



# Tatura Football Netball Club Inc

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Affiliated Goulburn Valley Football and Netball Leagues.

## R2 Tatura v Shepparton United

### Netball

The ever-powerful Shepparton United netball outfit travelled to Tatura on Saturday to test its mettle against the Bulldogs.

2018 17 & Under players Olivia Vraca and Maddi Hall were picked to make their A grade debuts, with Vraca starting on the court in the ring with her shooting partner Steph Gorrie. Co-coach Molly Boyle was also starting out in her favoured wing defence position.

### A Grade

As occurred last week there were some early nerves from Tatura and although it was low scoring early part of the quarter United quickly got out to a commanding 8-0 advantage, a lead that made it hard going for the remainder of the game.

It was pleasing Vraca got on the board early and did not look out of place. Her cool demeanour and accuracy were a highlight. She will play many games of A Grade well into the future with Tatura.

The game settled into a tempo throughout the second and third quarters with only one or two breaks securing United small, but important margins at the intervals. Of course, in netball the game can turn on small fortunes, and that was no doubt the case for the Bulldogs.

The last quarter however belonged to United who outscored Tatura three to one. The final score was 56 -27, but did not tell the story of a high quality game that should provide plenty of encouragement for the rest of the season for the Bulldogs.

The defensive end was superb all day, with Boyle playing one of her best games for the Club since joining in 2017, while Jade Kaye and Alex Bertram were solid against the United attackers.

Tatura will hopefully welcome back mid-courter Jacqui James from injury this week in what will be a test against reigning premier Echuca on Easter Saturday.

Best players: Bertram, Boyle and Kaye.

### B Grade

United, who are perennial finals team, was pushed right to the limit against a Tatura team that came out firing on all cylinders.

The inclusion of Alysha Gill in the midcourt and the athletic Savannah Zito in goals proved more than a handful for the Demons who found it difficult to find any rhythm. This was made all the more difficult by the hard working Kobi Worner in defence who provided the spark down the court to keep Tatura right in the game to half time.

Maddi Hall, who was also to play in A Grade, was effective in the mid-court at wing attack, and provided ample opportunities for the Tatura attackers.

United began to assert its dominance in the third and enjoyed a comfortable margin at the final break, which it extended for a final score of 52-26.

A win is not far away for the Doggies but a sustained four-quarter performance is required to get the chocolates.

Best players: Worner, Gill and Hall.

#### B-Reserve

B-Reserve showed promising signs against a strong United team but went down 63-20.

The Doggies were able to compete with its opposition for large parts of the game but small lapses in concentration allowed the margin to grow at each break.

After playing in the earlier game 17 & Under fill in Teah Ryan starred in her first open age match and will no doubt get plenty of opportunities in throughout the year. Tahlitha Samkakai was also a welcome addition to the court for her first game back in well over a year after returning from injury.

Samkakai and wing defence Caitlin Pogue were especially effective down the moving the ball down the court from the defensive end.

Best Players: Pogue, Ryan and Seccull.

#### 17 & Under

It was a bruising day at the office for the 17 & Unders who came up against a red hot United team that is, at this early part of the season, the team to beat.

A sluggish first half did not allow Tatura any scope of put pressure on United as it closed out a 66-29 win.

In a tough outing, Elsie Boyer was her usual efficient self, along with defender Teah Ryan and Lucy Somers, the later of whom moved into goals in the second half and provided strong scoring play.

The 17s will likely welcome back shooter Eliza Pyke for the next round, which will allow for a more balanced team for its match up against Echuca.

Best Players: Boyer, Ryan and Somers.

#### 15 & Under

United proved why it will be the bench mark in the 15 & Under competition match up with a strong win against Tatura 82-13.

With a number of players unavailable, Tatura struggled to get itself into the game. It provided coach Fiona Boyer the opportunity to match up against a strong opposition line-up.

She would have been pleased with the continued development of defender Tayla Albrey-Mills, who had her work cut out for her on the day. Sanae Gagliardi, in her first game of the season, also provided plenty of promise with her quiet work round the court.

Best players: Albrey-Mills, Gagliardi and Bayley Sinclair.

## Football

### Seniors

#### **Dogged Demons No Match for Dogs**

Tatura's first home game of the year yielded a win over a young Shepparton United outfit on Saturday.

With a few strategic changes to the line-up – including resting some and the big 'out' of Shoulders Elliott, United would have fancied its chances against a Bulldogs team looking to open its 2019 account.

