

First Crack Chronicle

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FIRST CLASS JOURNALISM

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RUNNING ON EMPTY

The Avengers can't take a trick. Stars are sidelined, and results have been putrid, but can Joanne Bevan save what is left of her sinking ship?

In the hollows of Avengers Stadium, alone in her office dining on Uber eats is a deflated and irate Joanne Bevan. 2019 was meant to be easier, yet 2nd year syndrome seems to have hit hard.

"How hard is it for these dickheads to finish an 80 minute game?, I mean seriously..... Toughen up you pansies".

The Avengers are in crisis, slumping to 3 straight defeats, the last against the Dragons only scoring 490, eclipsing their own record as the lowest points in a round since 28/8/2018. And this is no beat up article, with stars like Tom Trbojevic, Jake Friend, Chad Townsend and now star half Daly Cherry-Evans added to the list of players sidelined, it has become crunch time for the coach to make some harsh decisions.

Chad Townsend has made way for John Asiata, although Jake Friend has been kept on the roster, despite being ruled out for virtually the FCFL season with a pec rupture. Daly Cherry-Evans has also been rumored with a trade back to the Piranhas, but this seems unlikely due to Clarkson having doubts about DCE being able to recapture the form he displayed in 2018.



The gangs all here. Pictured from left to right: Adding Fonua-Blake, Chad Townsend, Michael Jennings and Daly-Cherry Evans at Pre-Season training March 2019.

"I am still pondering Dalys future at the Avengers, I just haven't seen anyone on the market who could fill his boots as soon as I'd like".

Jeremy Barton made a bold trade move for DCE, offering a swap for Rampage rocks and diamonds champion Luke Brooks.

"ahhh that's a no from me" says Bevan in her Simon Cowell impersonation "I'd be better off playing Coen Hess at halfback than that flop".



Avengers bound? Luke Brooks offered to Avengers for a swap with Daly Cherry-Evan. Joanne Bevan rejecting the trade quickly.

This week the Avengers take on the Piranhas in a clash where both sides hope to start a good run of form. Piranhas are hot and cold, and were last week hammered in the hugely anticipated Grand Final replay, something coach Nevan Clarkson needs to rectify, and quickly if he wants to feature in the end of season festivities.

"I took the opening game lightly at the start of the season, and the Avengers showed they have improved on 2018" says Clarkson.. "We now know we have to aim higher in regards to our attitude. 2018 was a completely different ball game, and I can't be letting the boys think they've won before a ball has been kicked off.

Avengers go into the game paying \$1.92.

THE BACK PAGE

Don McLeod Player of the Week – Corey Harawira-Naera

Corey Harawira-Naera (born 18 May 1995) is a New Zealand professional rugby league footballer who plays for the Balmain Tigers in the FCFL.

A Māori All Stars representative, Harawira-Naera primarily plays at second-row.

Harawira-Naera has burst onto the FCFL scene in 2019, averaging 78.00 ppg in his first 4 games. H is looking to continue that form to help the Tigers push for a maiden FCFL finals birth.

In his spare time, he can be seen at the Bridge Hotel in Balmain, strumming a 5 string acoustic guitar and singing incoherent Maori words to attract the local female talent that are struck by his beauty.

Corey Harawira-Naera (Tigers)



Let me stand next to your fire!!!

Dragons mastermind Rose, has shown she is not going to be bullied in her debut FCFL year.

Sitting in 5th spot after the first 7 rounds, and with Cameron Murray leading the Don McLeod Medal tally, a few coaches have paid their match ups a little more attention.

With victories over Grubs, Avengers and last years Minor Premiers Papatoetoe Piranhas, the Dragons have shaped as a dark horse side and continue to have rivals scratching their heads on game day.

Don “Cowboy” McLeod Player of the Year Tally

Piranhas v Dingoes - 3 – Cody Walker (Dingoes) 2 – Marty Taupau (Dingoes) 1 – Villame Kikau (Dingoes).

Rampage v Bltches - 3 – Rhyse Martin (Rampage) 2- Joe Ofahengaue (Rampage) 1 – Esan Masters (Bltches)

Dragons v Avengers - 3 – Cameron Murray (Dragons) 2 – Tyson Frizell (Dragons) 1 – Cameron Murray (Dragons)

Grubs v Tigers - 3 – Corey Harawira-Naera (Tigers) 2 – Sio Siua Taukeiaho (Tigers) 1 – Cameron Smith (Tigers).

McLeod Medal total points leaders

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