



Tatura Football Netball Club Inc

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Affiliated Goulburn Valley Football and Netball Leagues.

R1 Kyabram v Tatura

Netball

Tatura was proud to unveil a host of young local players graduating to open age GVL netball on Saturday. Elsie Boyer, Stephanie Hicks, Hayley Rennie, Lucy Somers, Emily Wilson, Caitlin Pogue and Teah Ryan, and the unavailable Olivia Vraca are all local products who have played junior netball with Tatura from primary school age.

It is a testament to the hard work done over a long period of time in the junior ranks that such netballers have been produced that are capable of playing GVL netball.

A Grade

In what promised to be an intriguing battle, Tatura faced the well-recruited Kyabram who had added Wellman medallist Emma Ryan to its ranks over the break and had welcomed back a host of other premiership players.

Tatura too had recruited well, adding Stephanie Gorrie and Jacqui James to the line-up. Unfortunately James was out injured and starting shooter Olivia Vraca was unavailable. However this allowed 14 year old Elsie Boyer, the reigning GVL 15 & Under medallist, to make her A Grade debut.

Kyabram got off to a flyer in the first quarter, which ultimately proved to be the difference in what was largely an even contest thereafter, and secured a 45 to 19 win.

Jade Kaye was great in defence, playing on GVL superstar Elle Groves, and holding her well. Recruit Gorrie was smooth throughout and the team will only improve with her presence during the season.

Taylor Rokahr was also impressive in the midcourt in her return to Tatura.

With a host of players to return Coaches Gaye Eaton and Molly Boyle would be pleased with the signs and potential for improvement after a strong hit out against a Kyabram team that will be aiming for a top two finish.

Best players: Gorrie, Rokahr and Kaye.

B Grade

Multiple Tatura premiership player Lisa Cullum took charge of her first game with B Grade.

In what was a tight and fierce game Kyabram were able to sneak home 34 to 27, with only no more than a two goal margin separating the teams quarter by quarter.

Kobi Worner was superb in defence with her intercepts and reading of the play outstanding. Her combination with wing defence Rachel Thomson provided great drive down the court towards the attacking end.

Returning player Savannah Zito played through the mid-court and also shot and was impressive. Her positional flexibility was a highlight.

Best players: Worner, Thomson and Zito.

B-Reserve

B-Reserve were chasing its first win in over three year and the signs were promising from the start with new coach Kobi Worner in charge, ably assisted by Hall of Famer Sarah Tee.

The Bulldogs had a three goal advantage at the first break and maintained that margin to half time.

The Bulldogs dominated defensively with Ash Svoboda and Under 17 fill-in Emily Wilson dominating the ring with a strong physical presence and deft rebounding.

Likewise, the midcourt was proving a handful for the Bombers with debutant Maddi Biggs too quick and skilled for her opponents. Her feeds into the ring allowed shooters Chloe Lowden and Beth Seccull ample opportunities. The back up of Caitlin Pogue at wing defence also gave the attackers time to find position.

Scores were all square at the last change. Tatura had its chances but could not get over the line, falling 40 to 46. While there is little doubt a win is not far away, the team will have to take its chances in the attacking ring on the future to get the job done.

Best Players: Biggs, Svoboda and Wilson.

17 & Under

The 17s began its season on the previous Tuesday at Tatura at the request of Kyabram with a 46 to 40 win at Tatura.

The game was played in hot conditions and tight from the outset with Kyabram's deadly accurate shooters keeping them in the game, securing them a one goal advantage at half time.

However in the second half Tatura's fitness began to tell the tale and it went into the last break with a three goal lead, blowing the margin out to six at the final whistle.

Emily Wilson, who was filling in at goal shooter, was outstanding in the ring and combined with Bec Valentine who played out at goal attack, a position she normally does not play. Valentin's defensive pressure down the court was outstanding, with both her and Wilson accurate throughout. Elsie Boyer's remarkable hands were also on show with beautiful feds inside.

In the critical final quarter when the game was on the line defender Potts Shipston secured a vital intercept that broke the Kyabram centre and resulted in the fabled 'three goal turnaround'. Shortly after her fellow defensive partner in crime Hayley Rennie did likewise and the Pups were never headed after that.

Coach Gaye Eaton and Assistant Lisa Cullum had a difficult job in nominating best players given the very even team performance.

Best Players: Wilson, Valentin and Boyer.

15 & Under

The 15 & Under team opened its account against Kyabram in Round One with an emphatic 42 to 22 win.

The young Bulldogs won every quarter and, pleasingly, were able to stretch the margin at each break.

The defensive combination of Tayla Albrey-Mills and bottom ager Charlette Gray was particularly dominant and will no doubt make for some anxious moments throughout the season for GVL attackers.

