

This Week's Games:
Friday, 15th July
A Grade vs Casuarina
@ Austar 1 - 7.45pm

Saturday, 16th July
B Grade vs Jabiru @
Moulden - 4 pm

A Grade Ladder

	P	W	D	L	Points
Casuarina	13	12	1	0	62
University	12	5	1	6	27
Palmerston	13	6	0	7	27
Dragons	13	5	0	8	25
Souths	13	3	0	10	17

B Grade Ladder

	P	W	D	L	Points
Palmerston	14	9	0	4	43
Dragons	14	7	0	5	41
Casuarina	14	8	1	5	41
Souths	14	7	1	6	35
Swampdogs	14	6	0	7	33
University	13	3	1	9	20
Jabiru	13	4	1	7	20

Last Week's Games

A GRADE GAME:

Acting Coach, **Tommy Hurse**, reports on Friday Night's game:

Last Friday night saw the Crocs take on Souths for the second week in a row at Moulden. With both teams contributing players to the Darwin Mosquitoes it was going to be a test of each club's depth after a close encounter the week before.

It was Souths that jumped out of the blocks first with a try in the corner in the first five minutes. This was the wakeup call that the Crocs needed. A good kick-off saw us retain possession and started to put pressure on Souths' defence. With our piggys' moving forward, it wasn't long before **Matt Hambridge**, having his first run for the season, deliver a great ball to send **Damian Smith** under the sticks. **Brad Hogan** added the extras to give us a **7-5** lead midway through the first half.

Souths looked to reapply the pressure as they started to attack in our half. They could only come away with a penalty kick in this period as excellent defence and strong work by our loosies, **Brad Hogan**, **Brad Hunt** and **Jai Wyles-Kelly**, caused Souths to turn over their ball. It wasn't too long then before the Crocs started to reapply the pressure on Souths.

A penalty to us 15 metres out from Souths' line saw **Matt Hambridge** go over untouched. Leading into half time, we were in a good attacking position again before a 90 metre intercept try to Souths against the run of play saw them go into half time with a slender **15-14** lead.

The second half saw the Crocs put in probably their best 40 minutes of rugby all year, scoring five unanswered tries. Excellent defence and continual pressure from the Crocs' forwards saw Souths slowly self-destruct. Handling errors by Souths was the last thing they needed, as our scrum set to dominate and give us opportunities for our backline.

Matt Hambridge put **Damian Smith** over for another try that was an exact replica of the first half. **George Hatzimalis** had an outstanding game with some great defence, damaging runs always breaking the first tackle and ultimately bagging himself a double.

Top End Hire



Top End Access



Souths ill-discipline led to a penalty try to us, and **Johnno Whitehead** also bagged himself a try. **Francis Hayes** led from the front with some bone-jarring defence. **Anthony Smith** was also dangerous at fullback and pulled off some excellent one on one tackles. **Brad Hunt** had a strong game as well, two games back from a serious injury. **Brad Hogan** had a good night with the boot, also in his debut run-on, kicking 5 from 6.

Thanks must go to the buys that backed up from playing the night before – **Johnno, Jai, Brad Hogan, Brock, Anthony Smith, Timmy Timato,** and **Justin Walker**. Thanks also to **Ian Hogan** and **Aaron Cotton** for their contributions whilst up here on holidays.

Final Score was **47-15** – a great win for the Crocs.

Tries: **Damian Smith & George Hatzimalis** (2 each)
Johnathon Whitehead & Matthew Hambridge (1 each)

Penalty Try - 1

Conversions: **Brad Hogan** (5), **Brock Evans** (1).

B Grade Game: The Armchair Critic has returned to report on the B grade game as follows:

Well, with a lot of preparation and water, the home ground was played on after a lot of people, both from the club and outside the club, saying it wouldn't go ahead. Thank you to the people who made it happen. (You know who you are!!!!) The ground almost looked green and it was slightly better than concrete – just the way we like it!!!

The Killer B's were up against Swampdogs last week. The Swampdogs, in likely fashion, came out of the blocks hard and fast, and it wasn't long before they put points on the board. To the Killer B's credit we hit back with a try under the posts, and the fight for the game was on. **Big Jayden** was playing for Swampdogs to make up the numbers. He made quite an impact with strong hit-ups and was hard to bring down until **Dennis Bree** stopped him in his tracks with an old distract-the-bull tactic – **Hey Jayden**, he yelled at him and then the big hit! The Swampdogs' wide of the ruck hit-ups were hard to defend against and the turnover ball gave Swampdogs too much possession, resulting in a convincing win to the visiting side. Score was **23-13**.

Thanks to all the Swampdogs who came back to the club and stayed for a few beers. Thanks also to the Killer B's who stayed back at the club and made the visiting side feel welcome.

If we are to finish at the top of the table, we need to get to training and practice playing simple rugby as a team. It's hard to put a side together on the night and teach players who were not at training the line-out calls and backline moves 10 minutes before kick-off. It is good to see the young boys down at the games putting on big hits on blokes twice their size. Keep the hits coming!

Hit 'em late early!!!!

Arm Chair Critic over and out!!

B Grade also played another game last night (Wednesday) against the Dragons. Most of the players only heard about the Wednesday match that morning so the team was scratched up at the last minute.

No details of the game are to hand with the exception that Dragons ran in five tries to the Crocs one try. It was very disappointing for the players to say the least.

NT MOSQUITOES

Last weekend saw the NTRU representative programme back in town with the Darwin Mosquitoes playing the Adelaide Black Falcons and the Queensland Country Heelers at Rugby Park.

Palmy players selected in the squad were flankers **Paul Williams** and **Robbie Armand**, and utility back, **Ian Verrall**. Robbie earned his open side breakaway number 7 jersey for the rep side in both games, built on excellent form this season. Ian Verrall earned a 5/8th position against Queensland Country. Well done to those players getting a taste for rep honours this year. It was a tough ask playing two days in a row at that level – you have done Palmy proud!!

No Junior Games due to the school holidays. Training as usual for the U9's, 13's and 17's.

Don't forget the Junior Camp this Sunday, 17th July at Moulden.

PALMERSTON CLUB SOCIAL CALENDAR

Ladies Night was an enjoyable night out and it was great to see a lot of the younger ones turning up. Brock, Smithy and Charlie organized the cocktails – some of them quite an intriguing mix!! Thanks to all who came along.

Don't forget Miss Palmy Night on Saturday, 17th July at the Clubhouse. B grade will play a home game against Jabiru Bushrats to be followed by the Miss Palmy Night.

Last year's function was a great night out and this one should be even better!!

Come along and support the club and enjoy the show!

SNIPPETS

Is there any truth in the rumour that Palmerston's "Glamour Boy" was featured on the front page of the NT News ???
