



# Tatura Football Netball Club Inc

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Affiliated Goulburn Valley Football and Netball Leagues.

## R3 Echuca v Tatura

### Netball

Tatura travelled to Victoria Park on Easter Saturday to face Echuca, with the hosts boasting four grand final teams and two premierships from the 2018 season. High quality games across the board were the order of the day.

Congratulations also to Elsie Boyer who was selected in the GVL 15 & Under representative squad.

### A Grade

#### **Bulldogs Push Reigning Premiers**

The 2018 premiers awaited the Bulldogs.

Once gain a slow start made the difference with a first quarter deficit of 10 goals instrumental in Echuca's win.

Pleasingly, the goaling combination of Steph Gorrie and Olivia Vraca worked seamlessly. Their cool heads and style, a highlight of the game.

With the injured Jacqui James still to return and the unavailability of Gabby Dwyer the mid-court battles were key. Taylor Rokhar and Elsie Boyer, playing just her second A Grade game, worked tirelessly throughout, forcing pressure upon the Echuca mids. Their efforts were important in attempting to generate drive through the depleted midcourt.

Gorrie has quickly assumed a leadership role within the team and proved to be the general in terms of direction down the court. Her unassuming demeanour and leadership provided great mentoring for Vraca.

Alex Bertram put together here best game of the year in defence, and her combination with the rapidly improving Jade Kaye will only get better.

Tatura broke even generally on the scoreboard for the balance of the game and ultimately went down 38-51, with the first quarter start too great to overcome.

The team will take some momentum into its next match knowing the first quarter differential constituted by only four turnovers.

Final Score: Echuca 51 v Tatura 38.

Best Players: Gorrie, Rokhar and Bertram.

## B Grade

B Grade got off to an absolute flyer against last year's runner-up, going goal for goal in the opening gambit with only a late break leaving the Murray Bombers up by two goals.

The significant development in the team was clearly on show in the early stages with Rachel Thomson playing fast, tough inside netball – the type of play demanded by the wing defence position. And, absolutely critical for turning attack into defence.

Stephanie Hicks continued to show promise in her debut open age season, moving and positioning beautifully in attack and working hard defensively down the court, causing significant problems for Echuca's drive down the court.

Echuca managed to hold sway throughout the first three quarters, taking small, centre break margins at each interval, and was able to extend the final margin to a flattering 19 goals, courtesy only of a 13 goal last quarter.

Kobi Worner continued her stellar season. Her ability to read the play is second to none in the GVL.

Final Score: Echuca 56 v Tatura 37.

Best Players: Thomson, Worner and Hicks.

## B-Reserve

B-Reserve produced its best game in well three years securing a draw, and the only points for the TFNC on the day, in a hard fought match against last year's grand finalist.

On a day when its shooters were deadly accurate, the combination of Beth Secull, Lauren Bertram and Chloe Lowden went a long way to almost securing the team's first win in well over three winters. In promising signs of what can happen when your goalers are on song, Tatura was only denied as it was attacking down the court when the final whistle went. Maddi Biggs was again dominant in the mid-court.

In an entertaining game that reached fever pitch in the last both teams could have secured the win but for some nerves. The outcome will place the team in good stead for the future as it learns how to win, with an understanding of the cool heads required to get the job done.

In a match-up that pitched family against family, cousins Maddie Elliott (whose shoulders appeared to be in good condition) and Caitlin Pogue enjoyed their time together on-court, engaging in a tough midcourt battle, possibly enjoyed by their families more than them.

Final Score: Echuca 32 v Tatura 32.

Best Players: Secull, Bertram and Lowden.

## 17 & Under

Reigning premier Echuca proved too strong for Tatura in the 17 & Under battle.

Although it was a much improved performance from last week, the late withdraw of shooter Rebecca Valentin through illness made it difficult for the young Bulldogs to find an avenue to goal, although returning shooter Eliza Pyke acquitted herself well in her first game back from injury.

The ever reliable utility Lucy Somers – the most improved player in the team – went into goals and her steady hand proved essential in keeping the team in the game when opportunity allowed.

Elsie Boyer, playing centre and wing attack, provided her usual drive throughout the mid-court.

Final Score: Echuca 55 v Tatura 25.

Best Players: Somers, Boyer and Pyke.

### 15 & Under

The young Bulldogs were beaten by an Echuca team that will feature prominently in September action in 2019.

Bottom age defender Charlette Gray was the stand out on the day. Her development will be closely watched in 2019 as she continues to improve. With plenty of height left in her, she is a hugely promising player of the future. Her athleticism and ever growing technical improvement has 'A Grade' written all over it in the not too distant future.

