

First Crack Chronicle

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FIRST CLASS JOURNALISM

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GRUBS GO FROM THE BASEMENT, TO THE PENTHOUSE.

It was billed as the “David v Goliath” battle and it had divided the league. And with a gale like force, Grubs dethroned the kings of FCFL.

Lest be completely honest, The Dingoes have been the benchmark for the past 2 seasons with the FCFL, with Darren Bevan’s clever planning and careful recruitment, the Dingoes are regarded as the Sydney Roosters, with a Nick Politis type figure head. They had recruited and retained all they required in 2019, and have sat at the top of the table for most of every week of both FCFL seasons.

Meanwhile Grubs have done what the Papatoetoe Piranhas failed to do in 2018, and that was miss the draft, and rebuild their entire squad on the run through the season and then take down the mighty Dingoes in the final game of 2019.

Grubs started off fast, and the Dingoes knew they were in trouble immediately. Payne Hass put in a great captains performance to put them in the drivers seat. Ken Maumalo, Wade Graham, and Gareth Widdop in his FCFL farewell all putting in classy displays to ensure the Dingoes had their work cut out for them.

The Dingoes couldn’t have wished for a poorer start. With a sweep of last minute injuries derailing their earlier preparations, and a late call up of former Grub Mikaele Ravalawa the Dingoes were always pissing into the wind. And in his final FCFL match, Robbie Farah limped from the field after 24 minutes and this all but ended the hopes of back to back Dingoes premierships. One shining light was Cameron Munster, who played his guts out for a 2nd consecutive runners up medallion.

A few coaches had discussions in a group chat about the game, with Joanne Bevan slating Josh for not trading Blake Ferguson to her in the early rounds of 2019, when he was in peak form and destroying teams at will with his tall frame and try scoring ability. Josh then also dropped Fergo, denying him a chance at a maiden FCFL title

Sitting at the foot of the table for the best part of 2019, the Grubs franchise used their heads and the Waiver Wire to their advantage, picking up classy acquisitions and off loading the dead wood at key times through out the season. And in the final regular season day, dispatched league new comers the Balmain Tigers to move into the more prestigious 4th position and guarantee a second bite at the FCFL cherry.

“It’s better than....LEGO.... IT’S BETTER THAN LEGO.” Grubs coach Josh after their 2019 Grand Final win over the Dingoes.

After a narrow loss to the Dingoes in week 1 of the finals, that cherry became a bit sweeter. They then dispatched the Dragons and the Rampage to book a showdown with Bevans men once again. Only this time they ambushed them for a historic win.

“What can I say?? It’s better than...LEGO.... IT’S BETTER THAN LEGO” said Josh in the sheds as he downed the FCFL sponsored Fruit Tingles with a Cola beverage chaser. “ No one gave us a shot, yet here we are, at the peak of Taren Point looking down on the peasants”.

Bevan was clearly devastated, but said Grubs took their opportunity and caught the defending premiers napping.



A couple of Grubs soaking up their victory in the 2019 FCFL Grand Final. *neither player was involved with the club, they’re just Grubs*

THE BACK PAGE

Expansion of FCFL looking more likely as Chairman Darren Bevan looks ahead with 20/20 vision.

Evolution is a fact of life, and FCFL will evolve to at least 10 sides in the 2020 season. Another Sydney side looks on the cards, as does a second New Zealand franchise, most likely from the Hamilton district.

“ We have weighed up the option for 12 sides, but are worried that the talent will be spread far too thin, and we would rather have 2 extra sides with plenty of coverage for injuries at the end of the day” says FCFL Chairman Darren Bevan.

FCC Report Card '19.

Dazzlers Dingoes: Despite tripping at the final hurdle in the 2019 title race, this is the benchmark team for FCFL. They have recruited and retained a perfect blend of youth and experience, and have truly shown why they are perched high in the FCFL tree. **A**

Grubs: For the 2nd year running, the side missing draft night has made the Grand Final, only this time they took home the chocolates. Payne Hass is a superstar and will hopefully remain on Grubs' books for a long time coming. **A+**

Rosebery Rampage: A solid first season for the maroon and white. Fell one game short of a Grand Final appearance in their debut season. With this experience, I expect them to be there or thereabouts in 2020. **A**

Basic B!tches: By far the most improved side of 2019. Led by a coach who couldn't care less if they win or lose, they manage to play with the freedom of duck swimming with 1 leg. **A+**

Papatoetoe Piranhas: There was something seriously wrong across the Tasman in 2019. A string of early defeats, and then a massive 7 game winning streak and 2 pathetic finals appearances. Cook the coach some eggs!!! **B-**

Dragons 1015: Yet another new side who finally started to find their way a little to late in the season. They collected a wooden spoon, and managed to get to week 2 of the finals **B+**.

Eely Avengers: Never have I seen a coach literally throw away a season like Joanne Bevan. With 4 stars out with lengthy injuries, she carried them on the bench until the season was done and dusted. At least the wooden spoon was moved on. **C**.

Balmain Tigers: Now we know why Balmain folded in 1999. Sitting comfortably in 3rd position for most of the season, the wheels started to fall off towards the back end of the season and they never recovered. They retired a champion player in Greg Inglis, tried all sorts of dodgy trade deals that were never going to happen, and then bummed out to the wooden spooners in week 1 of the finals. Laurie Nicolls would be rolling in his grave **D**.

I just want to say thank you to all the loyal readers during the 2019 season. I enjoy adding a bit of banter and laughs to your toilet scrolling. If you have anything you would like added to the FCC, simply pass it on in the group chat, or to the chairman and I'll see how I can add it to the paper for next year.

Applications are now being accepted by FCFL for the 2020 season. If you are interested in the expansion, get in contact with the Chairman.