

Welcome back

The second NTRU Dry Season rugby union competition is up and running and the Palmerston Crocs are in there and going strong.

Last weekend the seniors started their season with the A grade playing Katherine at Katherine and the B Grade hosting Jabiru in Darwin.

It was a nerve-racking week for the President and coaches leading up to these games as numbers on the training paddock had not been as good as hoped. But when the chips were down most people came to the party.

A's in Katherine

17 committed soles hopped onto the bus for Katherine including Gareth 'Shriek' Felton and Shane Cotton as the reserves. I'm sure the suggestion the President drag out his boots and mouthguard and be the back reserve was only in jest.

On a typical Katherine afternoon (sun shining and stinking hot) the new look A Grade team charged into battle against a fired-up Katherine team. This is the same team that beat the Darwin representative team a bit over a year ago and who is out to prove it was no fluke.

After a tough game, in very tough conditions, the Crocs emerged winners 24 – 12. Tries were scored by Peter Burnheim and James Ballantyne while Rod Mulhearn converted one and kicked 4 out of 4 penalties.

Perhaps our goal kicking percentage might be looking a lot better this year.

Other impressive facts from the game include:

- Ben 'Burly' Blyton standing up and playing the full 80 minutes;
- Craig 'Squinter' Leach and Tom Hurse not being able to decide if they were forwards or backs or maybe just very versatile. Squinter played half the game as a flanker and half as the fullback while Tom played a bit more than half as a flanker before having to move out to fill a wing spot.
- The skills of Wise Sekitoga as a lineout jumper. He made it look so easy.

B's v Jabiru

The B's started the game with 13 players and TeKeepa Russell made it 14 when he arrived halfway into the first half.

To be fair to TeKeepa it wasn't his fault he was late. He is working on the Wickham Point Gas Plant and they don't get back from work until about 4.00pm on Saturdays.

We will however have to talk to Bechtel about the fact that he was so tired that with 10 minutes to go he decided he had had enough and walked off and went home.

A great effort by all of these guys with them posting a 29 - 7 win.

Henry & Freddie

It looks like we might have a bit of family rivalry going between Henry Dau and his cousin Freddie Waianga. Henry was forced to move to inside centre on Saturday so Freddie could play outside centre. 2 tries to Freddie and 1 to Henry says it all.

Mosquitos

The Mosquitos are again playing in the Australian Rugby Shield and will be hosting 3 home games. They play Queensland Country on the 8 May, Melbourne on 29 May and Perth on the 5 June.

They have a trial this Sunday against the Army and we have 9 players who have been asked to trial.

Congratulations to:

Ben 'Cube' Emmett, James 'Spunky' Ballantyne, Tom Hurse, Wise Sekitoga, John 'Sully' Sullivan, Rod 'Mully' Mulhearn, Peter Burnheim, Ray Walters and Peter 'Pumpkin' McLaurin.

Wanted desperately

Coaching and managing staff are in short supply and more hands are required. Greg Hill is coaching the A Grade with help from Craig 'Squinter' Leach. Alan 'Babbsy' Babbs is coaching B Grade but the mighty, thirsty Thirds still do not have a coach. They have their first game on Saturday week, 3 April.

Looking after the C Grade is more of a 'management' role than a 'coaching' one. The main duty is getting all of the phone numbers and making sure the players get there for the game.

Bernie Bree has put his hand up to be the A Grade manager but Babbsy desperately needs a manager for the B Grade.

If you can help please give either Garry Russell (8924 7033 or 8948 1849) or Bernie Bree (8981 6260 or 8945 3530) a call to discuss terms and conditions.



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