

First Crack Chronicle

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PIRANHAS TAKE A CHUNK OUT OF B!TCHES FINALS PUSH

A crime scene was erected at McDonald Jones Stadium over the weekend. Excavators were brought in to recover a body that was later identified as Piranhas 5/8 Luke Keary.

After 8 minutes, and his side down by a mammoth margin, Luke Keary was put 6 feet under by Daniel Saifiti. It was brutal, and Nevan Clarkson was forced to watch Basic B!tches take a 476 points to 3 lead against his side. This is Keary's 5th concussion in 18 months, and he is expected to miss at least 4 matches.

Somehow, the Piranhas fought back, claiming a dramatic 165 point victory. The comeback was led by every reliable Captain Damien Cook and Butterfingered centre Bronson Xerri.



Cook was at his damaging best, racking up a try and 3 assists, while Bronson Xerri had the crowd singing Neil Diamond's 1966 hit Cherry, Cherry as he crossed the chalk 3 times.

"I was telling the Chairman we were gone unless Cook grabbed near 300 points, and he almost got there" says over the moon coach Nevan Clarkson. "but Bronson was sensational, I got home and ran around in my Reg Grundys, while blasting Hot August Night....good times, GOOD TIMES..WOOOO".

Talia Bevan was understandably frustrated, with more 5/8 troubles against the Piranhas. James Maloney was injured, and Shaun Johnson... you guessed it, faked yet another injury against the Piranhas.

"I don't speak I'll of any of my players, but Shaun Johnson is a f@#king cat, excuse my French" said the disappointed mentor. "It is always against the Piranhas, maybe e should play for them if he don't want t suit up in the Pink and Blue".

Chairman Darren Bevan was excited to the comeback, while also being cautious to not go overboard, as he was not willing to jeopardize his home cooked meals.

"Piranhas dug deep, and ground out the win, which is what we have come to expect from them. B!tches are still fighting and took them all the way, and had they had Maloney or Johnson instead of Jazz Tevaga at 5/8, it could have been a much different story?"

In a cruel twist of fate, Tevaga injured an ankle and missed a lot of game time also.



Elsewhere in the league, Rosebery Rampage got their season back on track, with 141 point win over the Avengers, who can't seem to take a trick with new recruit James Segeyaro blowing over the limit at an RBT. He could miss a few matches over the next few weeks.

Dazzlers Dingoes struggled with points, but still managed to hold off Grubs with a 106 point victory. The Dingoes are 2 points clear of the Rampage at the top of the table, but managed a modest 579 points for the round.

Balmain Tigers hold a 4 point buffer over Basic B!tches and sit comfortable in 4th place after their 37 point win over the Dragons. The Tigers have amassed the most total points in 2019, scoring 9068 after 11 games. But they have also the 2nd worst defensive record, leaking 8707 points. The Eely Avengers are on a 6 game losing streak, having not won since their round 4 victory over the Rampage, Since then they have slithered from 3rd to 8th position on the ladder.

THE BACK PAGE

Don McLeod Player of the Week – Bronson Xerri

Bronson Xerri (born 10 September 2000) is a professional rugby league footballer who plays as a centre for the Papatoetoe Piranhas in the FCFL. To date, he is one of only two players in the history of Rugby League (the other being Anthony Xuereb) with a last name beginning with the letter "X".

Xerri made his debut in round 7 of the 2019 FCFL season against Dazzlers Dingoes. Xerri went on from there and kept playing in the centres for the next four rounds of the season where he scored his first FCFL career try against the Rosebery Rampage in round ten at Turravell Park.

In round 11 he completed his first FCFL hat trick, and Man Of The Match honours in the blistering comeback against Basic B!tches.

Although he has speed to burn, Xerri has a major problem with ball control, with Ed Kiel mentioning that he has 2 left hands, and his own coach Nevan Clarkson labelling him Buttermits.

Bronson Xerri (Piranhas)



ASK THE LOONEY

Q: I see that the Avengers have dropped massively in form this season. Is there a chance Joanne Bevan will be replaced before the year is out?
Bob Evans – Panania NSW

Looney: NO CHANCE. We have it on good authority that she is always trying to walk away, but the Chairman won't allow it. Mama ain't raise no quitter.

Q: What are the chances of the Dingoes going back to back in 2019?
Jess Roberts – Malabar NSW

Looney: They're odds on favourites to back up. Best defensive side and a well oiled machine. They will be Grand Finalists at worst.

Q: What is the go with the five-eights at Basic B!tches? Are they injured or just scared?
Jason Bro – Onehunga New Zealand

Looney: I think Johnson is scared. Maloney is collecting his retirement cheque and served a suspension. Look for a shake up in 2020.

Q: Damien Cook was Don McLeod medallist in 2018. Do you think he can claim it in 2019?
Mario F – Kingsford NSW

Looney: 2019 has seen a much tougher grading for points. Gone are the days of extra points for the captaincy. He will feature towards the back end.

McLeod Medal Total Points Leaders

| | |
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| 14 | R. Tuivasa-Sheck |
| 10 | Cameron Murray |
| 9 | Damien Cook |
| 9 | James Tedesco |
| 8 | Clint Gutherson |
| 8 | Kalyn Ponga |
| 8 | Cody Walker |