





WYOMING 35ES CHRONICLES

29th August 2013

by Andrew Kennedy-Schultz

RD	HOME		AWAY	GROUND	DATE	TIME
GRAND FINAL		VS		Pat Morley Oval	August 24 (2013)	12:00
	WYOMING		EAST GOSFORD 1			

GRAND FINAL: VS EAST GOSFORD 1

Finally, here it was, the big one. Nine teams had started this season. Now only two remained in the 35ES division. Ready to duke it out - The League Champions, Wyoming Tigers versus the Extra-time Specialists, East Gosford Rams. For Wyoming it had been a long two weeks but the wait was over. High noon had struck on the grassy plains of Pat Morley Oval. The officiator - Larry the Jester - readied the whistle that would deafen more than a few young men in the ensuing eighty minutes. The crows - or rather magpies - swooped above, awaiting the weaker prey. Wyoming had the kick off. Would it be their last kick off of the season? They had played on this very ground 12 months ago but fell at this last hurdle. Would history repeat itself? Or could they extend their unbeaten run to nine straight victories and claim the ultimate prize?



THE SACRIFICE

Wyoming 35ES achieved what they did this year due to the combined effort of 20 players so it was unfortunate that we had to be culled down to a final 16 on the team sheet for the biggest game of the year. Mid week, Kevin Lee and Ben Wilkinson were listed as early scratchings. Both joined the team several rounds into the competition to accommodate the injury crisis and since their arrival, the team had not lost a game. Kevin had managed to play without his chronic ankle condition causing him grief but his calves and hamstrings weren't as kind. Earlier this week he had tried to put one over the team by claiming he'd been given the all clear by his physio and could play ... but regardless would humbly step down on the proviso he could avoid the dreaded nudie run. When this was denied he tried to use his club presidential powers to amend the 'nudie run clause' of the constitution whilst yelling to the heavens "I am the Law !!" ... Book into that waxing salon soon buddy !! ... Ben was surprised by the mid-week email from team management and was quick to inform Flanno that whilst his ankle may be hanging by only a thread, he was not done yet. To keep it attached, strapping specialist and 'The Mummy' monster movie enthusiast, Kevin Lee, took care of it taping him up in the carpark after the Grand Final breakfast at Hungry Wolves. So Ben was in ... this still left three to step down. Enter the mighty Captain, Kevin "Flanno" Flanagan. Poor Flanno picked up the flu mid-week. It is believed the catalyst was from a golf day outing for the club. Apparently he found himself in the swamp one too many times from several miss hits and sure enough, he caught a man cold **. Not feeling one hundred percent, Flanno courageously stepped down ... Nevertheless, Flanno would have a monumental part to play in the result with inspirational coaching from the sideline and coordinating quality substitutions -- with the exception of one interchange where he denied a certain player a chance to take what would've been a quality free kick.

** = Possibly not true.



The Two Kevs (Kevin Lee & Kevin Flanagan)

There were a few other players who put their hand up to miss out. Framey, Aaron, Meady and apparently Andy - Meady had volunteered him after posting up this photo in last week's report ...



Meady, I do apologise and have found an appropriate replacement ...



The other two who volunteered were Geoff (I've been writing Jeff all year, sorry about that) Dyer and Dave Stanbury. Sadly, Geoff has missed most of the games this season due to working in the mines on alternate fortnights. The byes and wash-outs this year did not work out in his favour either. When on the field though, and when

not getting knocked out, he made some valuable contributions and most memorably gave us a late equaliser goal against Terrigal early in the season. His wife Di is still being reminded that she missed it ... Dave, when not smacking his ribs into planks of woods, played most of the games this year. I like to think of him as the gentle giant of the team. He towers above all of us and yet is one of the humblest guys on the team. Still to this day he will not take credit (he claims it came off the opposition) for scoring the winning goal against East Gosford 2, the goal that put us into pole position for the League Champions title. He is also the only player in the team who picked up a yellow card for being mistaken for another player (Steve George is eternally grateful). Kev, Flanno, Geoff, Dave ... on behalf of the team, I want to thank you sincerely for your generosity. It could not have been easy watching from the sideline but I'm confident you know that the end result was not a reflection of that individual game but rather an entire season, a combined effort of 20 guys banding together and working for each other.



