



Pluim Park, Lisarow

PLUIM PICKINGS

The wind chill and light rain on Wednesday morning prompted any Game of Throne aficionado to quote "winter is coming". Grr, what perfect timing for a rare night game for the old boys from the 'ming facing a quick turn around after playing only four days ago. To make matters more daunting there were more absences: Flanno was still pirating the high seas, Cottier was down in Wollongong for work, Aaron had trekked down to Melbourne, and Ian was still out injured. On the plus side, Stew was back having taken the helium out of his foot and we had two quality ring-ins from the DS squad to help out: Brad Dunn and Scott Lee. Another bonus, the wind chill had subdued and it would turn out to be quite a pleasant evening.







ANDY sends an early cross to BRAD who worries Pluim Park officials when he aims for the stadium lights.



BRAD flies high for a JASON cross, ANDY takes his turn at aiming for the lights.

THE BRAD COMBO

There was no presidential sway to get us onto the flashier Pluim Park fields 1 or 3, so as with last year we were far and yonder up the back, shelved and forgotten, on Field 2, *sobs*. Thankfully, it wasn't as cold as expected. Akin to our last game we started the stronger, making some nice early attacking runs. Brad Avery and Chris again causing headaches to the opposition. There were some early shots that either veered well off target, threatening the stadium lighting ... or lacked the punch and went straight to the keeper. Eventually though, Brad Avery - in his 70th game for this team - recalibrated his aim after being sent down the middle of the park by a great ball through from Brad Dunn. Yes a Brad combo saw Avery pick up his first goal of the season to put us in front. The Wyong keeper, who'd thus far shown competency in the position, declared to his teammates that he was done. Not sure what that was all about but he remained in the position until half time.



BRAD AVERY times his run and finish perfectly.



WYONG STRIKES BACK !!

With Wyong coming of a big 5-2 victory over Berkeley Vale on the weekend and having beaten Tuggerah 7-1 two weeks ago, we knew they weren't going to be shy in the goal scoring department. They may have been sluggish to begin with but when Wyoming's defensive errors slipped into the game, they were quick to capitalise. In the space of a few minutes, they had not only equalized but also had the lead. Other than the two blunders, their chances were limited with Meady and Scott Lee doing a fine job in the back and Stevie G - who'd had a tough task getting his boss to give him the night of work - was capable as always with the gloves. Fordo was finding feisty opposition with the sideline official to get the offside flag to go up whilst Mark and Gregg battled their fiercest enemies. Hobbit-sized Mark struggled against the dreaded bounce whilst Gregg was hit a couple of times by the invisible sniper. Nevertheless they overcome such adversity, covering their respective flanks and giving the midfield plenty of options.



WWF

There was an air of disappointment as the group huddled around for their halftime talk. Brad's quips of motivational cliché talk kept the mood light but it was Meady's speech that would surely inspire the team. "If we lose three in a row without Flanno, we'll never hear the end of it". With that message instilled in their minds, the boys would surely give it their all to WWF!! (Win Without Flanno).



STEW on the race to WWF / LUCA stretches to WWF / FORDO asks for a hand to WWF

CHRIS COOKS UP A STEW

The boys were anxious to get the ball rolling so to speak for the second half but had to wait an age for the officials to return from the clubhouse. Someone walking with a zimmer frame would've moved faster. As the kick off loomed, a Wyong player advised the others "Thirteen is their man". And yes he was right. Chris "twinkle toes" O'Connor has started this season in fine form and he continued to do so. He would be the catalyst in setting up Stew for the second goal. Chris struck the perfect ball through a hole in the opposition and Stew, in his comeback game - and twentieth for this team - made no mistake in finding the net. Revitalised, Wyoming had the sniff they needed to get control of this game. Meady's words were echoing in their heads - Win Without Flanno!!



LUCA & JASON get the ball through to CHRIS who sends STEW away - welcome back STEW!!



FLAG OF DESPAIR

And it wasn't long before they had the lead... well they thought so. Andy had gotten the ball and with the players on the charge, he took a longshot. It sailed further than he expected and suddenly it was dipping towards the goal frame. Not just towards, but hitting. The keeper scurried backwards but couldn't reach it in time. Luca charged forward ready for a deflection but the ball had ricocheted into the net before he got there. The boys' celebrative cheer was short-lived however. The referee saw the sideline official's flag was up. Offside she declared. Her version of events had Luca's approach distracting the keeper. As much as Wyoming pleaded for the ref to overturn her ruling, he would not, and that was that, the score was still locked up.



LUCA is deemed to be offside despite ANDY's shot finding the goal directly.

HITS AWAY

Tensions rising, Wyoming started getting narky with the man in charge culminating in Meady picking up a yellow card for descent. Andy, whilst disheartened by the referee's decision, wasn't ready to give up and when Chris had possession around the halfway mark, Andy yelled "send me, send me". Chris sent the ball via back heel and Andy was on his way. Shadowed by a defender who wasn't quite ready to commit to the tackle, Andy kept charging towards the goals and with it being May the Fourth tomorrow, this Star Wars nutter channeled Luke Skywalker embarking down the Death Star trench and fired. It sailed past the keeper and into the net. There was no flag getting in the way this time.



