

First Crack Chronicle

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BLAKE FERGUSON INJURY PUTS A DAMPENER ON MAIDEN VICTORY

Experienced meter eater cops a ribbing from team mates over his latest injury setback, but head coach Josh has a tough decision to make on his future.

Grubs had pretty much sealed the deal against a lethargic Rosebery Rampage, and Josh would have just been hoping his team went through the motions without injury, then Blake Ferguson did the unthinkable and clashed heads with English sensation John Bateman.

With his nose leaking blood like the Canterbury Bulldogs leak points, Josh knew it was possible there were a few weeks Fergo was going to be absent from FCFL. But with the help of 2kg of strapping and a roll of electrical tape, Fergo got back out there like a trooper and tried to do his work.

"I just wanted to do what I could to help our boys get the first victory that we deserve" say Ferguson who is never one to back down when sleeves need rolling up.

Then came the dreaded half-time realization that Fergo had also been carrying a rib cartilage issue. Ferguson opted for the needle, no doubt something he learnt from his days at Cronulla, and went out for the second half. In the 45th minute, he left the field and never returned.

Despite this Grubs took a victory after some head scratching line up changes from Rampage coach Jeremy Barton who was still rattled from his first defeat just seven days prior.

"A few of the boys were taken out by Normy (Corey Norman) last night, Fergo decided to stay in as he said his nose wasn't much use to him so there was no point really" says Grubs captain Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad.

"I didn't want him to come anyway" said Norman "He has a head like a smashed crab at the moment, and I am trying to smash chicks, not scare them away"

But with Ferguson being rock solid and probably Grubs' most potent attacking weapon at present, Josh has a decision to make. Do you apply the waiver and hope to pick up a potential gem, or stick him on the bench and ride out the injury and hope he returns the same player on return?.

"He is a fool for not trading him to me when offered, then this would be my headache not his" says Avengers mentor Joanne Bevan. "Even though his nose is the shape of the letter Z at the moment, I will gladly pick him up off the free agency and await his return".

Whatever the outcome of Fergusons future, Josh would have slept well without that monkey on his back and will now be looking at continuing that form for a top 4 finish.



WE SAY GOODBYE TO G.I.

15TH April 2019 will be forever remembered as the day one of the greats walked away from the game forever. **Gregory Paul Inglis** (born 15 January 1987) decided his body could no longer take the constant knocks week in and week out, and that the FCFL had become a younger mans game.

At the tender age of 32, Inglis decided to focus on a career in the media and will join First Crack Chronicle, where it is being rumoured he will have a column titled “You can count on it”, which is ironic, as his lack of mathematical skills on the field led him to attempt a field goal while 2 points down in a match a few years back.

“Oh my poor baby G.I., I hope he finds peace in his retirement, and is welcome back at Basic B!tches anytime on the coaching staff” says Natalia Bevan, Greg Inglis’ first ever FCFL coach.

Inglis made 16 appearances in FCFL, 14 with the B!tches and 2 with the newly formed Balmain Tigers for a career PPG average of 44.88.

When asked if he felt any responsibility towards Greg Inglis retiring early, Tigers coach Edward Kiel didn’t hold back.

“Oh man he was shit, worst signing I made honestly, couldn’t even flick him off to the B!tches on the few occasions I tried to punt him. In the end I decided to just send him to the Wire, if Talia didn’t want him, no one did”

Not everyone was as disrespectful as Kiel, Piranhas coach Nevan Clarkson is upset that he will never see the Goanna again.

FCFL Chairman Darren Bevan has said their could be a testimonial game or even an award named in Inglis’ honour, as he truly was a “freakish talent” but we will more than likely get a G.I. 2.0 out of Rosebery Rampage boom centre Latrell Mitchell.



THE BACK PAGE

Don McLeod Player of the Week – Cody Walker

Cody Walker (born 10 January 1990) is an Australian professional rugby league footballer who plays as a five-eighth and fullback for Dazzlers Dingoes in the FCFL.

Blessed with electric footwork, blistering speed and a natural instinct to play what is in front of him, Walker has been the main catalyst for the Dingoes rise as FCFL top tier side. The classy five-eighth is also gifted with the agility to turn on a sixpence.

Touted by FCFL Chairman Darren Bevan as a future FCFL Hall of Fame inductee, Walker has gained a following from FCFL coaches after amassing a PPG average of 62.65 in 26 matches.

Cody Walker has set his sights on a maiden Minor Premiership and winning back to back FCFL titles with Dazzlers Dingoes.

“King” Cody Walker (Dingoes)



James released by the Piranhas.

After 22 games at an average of 61.14, Ryan James has been shown the door by the Papatoetoe Piranhas. After a fantastic 2018 where he averaged 65.83 across 18 games which included a Minor Premiership, a Grand Final appearance and All-FCFL First Team induction, James has been ordinary only playing twice in 4 rounds for an average of 40 PPG. He has been replaced by the ever reliable 33 year old Gavin Cooper.

Don “Cowboy” McLeod Player of the Year Tally

Dragons v Dingoes - 3 – Cody Walker (Dingoes) 2 – Tohu Harris (Dingoes) 1 – Nathan Cleary (Dragons).

Rampage v Grubs - 3 – James Fisher-Harris (Grubs) 2- Boyd Cordner (Grubs) 1 – Corey Norman (Grubs)

Piranhas v Tigers - 3 – Ben Hunt (Piranhas) 2 – Damien Cook (Piranhas) 1 – Kurt Capewell (Tigers)

Avengers v Bltches - 3 – Jerome Hughes (B!tches) 2 – David Klemmer (B!tches) 1 – josh Addo-Carr (Avengers).

McLeod Medal total points leaders

8	R. Tuivasa-Sheck
6	Cameron Murray
6	Corey Oates
6	James Tedesco
5	Blake Ferguson