From the outset it was clear the match-up was going to be a dour affair with United and its bevy of young players looking to play the game on its terms and prevent a free flowing contest of any sorts. The Demons deployed a number of hard tags, particularly targeting recruit Nick Fothergill. For Tatura, Sean Martin had the job on United talisman Tim Looby.

The first stanza reached no great heights and although Tatura kicked the first two goals, United were able to claw their back to a two-point quarter time lead, through tough midfield grunt work.

The second quarter was critical for Tatura and saw a more free flowing affair. The Bulldogs were able to break the shackles and apply some scoreboard pressure, outscoring United four goals to one, which, in a low scoring affair, ultimately proved the difference. The midfield got on top, and through Fothergill, the elusive Billy Cooper and coach Jamason Daniels, were able to provide well structured drive forward. The main beneficiaries being GVL interleague forwards Brayden Grenfell and Matt Ryan.

The Doggies again outscored their opposition in the third and pushed the lead out to a game high 23 points, although by no means a match winning lead. Pleasingly, the backline generalship of Brad Ryan and Brayden Sutton allowed ample opportunity for rebound footy. Their cool heads will prove valuable as the season wears on.

The third quarter also saw Grenfell reported and sent from the ground for an altercation with Looby. No doubt the video review will be pored over, but ther appeared little in it to the naked eye.

The last quarter was undoubtedly a grind, but included a classy goal by Fothergill who, despite some nagging, scragging attention all day was able to seal the deal, and certainly made a point of thanking his United opponent for his contribution.

In the limited opportunities that came its way there was little doubt the running game and midfield depth of Tatura worried United – it simply could not keep up. The Bulldogs line-to-line transition, particularly when given time and space to execute, will give many teams sleepless nights in 2019.

At the final siren the Doggies had stretched the final margin out to 33 points. At the end of the day Tatura's midfield class told the story with Fothergill, Cooper, Daniels, Jason Tutt and the returning prodigal Jimmy Fraser (who owes Shoulder a drink for his inclusion) proving the difference.

The brains trust at The Kennel would be pleased the win was secured despite no real flashes of brilliance in a workmanlike fashion. Winning ugly is a habit good teams develop.

Tatura once gain retained the Care Cup with its victory. Sponsored by Family Care, the Cup is awarded to raise awareness of family violence and to provide the impetus to have a conversation about addressing the issues of violence against women and children.

Goal Kickers: Fothergill 2, C. Ryan 2, M. Ryan 2, Civarella, Cooper, Daniels, Armstrong and Grenfell.

Best Players: Fothergill, Daniels, B. Ryan, Cooper, Fraser and Tutt.

### Development Team

The Doggies would have been buoyed by their defeat of reigning premier Kyabram last week, but found the going a lot tougher against a determined United.

A one goal first half proved to be the difference as the Doggies could not seem to get out of first gear. Although within striking distance for much of the day and despite the work rate of Luke McGill and Jack Ballantyne, who were defensively tested all day, the final margin stretched out to 34 points.

Young guns Benji Kennedy and Anthony Walker showed they will be a constant threat for senior selection throughout the year with solid efforts across the ground, both racking up big endurance numbers. The new streamlined version of Dylan Burls also provided plenty of grunt throughout the day and the clever Raman Winmar provided the main forward spark with two goals.

On a day when goals were at a premium the forward line struggled to find coherency and will need to improve over the coming weeks to establish themselves as a top six threat.

Goal Kickers: Winmar 2, Rennie and Walker.

Best Players: McGill, Ballantyne, Kennedy, Le Gassick-Searle, Burls and Walker.

### Under 18

Consecutive three time grand final team Shepparton United awaited Tatura at home in the Under 18 clash.

The bookend quarters told the tale with seven goal bursts in each to the Demons ultimately blowing the match open. However the Pups would be pleased they were able to break even in the balance, particularly in the third when a half time regrouping showed what could be achieved with a sustained, committed team effort.

There was much to like about the improvement already from Round One and a tough start to the year will no doubt provide the impetus for wins later in the year.

The hard midfield work of Harry Murdoch, who bleeds red, white and blue, and the ever-determined Corey Reardon were the standouts.

Goal Kickers: Armstrong, Murdoch and Stevenson.

Best Players: Murdoch, Reardon, Dwyer, Archer, Macansh and Pyke.