

# First Crack Chronicle

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## DRAGONS THROWN FROM THE ARK AS FCFL NEWCOMERS FLEX THEIR MUSCLES.

### Noah's Ark have slayed the Dragons by 240 points to climb to the top of the FCFL ladder after the first round..

The boys from Shark Park put on an impressive display against their nearest rivals, with a host of players posting impressive first up numbers.

Shaun Johnson seems to have gotten over his hamstring injuries that plagued his 2019 season, contributing a handy 95 points. Adam Reynolds, Elliot Whitehead and Tevita Pangai Jr. also scoring heavily.

Dazzlers Dingoes took down arch rivals Papatoetoe Piranhas in the closest match of the round, with a 70 point victory. Darren Bevan delighted with the win after heading into the match as the underdogs, and ending the Piranhas winning streak of 7 games in the regular season.

Defending Premiers Filthy Grubs got off on the wrong foot, falling to Balmain by 169 points. Balmain captain Kalyn Ponga racking up an impressive 162 points that had the Grubs rattled from the start.

The new franchise 2Great4U also fell in the opening round, with Basic B!tches flexing some muscle and scoring a massive 912 points. They broke their own record for most points in a first round clash, where they had scored 823 in the 2018 season. Talia Bevan wasn't mincing words when she spoke of her team's chances in 2020.

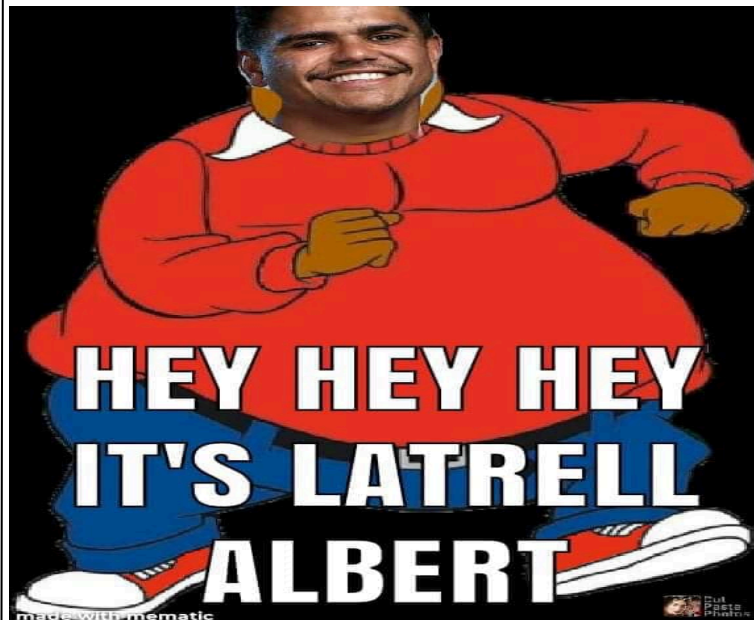
"Look, the writers at FCC need to pull their heads in and stop writing me off before the season starts. We have a strong roster and I expect to make the final this season"

Rosebery Rampage put the Eely Avengers to the sword, with the Avengers posting the lowest ever opening round total in the 3 seasons of FCFL. Rampage looking strong with a 664 to 483 victory.

A host of waivers had also happened in the first week, with Papatoetoe shedding 5 players, Filthy Grubs discarding 2 and Dazzlers Dingoes and Eely Avengers both scrapping 1 a piece.

**"Honestly, Latrell Mitchell looks like he spent his offseason at Matto Pies...."**

**Darren Bevan when asked how he was able to contain the Piranhas Fullback**



Round 2 will see Dazzlers Dingoes take on 2Great\$U, Papatoetoe Piranhas take on Eely Avengers, Balmain hosting Basic B!tches, Rosebery Rampage head to Shark Park to face leaders Noah's Ark and a grudge match between Dragons 1015 and Filthy Grubs.

A few more waivers happened heading into week 2. Papatoetoe sacked Brad Takarangi and brought in J. Issako, Grubs released S. Katoa and J. Terpin to bring in Peter Hiku and Jake Granville and Rosebery Rampage put the broom through their club, releasing Ash Taylor and E. Guler to sign L. Brooks and R. Campbell-Gillard.

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## ASK THE LOONEY: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**Q: Who has been the worst pick up in the early rounds, and why is it Latrell Mitchell?**

D.Bevan – NSW

**A: While I think Mitchell has failed, there has been worse. Kieran Foran being drafted was a great example.**

**Q: Can the FCFL survive if another club is based in NSW? Avengers seem keen to relocate.**

I.P. Freely – VIC.

**A: I feel the league would survive, but the coaching structure at the Avengers seems to be erratic. Might be time for the coach to buy a home and settle down.**

**Q: Given the way Balmain faded at the end of 2019, do you feel this is a make or break season?**

Wayne King – Leichardt

**A: Many will feel that Eduardo Kiel failed to adjust in later stages of the season, but I feel he could be a dark horse in 2020.**

**PLAYER PROFILE: CAMERON SMITH.**

**AGE: IMMORTAL**

**CURRENT TEAM: 2Great4U**

**PAST TEAM (S): Dingoes, Tigers**

**FCFL PREMIERSHIPS: 1 (2018)**

**ALL FCFL 2<sup>ND</sup> TEAM: 2 (2018,2019)**

**CAREER GAMES: 38**

**CAREER POINTS: 2,470 (AVE: 65PPG)**

**NOTES: The fine wine that gets better with age. His influence on referees is still high, but not as dominant as he once was. His average has increased every season, and with a fresh start in Hamilton, he hopes to add to his only premiership.**



## FIVE IN THE BIN.

With Darren Bevan (Dingoes)

**Favorite player on roster:** I can't split Tohu Harris. Solid clubman.

**Player from another roster you wish you had?** Cody Walker. Left for the Rampage this year. Will never play another FCFL grand final ever.

**2020 FCFL bold prediction?:** Payne Haas to win 2020 MVP. He is going to be tough to beat.

**2020 FCFL expectations?:** All teams to be in it until the final round. Although Avengers may be the one team to let me down.

**Biggest Fear?:** Grubs going back to back. I have to work with Josh and he hasn't stopped talking himself up all off season.

Editor note: Never let the truth get in the way of a good yarn.