Geoff Dyer & Dave Stanbury

THE PREPARATION

For some of us the past fortnight was rife with nerves and superstitions. Andy and Meady were perhaps the worst offenders in possibly jinxing the winning streak - they both got haircuts ! Andy was also concerned that Ngari had prepared cupcakes for - the post-game celebrations - in East Gosford colours ! ... And then there was Flanno picking up the flu ... Thankfully, others were more sensible: Chris worked hard and lost 3kgs; Framey booked a last Friday chiro session to iron out any kinks; and Dean made sure he put on the lucky undies for the game. Perhaps the best strategy though in weeding out the jitters was Framey's suggestion to Flanno to meet up for a Grand Final breakfast at a local café. A few of the boys turned up and for me personally this was a great way of settling the nerves ... The drive to Pat Morley did not though. Upon arriving in the car park I saw Paul in the distance calming the nerves with a pre-game ciggie and drinking a beer? Did my eyes deceive me? Yes they did, it was not a VB but an energy drink.



Ngari's cupcakes (the yellow was an emergency addition)

THE AWOL CRECCA GAME PLAN

The coin toss had been decided. The players started moving into their designated positions. The East Gosford team eyed the starting eleven of their opposition: The mighty Aaron Quill at keeper; Gregg Marlow, Nigel Mead, Brad Avery and Mark Wallace formed the impenetrable backline; Paul Ashton and Ben Wilkinson up front ready to cause havoc; Andrew Kennedy and Chris O'Connor on the flanks ready to run all day; and the two Steves - Frame & George - in the middle, sure to dominate and control the flow of the game ... Their focus then turned to the bench, filled with the talents of Jason Burke, Elton Richardson, Dean Singleton, Nathan Donzow and ... They had noticed one glaringly obvious omission from the Tigers line-up - the bane of their existence, the Crecca, was nowhere to be seen. Could it be true? Had their chances of victory suddenly been boosted with the Wyoming midfield devoid of the former NSL superstar? ... Where was Tony? Had his car broken down on the freeway again? Had he jumped ship to watch the Wests Tigers play at the SCG? Was he too upset that his name was spelt incorrectly on the team photo? Or, was he being hidden in the sheds as a Wyoming ploy to inflict a false sense of security on their opposition? ... No, as scheduling would have it, the Tony-coached Wyoming 13B's were in their own Grand Final at Pluim Park. The kick off was 90 minutes earlier but word soon arrived to a nervous Wyoming 35ES camp that the game was deadlocked and had gone into extra time and then a penalty shootout ... a penalty shootout where it was only settled (Wyoming being the victors by the way) after all 22 players had taken a shot ... Such delays meant Tony would not arrive at Pat Morley until midway through the first half. His arrival prompted such comments from the East Gosford players that I dare not share in fear of corrupting our younger readers. Let's just say ... they were not pleased.



Tony's Arrival

EARLY DANGER

Wyoming's kick off went the way most of theirs had in recent times - a couple of passes before going over the sideline. Again, with only one kick off per game for the last eight matches, it's not surprising they're a bit rusty with them ... Possession in the first few minutes of the game went back and forth but it was East Gosford who looked more threatening in attack. They had a couple of chances in front of goal but were thwarted by prompt defending and the swift touch of Aaron. The Rams best chance was a corner kick that curled in on target. It would have sent the Rams 1-0 up if not for Aaron getting a finger tip to the ball and veering it off course.



Aaron's heroics

THE DOUBLE HIT: GOAL #1

Glory struck for Wyoming midway through the first half when Jason got the ball to Ben - who had a fantastic game - in the centre. Ben held up the defenders long enough to get a perfect through ball for Paul. Paul dashed into the 18 yard box, drew the keeper out and made no mistake in sending it straight and low into the opposite corner of the net. Magic!



Paul on this way from a delivery by Ben ...



Prepares to strike ...



Passes the keeper ...



GOAL !!