CHRIS sends ANDY up the line ... this time it counts !!









WYONG keeps threatening with narrow misses.



FORDO takes a shot.

THREE A PIECE

Justice prevailing, could they now compose themselves defensively to keep this lead. The answer would be ... No! Wyong may have had several shots narrowly miss the goal on either side but one of them eventually stuck. A swift kick from the right flank saw the ball travel across the goal frame, ricochet off the post and into the net. The score was level again.



SCORE:





THE RIGHT AND THE WYONG

When a game has so many twists and turns it can be difficult for your scribe here to recall every detail when it comes time to pull open the laptop. For a majority of the time it's the trusty 900 plus photographs I rely on but when that fails, I have humble assistants who come to my aide. Yes, it was Nigel Mead in this case, who would inform me the final key moment of this game began with him. Intercepting a Wyong threat, he pushed past two Wyong players, yes two, sent the ball to Luca who in turn found Brad Dunn. Dunn sent it long to ... I really don't know. I had varying accounts on who may've received the ball next. "Fordo I think" said Brad, "Chris I'm sure it was" said Stew. "A blur of brilliance" texted Gregg. Eloquent but helpful? No! Meady was too busy recalling the glory moment of his part to play to remember much else. Whoever it was, they sent the ball from the right flank across the 18-yard box. Stew raced after it, a defender right on his heels. The keeper started coming out. Andy saw it coming towards him and called for Stew to "leave it". There was no time to get his preferred left foot and went for the shot with his right. A defender on the goal line tried his best to block it but there was no stopping this ball's date with the net once more.





A blur of brilliance.







VICTORY!

Four minutes remained. There would be no more errors made to give Wyong a sniff and in fact, Brad and Stew came very close with strong runs, the latter being fouled right on the edge. Luca's ensuing free kick curved to the left of the goals but it didn't matter. The final whistle blew and Wyoming had their three points. A huge thanks to Brad Dunn and Scott Lee for filling in tonight. Their efforts were instrumental in securing this win, or as Luca posted on facebook, this wine. That guy loves his job a little too much!!



LUCA's free kick seconds before full time.





Special Thanks to BRAD DUNN & SCOTT LEE







THIS WEEK'S STATS



BRAD



STEW





GREGG gets freaked out by all the trippy photography...



Ball wrap mutation



CHRIS morphs into his defender



ANDY's leg vanishes !



Robotic Arm ?



LUCA gets twisted



FORDO tries to outrun The Flash



GOAL SCORING TALLY



<u>GOALS</u> Andy - 4 Chris - 2 Brad, Luca, Stew - 1

<u>ASSISTS</u> Chris - 4 Andy - 2 Dunn, Flanno, Stew - 1

THE MEAD MACHINE (MUD POINTS)



3PTS - #7 (Fordo) 2PTS - #14 (Brad) 1PT - #11 (Andy)

TOTAL POINTSCORE Dave, Fordo, Meady – 3pts Andy, Brad, Gregg, Steve G – 2pts Chris – 1pt



<u>YELLOW CARDS TALLY</u> Chris - 2 Flanno, Meady - 1



2PTS - Stew 2PTS - Andy 1PT - Steve





MID-WEEK WRAP-UP

Wyoming's win over Wyong sees them equal the Emus on competition points both teams now on 2 wins and 2 loses to start their season.



WEEK 5 (ROUND 1) [RE-SCHEDULED]												
	HOME		AWAY			GROUND		DATE	TIME			
4	WYOMING	vs	WYON6	3		uim Park (Lisarow)	2	May 3	20:10			
CENTRAL COAST - 35DN 2017												
WEEK FOUR												
		Р	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	Differentials			
1st	8	4	4	0	0	12	2	12	10			
2nc		4	4	0	0	11	4	12	7			
3rd		4	2	1	1	8	5	7	3			
4th		4	2	0	2	15	10	6	5			
5th	owner the second	4	2	0	2	9	10	6	-1			
6th		4	1	0	3	6	6	3	0			
7th		4	0	1	3	5	11	1	-6			
8th		4	0	0	4	1	19	0	-18			

ROUND 5 PREVIEW

Top 4 battles this coming weekend as Toukley and Killarney take on 3rd place Kanwal and 4th placed Wrong respectively. Terrigal and Berkeley battle it out for a chance to keep in touch with the Top 4 whilst Wyoming hopes to break into the Top 4 with a win over last-placed Tuggerah.

WEEK 5 (ROUND 5)										
HOME		AWAY	GROUND	DATE	TIME					
TUGGERAH	VS	WYOMING	Eastern Rd Oval 1 (Killarney Vale)	May 6	12:15					
TOUKLEY	VS	KANWAL	Harry Moore Oval 1 (Toukley)	May 6	13:15					
BERKELEY	VS	TERRIGAL	Chittaway Oval (Berkeley Vale)	May 6	13:30					
WYONG	VS	KILLARNEY	Baker Park 2 (Wyong)	May 6	14:15					

Cya Wednesday!!