



BRAVEHEART CHRONICLE

Braveheart Chronicle 27.3.06

A great opener for the season with Waverley showing strength depth, especially in Colts, 5th and 3rds where we suffered defeats. But we were stronger in 4ths, 1sts and 2nds who all had convincing wins. Our **Colts only went down 7-10** and considering they had not been on the paddock together before, impressed everyone with their tremendous defence.

Predictions are dangerous so early in the season but with coaches Nic Jolly and Andrew Mara, the Braveheart is confident they will make the finals (even higher??!)

Cliff Stanley had a superb game and gained 3 points. How good to see "old timer" the Blonde Bombshell Sam Cooper back to his best (2 points) and young speedster Simon Chapple who was also great in defence (1 Point).

5th Grade found themselves up against some old time muscle men. A great way not to start the season. They **went down 0-12** but went down fighting. Two missed tries in the first half cost them their chance. Notwithstanding, halfback Andrew Hemming repeatedly put his body (and head) on the line and got 3 points. Young Colt Phil Paterson had a top debut (2 points) and fellow Colt Hamish Briggs showed a lot of potential in the centres. Plus the Braveheart noted a ball of muscle in Joel O'Hara, playing well above his weight and then backed up in **4ths's great 12-0 win** which also marked the return of the Legend Charlie Pierce. Mr. Indestructible gained 3 points and fellow ex 1st Grader Mr Tim Parker got 2 points and talking of returns.. Steve "Panda" McDonald got 1 point. Just shows what a bit of experience in the lower grades can do for our goal of winning the Club Championship.

Unfortunately this was also demonstrated in **3rds** when Waverley ran on four of their last year's backline, including their superstar Jake "the Freak" Howard (who was 5/8 to Hamish in the Rep team). Jake put on two tries before most of our players got to introduce themselves to each other. Notwithstanding, they fought back and only **went down 5-15**. Terrier Ben Jansen 3 points, Tim Figgo (2 points) and Steve Farrell (1 point). Expect better things from 3rds next week. They will be a good side.

On to the highlights of the day with **2nds and 1sts clearly showing Waverley that we don't intend to be out muscled in 2006**. Two of the best pack of forwards Knox has put on the paddock were dominant winning **2nds 32-5 and 1sts 31-7**. both teams secured the bonus point!! Well done.

In 2nds the front row were awesome. Rohan Cook (3 points), Big Bad Bryn (2 points) and Flash... well Flash was very Flash! Talking of Flash.. Ben Exton showed why he was held in such high regard by Lindfield. Ben also ran on in 1sts and the Braveheart predicts a great season for him. Also many players running off Ben had top games – Mattie Hill, Jimmy Currah, Matt Chapple and Ben Mar. James Currah has developed over the past three seasons into a very complete player! Congratulations to the new 2nds coaching trifecta – Mick, Banger and Bonners and to Captain Courageous Andrew "Obi" O'Brien.

1sts were fittingly lead out by the "Mule". Ben Kooyman last captained 1sts when we had a forward pack being outgunned back in the late 90s. His strength and passion and those charging runs have always been an inspiration but to now see him backed to the hilt by such a ferocious pack of forwards!!! It completes that Dream discussed at the Bru all those games ago Ben!

Waverley had some very aggressive forwards and in the past that would have impacted on our game... not on Saturday! Brommers is a "cool" coach who takes the game seriously and shows little emotion but on Saturday the Braveheart has never seen him more relaxed and at ease... almost laid back, as his men just took control, constantly battering Waverley's forwards on their try line. So much so they probably wasted our brilliant back line's ability to score. But they were making a point. **Take us on in the forwards at your peril. Luv it!**

How exciting was our new backline –(½ , 5/8, both centres) all new and all equal to the task. How good were Tom Youngs' stand and deliver passes; Ed's astute kicking and passing; Hodgie's strength and speed . Just to have "our Queenslander" back (as if he'd never left)! and the "Master's Apprentice". Warringah might have "borrowed" the mighty Hamish but young Jaryd Selinger, who is still 19!! showed remarkable maturity and brilliance as his apprentice in the halfback role and got 1 point from Brommers and 1 point from the Referee "Nasty" Nick Edwards got 2 points from Pete and his 2nd row cohort , new recruit Alex Honson, also had an outstanding debut.

"Terrible" Tim Drake got his coaches 3 points and his ball running was tremendous. Mule got 2 points from the Ref (he is always polite to referees) and the Magician – the man who can make tries out of nothing, who can turn a game on its ear – Jefferson Grainger Esq. 3 points from the referee!

All 1sts and 2nds players deserve acknowledgement but the Braveheart has finished the red wine so...

It's get ready to rumble UNSW as we celebrate our last game at Lofberg on Saturday (5ths at 9.45am, Colts at 10.45am) before our long awaited return to the Bru on the 6th May.

Be there and be at training on Thursday night

Framey

PS: About two years ago we played a visiting American team and they had a rather smallish hooker who looked as though he might have a few ball skills. He popped up again on Saturday from I know not where, wearing the No 2 jersey. The program said A. Carroll. Final prediction from the Braveheart – he isn't a bad footballer – might be worth keeping!!

PPS: Your President and Kentwell Cup winning front rower got dropped to 2nd Grade on Saturday. So!!? Well apart from getting 2 points for his performance on the field and 3 points for his post match speech performance, the Braveheart thinks it important to acknowledge that his putting the club first and recruiting the very best players, including for the front row, makes him worthy of 10 points or at least a thanks or two.

PPPS: To Oggs, Mule and Spud – Be Warned .. he intends to win back his spot!!

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