THE DOUBLE HIT: GOAL #2

The double tap was to come within minutes. Tony having just arrived on the field received a pass from Elton on the right flank and decided to take a shot. It curved across the goal but the keeper looked set to contain it. He got his hands to it ... but fumbled it. Paul did his part, distracting the keeper and getting the final touch to it. Tony declared that this made it Paul's goal but Paul was adamant that the ball was already on its way. The photos appear to back this up, so Tony, deal with it - the goal is yours mate !



Tony prepares to take a shot ...



The keeper fumbles ...



Paul taps it in for good measure ...



GOAL !!



PREMONITIONS

Prior to kick off, Dean and Andy shared their respective premonitions / dreams about what the final result of the game would be. Dean had a 3-0 result in mind. Andy had, rather ambitiously, 4-0 in mind. With a half time score of 2-0, it wasn't looking too far-fetched for either of these results. Dean entered the game in the second half and was determined to make his dreams come true. He was also fuelled by Flanno in the sheds before the game who commented that Dean was on course for a nudie run - Flanno obviously forgetting Dean's cracking goal against Terrigal ... It was around midway through the second half. The game had gone into a bit of a lull. And then Jason sent Paul up the left flank. Paul crossed it to where Dean was temporarily unmarked. I say temporarily as Dean soon found himself sandwiched between the keeper and a defender. As the dust settled from the collision, it became clear that Dean had done enough - he'd gotten a boot to the ball. Another defender saw the ball rolling on towards the goal line. He pursued and for a moment it looked like he'd reach it in time but that ball had a destiny, a dream to fulfil. Whether it picked up speed or took an unexpected bounce, nothing was getting in the way of it finding the net. Dean had victoriously made it 3 goals to nil. The butcher had stuck the knife in into the Ram's heart further and twisted it for good measure (sorry, I couldn't resist) ... Now, there is some controversy as to why it did not become 4-0. Andy had combined with Framey from a corner kick and sent it across goals but Paul's header went over the crossbar. A decent effort yes but then Dean had a header himself and also missed - conveniently I might add. Then Andy was called to the bench before he could take a free kick that surely would've curled in at amazing speed and accuracy to make it four! Had Dean urged Flanno to make the sub to keep it at 3-0? I for one say yes!

GOAL #3



Jason about to send Paul up the wing ...



Paul sends through the cross...



Dean in the thick off it, gets it away ...



GOAL !!



THE FULL TIME WHISTLE

80 minutes had come and gone. The "young men" on the field had done their best in keeping it "honest" as the ref has instructed. Whilst East Gosford 1 had kept the best defensive record of the comp throughout the season and demonstrated a tenacious ability of clawing their way back in their final series clashes, today they could not overcome the League Champions of the 35ES, Wyoming. The Tigers had done it. Capping off nine straight victories - and clean sheets to boot - to claim the premiership for 2013 !! Bravo boys, we did it !!



THE TEAM SONG

Considering most of the team were reading the team song lyrics from Flanno's phone as they sung, it would seem a majority of the team had either not done their homework or didn't want to memorise it in fear of appearing too confident and therefore jinxing it. Nevertheless, there were a few seasoned veterans around the team's perimeter lending their voices.



SECRETS REVEALED

Several theories have come about regarding the winning streak. Meady would like to take ownership for it as he apparently started wearing a new pair of socks from the beginning of the run. Lady luck however did nothing to stop him from almost getting knocked out in that game. A better theory is Ngari and her photographs. She started taking 500+ photos per game since that 4-0 victory over Southern Ettalong and continued to do so throughout the eight that followed. She did not take one shot of a conceded goal - because there weren't any !! Coincidence? ... Finally, there's been a lot of talk of the jerseys having a lucky charm. There is some truth to this. Since changing our playing strip to the Singos sponsored jerseys, the Tigers did not lose a game - but they did concede 4 goals and had a draw. It was after this draw that Sharon opted for a special ingredient to include with the washing powder - and at times, copious amounts of bicarb soda. She added -- lavender !! Could it be this emitted a soothing aroma that apart from Tony - who obviously must suffer from sinus blockages - created a zen-like calmness amongst the players each week? A couple of weeks ago, Aaron - so captivated by the scent - had asked Sharon for additional lavender but being a superstitious squad this request was denied. I refrained from mentioning the 'L' word in recent reports in fear of jinxing it but it does appear this was the major contributing factor to the team's success. So now that the secret is out expect many imitators from opposing clubs doing the same thing next year. But we have faith Sharon will always be one step ahead in keeping the magical formula going.









