



PAFL Round 9 – Match Report

Saturday, June 23rd, 2007

Author: Fat Cat

How they lined up

Dingoes:

J.Bishop, G.Batterbury, D.Casey, S.Duffy,
B.Drinkwater, A.Holbrook, M.Macaraig, J.
Malato, K.Merritt, R.Powell, C.Radcliffe, S.Scott
& P.Stone

Eureka's:

D.Ackary, S.Arthur, J.Braithwaite, B.Casey, A.Cumpston,
B.Dunleavy, S.Fittock, B.Gaffney, J.Guthrie, N.Jenny, X.
Malato, B.McCarthy, K.Plummer, J.Ruiz, R.Sadhvani,
N.Thompson.

Umpire: P.Lawrance

Boundry Umpires: P.Lawrance

Statistician: D.Ferguson

How it all happened

Contrary to the incorrect advertising in last weeks Match Report, this round was not the traditional “End of Month BBQ Match”, but it was a special (and memorable) occasion non the less as Aaron (Hitman) Holbrook plays his last foreseeable game for PAFL.

With Azza captaining the Dingoes for his last hoorah, it was going to be interesting to see if they could keep their emotions in check and concentrate on the game ahead.

With the usual warm up exercises out of the way, the two teams strolled out into the middle of the MPC to get Round 9 under way.

Bluey Lawrance (who is looking forward to his last match of “Azza abuse”) gets the game off to a good start with the old “Ball up” in the centre and the Dingoes hit the ground at full throttle. So much for keeping any emotions in check! With great use of handball, backing up, hitting targets with their kicks and accurate goal kicking, the Dingoes looked like winners right from the outset. The Eureka's were struggling to even get a touch of the footy, never mind an opportunity to score. Although the opportunity did finally come through Scott Fittock (1 behind) and Rishee Sadhwani (1 goal), the Dingoes amassed a total of seven goals from Glen Batterbury (2), C.J. Radcliffe (2), Azza Holbrook, Steve Scott and Keith Merritt to get a jump start over the Eureka's at the first change with a lead of 35 points.

With the Eureka's returning to the field a bit punch drunk from the opening stanza, they needed to show some pride and work themselves back into the game. Although there was plenty of run in some of the “young guns” legs, the Eureka's disposal was letting them down and with targets being missed, the Dingoes kept cleaning up the crumbs and taking the ball forward. So much so that Dingoes once again piled on the goals (five of them) through C.J Radcliffe (2), Stoney, Glen Batterbury and Azza to increase their handy lead to a whopping 63 points at the half time break, as the Eureka's could only manage two points for the quarter (Scott Fittock).

With such a disparity in the score in one half of footy, the Leadership Group from both teams convened in the centre to discuss the imbalance of the team structures and try to resurrect some sort of confidence into the Eureka's. It was crisis time, or was it, as the general consensus was that (to quote an old cliché) “the game was closer than the scoreboard indicated”, or so we thought anyway.

With the addition of Neil Thompson and a shuffle of the team into their more traditional positions, the Eureka's came out for the 3rd quarter a little more confident and used the ball a lot better. The contest in the centre of the ground continued and again both teams were going hard at it, but this time the Eureka's were using the ball much better and finally started to hit some targets through the centre and up forward. With the Eureka's actually winning the quarter by scoring three goals (Derek Ackary) and one behind (Scott Fittock again) to the Dingoes two goals (C.J.Radcliffe & Steve Scott) and a rushed behind, the Eureka's walked off the ground at Three Quarter time with their heads held high and a lot more confident.

The last Quarter would prove to be much the same style of football as being played all day, as the intensity never waned and the Dingoes continued to harass the Eureka's and keep the ball in their forward line. With Dan Casey kicking an early goal and a few behinds from Azza, John Bishop and Keith Merritt, the Dingoes had snuffed out any thoughts of the Eureka's penetrating too much into their lead, who could only manage three behinds for the Quarter (Jim Braithwaite, Thommo & Xandro Malato). And with Aaron “Hitman” Holbrook kicking a gaol just before the final siren in his farewell game, it was a fitting end with the Dingoes running out convincing winners by 69 points.

Final Score ...

Dingoes: 7.0, 12.0, 14.1, 16.4 (100)

Eureka's: 1.1, 1.3, 4.4, 4.7 (31)

Goal Scorers ...

Dingoes: C.Radcliffe 5.0, A.Holbrook 3.1, G.Batterbury 3.0, S.Scott 2.0, K.Merritt 1.1, D.Casey 1.0, P.Stone 1.0, J.Bishop 0.1.

Eureka's: D.Ackary 3.0, R.Sadhvani 1.0, S.Fittock 0.4, J.Braithwaite 0.1, Xandro Malato 0.1, N.Thompson 0.1.

Final word

Well it was an excellent win by the Dingoes, who showed the Eureka's what good use of the football and teamwork can do and they now increase their lead on the premiership Table to 11 points.

Although it was another great day of Aussie Rules in Manila, there was a hint of sadness in the air as we farewell the Holbrook family from the Philippines. Aaron, Michelle, Alecia, Emily, Amie and Benjamin have been probably the most prominent and visible of families at all of the PAFL events and have all had a hand in the development of our competition. Aaron took over the presidency of the PAFL upon the departure of Brett Marshall in 2006 and worked tirelessly to ensure that the PAFL not only survived the loss of Brett and other hard working trustees and committee members, but continued to flourish and encouraged a new look committee to secure the long term future of the competition. It is with sadness that we all say "Goodbye" to the Holbrook's, but the memories will last forever and the Trustees and Committee of PAFL wish them all the best in the future and hope to see them back here one day.

2007 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	3	0	1	19
Eureka's :	0	2	0	1	0	8

Don't forget the "end of month BBQ Game" next week!
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