

First Crack Chronicle

<http://firstcrackfantasy.com/>

FIRST CLASS JOURNALISM

Vol. 8- Since 2018

DINGOES AND PIRANHAS SET TO FACE OFF IN GRAND FINAL REPLAY

For the past 8 months, there have been many “what ifs?” asked by Piranhas fans. What if Cherry-Evans was captain?. What if Lachlan Fitzgibbon passed his HIA?

There were plenty of questions around that day in August 2018. Were their players unfairly dropped?, Did Damien Cook drop his nuts?

But there is no denying that Dazzlers Dingoes deserved their win, the form team of the 2018 season and who have in this writers opinion, set a new benchmark in season 2019. Both sides are horrendously depleted of former stars due to the mandatory releases granted for the 4 team expansion, but both teams still hold some key players in the league.

The Dingoes have four players return in 2019. Live wire play maker Cody Walker, the 2 main men in Darren Bevan's engine room Marty Taupau, Villame Kikau and Grand Final winning captain Jake Trbojevic. The Dingoes were also able to snare 100n80s superstar Cameron Munster, much to his foes disgust.

100n80 went semi-pro in 2019, and with that came the name change to Papatoetoe Piranhas. They got first draft pick and took on board the teams rudder, and 2018 Don McLeod medal winner Damien “Captain” Cook. They also secured the returned services of Lachlan Fitzgibbon, Kevin Proctor and Ryan James, the latter has recently been released due to poor on field performances in the opening rounds. Elliott Whitehead has rejoined after initially joining Basic Bltches, but was released also due to not playing at his usual high standard.

Darren Bevan has added to what was already an impressive retention by adding Clint Gutherson, Joey Manu, Dale Finucane, Tohu Harris and new English import John Bateman. It is no wonder they have gone 6 and 0 to start the 2019 season and become odds on favorites for the 2019 title.

The Piranhas have not started 2019 as coach Nevan Clarkson would have planned. Sitting at 3 and 3, and shuffling his team even more than he did early last season, it seems he is feeling the heat of losing that Grand Final in 2018.

2018 was a rookie season for all coaches, and 2019 suggesting Clarksons men overachieved and were lucky to get that far in the first place.

“If Shaun Johnson plays a few more games last season, we win against 100n80 and he misses the finals, plain and simple” says Queen Bltch Natalia Bevan. “Darren was cool calm and calculated in 2018, and is far more professional in 2019 for the experience”

“ We were all fresh” admits Joanne Bevan, “Daz and Nev have worked with stats and playing figures since their teenage years, they are the most experienced and offered advice, but I am my own woman and don't need NO MAN telling me how to run my crew”

“In 2019, with 4 new sides, this is where you find where you belong” says FCFL Chairman and Dingoes Manager Darren Bevan. “The talent is spread thin, and while I am travelling well, we all know injuries and other factors can hamper sides. You just got to hope you end up on the other side of the storm”.

The other factors Bevan is referring to off field incidents. Tyrone May, Ben Barba and Jack De Bellend, are 3 players who would have been highly sought after, yet opened the door for rookies to get a chance at FCFL glory.

Rose, the hard task master of the Dragons, has shown she has a heart by standing by Jack De Bellend in his court battle, while showing there is the fire or be fired attitude inside her also, getting rid of Ben Hunt on his birthday a few weeks back.

Whatever the result is come Monday, there is a mutual respect amongst both coaches. They trained together along with childhood friends Will Badel, to one day sit in the coaches box and hopefully get their side to the top. And while Badel went on to forge his own legacy in a different field, he is no doubt of how dangerous these two could be if they worked side by side.

FCC TEAM OF THE WEEK



WING



FULLBACK



WING



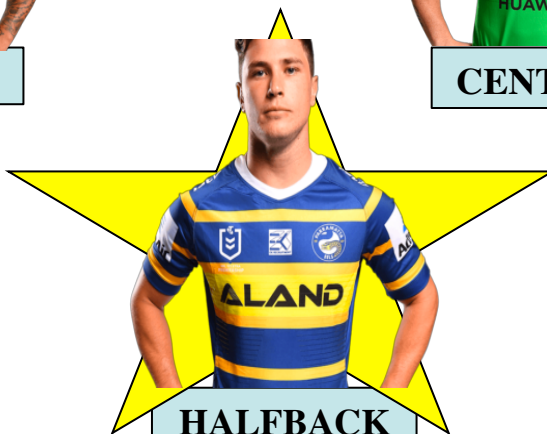
CENTRE



CENTRE



LOCK



HALFBACK



Five-Eighth



2ND ROW



2ND ROW



FRONT ROW



FRONT ROW



HOOKER

THE BACK PAGE

Don McLeod Player of the Week – Mitchell Moses

Mitchell Moses (Born 16 September 1994) is a professional rugby league footballer who plays halfback for Grubs in the FCFL.

A Lebanon international representative, Moses has also played for the Australian Prime Ministers XIII and World All Stars. He previously played for the Avengers and Dazzlers Dingoes.

A “genuine” half, who is as predictable as a Phil Goulds No.no, no, no no call on the Channel 9’s rugby league commentary, he can part defences like the red sea, or become a turnstile or speed bump in defence.

Mitchell Moses (GRUBS)



Avengers all hypenated for success

There are some rumours circulating in the FCFL circles that Eely Avengers are religiously recruiting players with hypenated names. Currently there are 4 players carrying the trend. Daly Cherry-Evans, Addin Fonua-Blake, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves and Josh Addo-Carr.

There is a fifth name, although this is not known outside the original FCFL members. Joanne Bevan-Kikau is the other. But that’s a story for another article.

Don “Cowboy” McLeod Player of the Year Tally

Rampage v Dingoes - 3 – John Bateman (Dingoes) 2 – Clint Gutherson (Dingoes) 1 – Reed Mahoney (Rampage).

Dragons v Piranhas - 3 – Nathan Cleary (Dragons) 2- Ben Hunt (Piranhas) 1 – Jack Bird (Piranhas)

Grubs v Bltches - 3 – Mitchell Moses (Grubs) 2 – Andrew Fifita (Grubs) 1 – Shaun Lane (Bltches)

Tigers v Avengers - 3 – Joey Leilua (Avengers) 2 – Daly Cherry-Evans (Avengers) 1 – Cameron Smith (Tigers).

McLeod Medal total points leaders

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