Steve gets some unwanted attention !!

POST-GAME CELEBRATIONS

A couple of surprises during the presentation. Firstly, only the runners up received medallions. Yes, I'm sure we'll all be carrying our "Premiers" emblazoned sports bags around for seasons to come but it would've been nice to have a champions medallion as well. Secondly, usually one not to shy away from a photo opportunity, Nate managed to hide behind the group in the champions photo ...







FINAL WORDS

A huge thank you to the Singletons for hosting the post-grand final celebrations. A fantastic night was spent around a bon-fire full of laughs, drinking, feasting, swing rides, car porn, saccharine brotherly love, and Chris O'Connor songs. Unfortunately Brad and Sue were not able to attend due to Sue's shoulder surgery the evening before. All the best to Sue and Lian Burke - who suffered a concussion at the party - on making speedy recoveries.

Finally, thanks to everyone who read these reports each week and passed on your kind words. I had a blast writing them and I thank you in return for your encouragement and inspiration in providing the material - whether intentional or not - for me to chronicle. And thanks especially to my partner Ngari for taking the brilliant photos each week that enriched my embellishing rants.

Back in 2012, a group of us on our end of season trip dissected the year that was and how we'd gotten away from the primary purpose of playing football together - to have a good time. 2013 saw quite a few new recruits joining the team and complimenting that goal. The reason these reports have gotten out of control as they have is because it's been evident we've all had a good time this year. No egos, no bickering, just 20 mates enjoying each other's company on and off the field. The accolades came as a result of that. On top of this we had an amazing crowd of partners, kids, relatives, club patrons and friends cheering us on from the sidelines. Thanks again to all for a brilliant year. **GO THE MIGHTY WYOMING TIGERS!!**

- Andy.



GOAL SCORING TALLY

- Paul - 25
- Tony - 4
- Andy - 3
- Dean - 2
- Elton - 2
- Framey - 2
 - Ben - 1
 - Brad - 1
 - Chris - 1
 - Dave - 1
 - Gregg - 1
 - Jeff - 1
 - Mark - 1
 - Meady - 1
 - Steve G - 1



YELLOW CARDS TALLY


- Tony - 5
- Flanno - 4
- Meady - 2
- Aaron - 1
- Andy - 1
- Brad - 1
- Chris - 1
- Elton - 1
- Dave (Aka: Steve George) - 1





NUDIE RUN CANDIDATES

Aaron ** / Jason / Kev Lee / Nathan / Flanno

** Should be exempt due to his time in the keeper position


		AVOCA																	
	RD	2	4	1	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	13	14	12	15	18	17	16
	--	KAR	WVG	EG1	BYE	EG2	STH	UMN	WOY	EG1	KAR	TER	WVG	BYE	TER	EG2	WOY	UMN	STH
	F	1	1	0	--	0	3	1	1	0	3	3	0	--	3	5	1	1	1
	A	3	4	2	--	4	1	5	1	5	8	2	6	--	5	1	4	3	6


		EAST GOSFORD 1																	
	RD	2	4	1	5	6	7	9	8	10	11	13	14	12	15	18	3	17	16
	--	WOY	STH	AVD	EG2	WVG	BYE	KAR	TER	AVD	WOY	STH	EG2	UMN	WVG	KAR	UMN	TER	BYE
	F	2	2	2	1	3	--	2	1	5	1	3	0	0	0	3	0	2	--
	A	0	0	0	3	0	--	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	--

		EAST GOSFORD 2																	
	RD	2	1	4	5	6	7	9	10	8	3	11	13	14	12	15	18	16	17
	--	TER	KAR	BYE	EG1	AVD	WOY	UMN	KAR	STH	WVG	TER	BYE	EG1	WVG	AVD	UMN	WOY	STH
	F	1	4	--	3	4	1	0	4	5	1	5	--	1	0	1	2	0	5
	A	0	2	--	1	0	2	1	3	1	1	1	--	0	2	5	1	0	1