On a day when goals were hard to come by, shooter Hollie Halliwell stood tall while Savannah Clothier-Harris provided great support.

Final Score: Echuca 62 v Tatura 16.

Best players: Gray, Clothier Harris and Halliwell.

### Football

#### Seniors

#### **Murray Bombers Out Muscle Tatura**

A native mused on Easter Saturday the size of Echuca would potentially tell the tale in its Easter Saturday clash with the Bulldogs – either at three quarter time they would run out of legs or they would still be tall. Unfortunately for Tatura it was the latter, as it cruised to a five goal win.

Tatura would not be pleased with its first quarter, as was the case in the last year's elimination final against the same opposition, with the four goal margin proving crucial on a hot day and securing the buffer that saw a final 30 point margin.

Interestingly, 10 of Echuca's 15 goals were kicked by its two big men Allan and Willis, and no doubt much thought will go into negating these two in the return bout at Tatura later in the year.

Tatura battled hard all day and was able to match it with the Murray Bombers for large parts of the game, but small, inopportune turnovers did not help the cause. Although Jamason Daniels and Andrew Civarella, who played his best game of the season to date, were strong at the contest in the midfield throughout, a touch of class kept Echuca in front, with the free wheeling Andrew Walker doing damage roaming the midfield.

Echuca's forward dominance was no doubt assisted by the impressive use of its press, which the Bulldogs, admirably, were able to break at times with its fleet of hard running midfielders, including the VFL listed Matt Shannon and Nathan Fothergill, both of whom have featured prominently in the early part of the season.

The continually underrated - by the opposition in any event - small forward Jayden Thewma was able to maintain some scoreboard pressure by slotting a season high four goals. Thewma has had an excellent start to the season and will continue to trouble teams with his lethal combination of pace and strength.

In a tough day for defenders, recruit Brayden Sutton again provided a textbook display of defence against the dark arts, with fantastic spoiling and succinct, well-organised disposal. Any young player who aspires to defensive greatness would be well advised to take a look at the way Sutton plays.

Sutton's backline lieutenants Jimmy Nihill and Jordan O'Dwyer were also effective when given space to run off half back. Both are a vital part of the cogs in the Tatura running game and Echuca struggled to negate them. They will both play a big part in the 2019 campaign.

Although the Doggies were outplayed and disappointed with their performance there were pleasing signs when they were able to loosen the midfield shackles and execute their running game, which Echuca struggled to keep up with. This was particularly evident on a hot day when Echuca were held goalless in the last quarter.

Echuca once again hosted a fantastic Easter Saturday spectacle, which Tatura is happy to support.

Final Score: Echuca 15.10.100 v Tatura 10.10.70

Goal Kickers: Thewma 4, Fothergill, Shannon, M. Ryan, Grenfell, McGill and Daniels.

Best Players: Thewma, Daniels, Sutton, Civarella, O'Dwyer and Nihill.

#### Development Team

Echuca proved too strong for Tatura in the Development Team match up, going down by 67 points.

The Bulldogs were well in touch at half time but were unable to score in the second half, blowing the margin out at the final siren.

On a day when nothing seemed to go right after the long break experienced duo Jack Ballantyne and Dylna Burls provided a steadying hand in the tough defeat. Their defensive efforts ensured Echuca were held to account.

Up and coming youngsters Cade Dealy and Benji Kennedy were also impressive and provided drive and support, particularly early in the contest.

Tom Rennie continued his good form with three majors, having kicked goals in every match he has played so far in 2019.

The Doggies will lament the second half fade-out, but take heart they can compete with teams when they put a four-quarter performance together.

Final Score: Echuca 13.13.91 v Tatura 4.0.24.

Goal Kickers: Rennie 3 and Morris.

Best Players: Ballantyne, Burls, Le Gassick-Searle, Morris, Dealy and Kennedy.

#### Under 18

The young Bulldogs struggled against the well-oiled reigning premier Echuca.

The final margin was not reflective of the dour contest the Pups put up against high quality opposition, with the efforts of Will Pyke, Matt Rennie and Morrie Serra impressive in trying circumstances.

It has been a tough start for the Under 18s, coming up against teams that not only occupy the highest rungs of the ladder but are perennially contenders for the flag. The vagaries of the fixture appear to open up a bit for the Doggies with winnable games in the coming weeks.

Final Score: Echuca 28.23.191 v Tatura 0.3.3.

Best Players: Reardon, Pyke, Serra, Rennie, Archer and Crowe.