As the quarter closed, Gilroy marked and kicked behind for the Eureka's, but they had stormed back in to the match and held a 7-point lead at the main break.

In the game of Aussie rules, it is often the third quarter that determines the outcome of the game. The crowd was being treated to an enthralling tussle. Both sides put their bodies on the line. Though there were very few clear break s either way early in the quarter. But what we then saw for the first time might be the turning point of the game - as the Dingoes pushed into the forward line, big Jobe pounced on a loose ball and fired off a short fast handball to Stone resulting in a snapped goal to the Dingoes. They lifted, but further snaps by Crowley and Stone were wayward. The Eureka's fought back, but Bell's mongrel punt snap went wide. The Dingoes could not clear the kickout, and Copey emerged from the bottom of the pack with the ball, and passed to the flying Seagull who marked on the 35 line and kicked truly for his first major. A scintillating quarter of football, and at the break, just 1 point separated the two teams, Eureka's in front.

As the final term began, the heavens...patient until now, opened. The Dingoes were the first to break from the centre in slippery conditions but Walsh missed for a behind. The Eureka's cleared from full back and Lewis took a tidy mark in the centre, and then found Bell inside the 35-meter line with a well-weighted pass. Again Belly pushed it wide

for a behind to the Eureka's. The kick-out was marked by Gilroy and it looked like the Eureka's might score but Walsh intercepted a ball meant for Cope and took off up the ground. After a bounce he kicked to Jobe, and lightening handpass to Stone, and with a neatly executed pirouette, the Dingoes added another major. The intensity lifted again, and the Eureka's lifted. This time it was Wright who kicked a much-needed goal for the Eureka's with a snap from the middle of a pack. It was goal for goal as Braithwaite put another on the board for the Dingoes, and in reply, Nelson kicked truly for the Eureka's following the restart and there was still only a point in it! Fantastic stuff!

As the Dingoes pushed desperately forward Jobe marked on the chest and with quick hands combined with Stoney for the third time in the match to produce a goal that put the Dingoes back in front. Shouts emanated from all round the ground as the players from both sides urged each other on for a final effort. And it was the Dingoes who got the break, pressuring forward, and Crowley crowning a superb game with the final goal of the match, giving the Dingoes victory, and the 2006 Premiership Trophy.

Final Score

Dingoes: 3. 1. 19 3. 4. 20 4. 9. 33 8. 12. 60
Eureka's: 0. 6. 6 3. 9. 27 4.10. 34 6. 11. 47

The Goal Kickers

Dingoes: P.Stone 4, G. Wright 2, J. Braithwaite, L. Crowley 1
Eureka's: M. Nelson 2, D. Bell, A. Fine, A. Cope, D. Ackary 1

Final word

Congratulations to both teams for a great game following a tight, competitive season. Many thanks to Blue Cross for their sponsorship of the day, including a fantastic family BBQ. Many thanks also to our sponsors during the season, particularly Gold Sponsors Hardy's Wines, SMART and Loscam.

2006 PAFL Premiership Table

	Drawn 1 pt.	(1-17) 2 pts.	(18-35) 3 pts.	(36-53) 4 pts	(54+) 6 pts.	Premiership Points
Eureka's :	0	6	2	1	0	22
Dingoes :	0	2	1	1	2	23



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