		KARIONG																	
	RD	2	1	4	5	6	7	8	9	17	10	3	11	13	14	12	15	18	16
	--	AVD	EG2	UMN	STH	TER	WVG	BYE	EG1	BYE	EG2	WOY	AVD	UMN	STH	WOY	TER	EG1	WVG
	F	3	2	0	2	1	2	--	0	--	3	0	8	2	6	0	3	0	0
	A	1	4	2	0	0	2	--	2	--	4	2	3	2	0	2	0	3	2









		SOUTHERN ETTALONG																	
	RD	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	1	10	8	11	13	14	12	15	18	16	17
	--	WVG	BYE	EG1	KAR	UMN	AVD	TER	WOY	WOY	EG2	WVG	EG1	KAR	BYE	UMN	TER	AVD	EG2
	F	2	--	0	0	1	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	--	1	1	6	1
	A	7	--	2	2	5	3	0	1	3	5	4	3	6	--	3	0	1	5

		TERRIGAL																	
	RD	1	2	4	5	6	7	9	8	10	11	3	13	14	12	15	18	17	16
	--	BYE	EG2	WOY	WVG	KAR	UMN	STH	EG1	BYE	EG2	AVD	WOY	WVG	AVD	KAR	STH	EG1	UMN
	F	--	0	1	1	0	3	0	2	--	1	2	0	0	5	0	0	1	0
	A	--	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	--	5	3	3	4	3	3	1	2	2

		UMINA																	
	RD	1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	12	15	18	3	17	16
	--	WVG	BYE	KAR	WOY	STH	TER	AVD	EG2	WVG	BYE	KAR	WOY	EG1	STH	EG2	EG1	AVD	TER
	F	2	--	2	2	5	1	5	1	1	--	2	2	0	3	1	0	3	2
	A	1	--	0	0	1	3	1	0	2	--	2	1	0	1	2	0	1	0

		WOY WOY																	
	RD	2	4	5	6	7	9	17	1	10	3	11	13	14	12	15	18	16	8
	--	EG1	TER	UMN	BYE	EG2	AVD	WVG	STH	STH	KAR	EG1	TER	UMN	KAR	BYE	AVD	EG2	WVG
	F	0	1	0	--	2	1	3	1	3	2	1	3	1	2	--	4	0	0
	A	2	1	2	--	1	1	4	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	--	1	0	2

		WYOMING																	
	RD	1	2	4	5	6	7	9	17	10	3	11	13	14	12	15	18	16	8
	--	UMI	STH	AVD	TER	EG1	KAR	BYE	WOY	UMN	EG2	STH	AVD	TER	EG2	EG1	BYE	KAR	WOY
	F	1	7	4	1	0	2	--	4	2	1	4	6	4	2	1	--	2	2
	A	2	2	1	1	3	2	--	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	--	0	0

CENTRAL COAST - 35E SOUTH : FINALS 2013					
MAJOR SEMI FINAL	 WYOMING	1	0	 UMINA	
MINOR SEMI FINAL	 EAST GOSFORD 2	1	2	 EAST GOSFORD 1	
PRELIM. FINAL	 UMINA	1 (0) p	1 (3) p	 EAST GOSFORD 1	
GRAND FINAL	 WYOMING	3	0	 EAST GOSFORD 1	

CENTRAL COAST 35ES - LEAGUE CHAMPIONS / PREMIERS 2013



3rd Row: Dave Stanbury, Steve George, Jason Burke, Andrew Kennedy, Steve Frame
 2nd Row: Sharon Singleton, Paul Ashton, Gregg Marlow, Aaron Quill, Dean Singleton, Brad Avery, Kevin Flanagan
 1st Row: Kevin Lee, Mark Wallace, Ben Wilkinson, Chris O'Connor, Tony Crecca, Nigel Mead,
 Nathan Donzow, Elton Richardson (Absent: Geoff Dyer)