Coach Fiona Boyer was able to mix and match positional changes throughout the game and experiment with combinations that will allow greater flexibility throughout the season. The returning Savannah Clothier-Harris spent time shooting and in the midcourt, likewise did new recruit Lainey Short (in name only).

There would also appear to be great room for improvement, with the enthusiastic team gelling well and eager to learn.

Best players: Clothier-Harris, Gray and Short.

Football

Seniors

Bulldogs push the Mighty Kyabram

Tatura kicked off its GVL season with a match up against powerhouse Kyabram at Kyabram on Saturday afternoon.

Despite the continued rumblings out of Bomberland about why the game was not played at night, the Saturday afternoon conditions were perfect for football with warm sunshine and a gentle two goal breeze favouring the northern end. It would be difficult to argue against the merits of it being a fantastic family day of footy.

From the outset the game was played at a high standard between two teams expected to go deep into September. Tatura recruit Jason Tutt opened the scoring with a classy snap from 40 metres before Kyabram asserted its authority with the next four. Tatura fought back and only trailed by two goals at the first break.

A tough second quarter did not repeat the frenetic energy of the first and while Tatura began to make inroads winning the tackle count and one-percenters it did not make great inroads into the Bomber lead.

Unfortunately in the second stanza Co-Captain and reigning joint best and fairest Mitch Elliott went down with what appeared to be a leg injury and was stretchered from the ground. Elliott returned to the bench after the break but took no further part in the game.

The third quarter again saw scoring decline with both teams engaging in an enthralling defensive battle that was of the highest GVL standard imaginable. Both refused to give an each and rebounded effectively from back half. The determined Jimmy Nihill (and his flowing locks) and the ageless Linc Wellington were particularly impressive with smart, hard running football down back, using good hands to break lines. The Bombers however, continued to hold sway, taking a 19 point lead into the last change.

The last quarter provided some of the best football of the day with Tatura snagging the first three goals of the quarter, two courtesy of small forward Jayden Thewma, to bring them within two points of the tiring Bombers. However Kyabram was not to be denied and when evergreen full forward Kayne Pettifer snagged two in a row it closed the door on the plucky Dogs, with the final margin sneaking out to 23 points.

There was a lot to like about Tatura's performance with plenty of reason to believe the season will improve throughout. Tutt and fellow recruits Fothergill and Sutton were impressive, with Sutton resolutely sound in defensive. He will be sure to form a great partnership with backline general Brad

Ryan. The midfield functioned well and but for the fortuitous intervention of Pettifer the result could well have been different.

The high quality game should also serve as a reminder to those who advocate night games in the GVL. Saturday afternoon is the traditional home of country footy, particularly when the lifeblood of communities like Tatura is families and children. There are at least five GVL clubs with the capacity to play night games and that should provide ample opportunity for those in favour to cater for living large under lights. Leave the rest of us alone.

Goal Kickers: Thewma 3, Fothergill 2, Cooper, Sullivan, Grenfell, Tutt and C.Ryan.

Best Players: Nihill, Kirby, Sutton, Tutt, Fothergill and Wellington.

Development Team

Under the tutelage of Mark Rijs and Luke McGill the Development Team secured a hard fought win against a strong Kyabram outfit which were the reigning back-to-back premiers.

Jimmy Fraser and Jack Ballantyne picked up possessions at will and were the driving factors behind the win. Fraser was dominant in the midfield while Ballantyne provided versatility and run down back, although he probably needed to apply some more liberal layers of sunscreen given the warm conditions.

Tom Rennie, sporting a new streamlined haircut was a focal point up forward and his three goals, along with those of Anthony Walker, proved the difference. Rennie has enormous potential to damage in 2019 and there seems no reason why he will not be able to deliver 60+ goals for the season.

Goal Kickers: Rennie 3, Walker 3, Mandaradoni, McGill and Morris.

Best Players: Fraser, Ballantyne, Jones, Armstrong, Walker and Dealey.

Under 18

The Under 18s came against the traditionally powerful Kyabram in David Crowe's first game in charge of the young pups.

Injuries had limited a number of players from playing, but the Club was buoyed by the sense of enthusiasm and pride in the players getting themselves on the park.

In what proved a tough day at the office Kyabram prevailed 21.18.144 to 2.4.16 in warm conditions.

Newly appointed Captain Matt Rennie provided drive and spark off half back with a number of dashing runs and solid skills, while Harry Murdoch was tough and inside throughout the day.

Will Pyke proved his usual elusive self in front of goal snagging two majors.

With a number of returning players to return from injury the Pups will no doubt improve in the coming weeks.

Goal Kickers: Pyke 2.

Best Players: Rennie, Murdoch, Reardon, Macansh, Archer and O'Connell.