

First Crack Chronicle

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DRAGONS HAVE FULL FAITH IN COACH ROSE AND HER TROOPS.

Despite the poorest point scoring effort in FCFL history, Rose has managed to get the backing of the board and will remain in charge of Dragons 1015

The Dragons have massive issues at present, with a host of stars warming the bench due injuries, leaving them no choice but to play short each week.

Paul Momirovski, John Bateman and Dylan Edwards are three players who have yet to lace a boot for the Dragons in 2020, leading many to ask why Rose and the Dragons management have not looked to shed these players and look for more suitable candidates.

In round 4, the Dragons played with 8 men, and set an FCFL record for lowest points in a single round with 350. Grubs were the lowest leading into the round with 473, which goes to show how far off the pace the Dragons are.

The Dragons have been slammed in the media, with former Dragon Ben Hornby saying things would never have been this bad under Super Coach Wayne Bennett.

"He would not cop it, he just would not tolerate some of the garbage these players are churning out week after week, it's as simple as that. The club needs to have the broom pushed through it and start again".

Current Dragon Matt Lodge has some ideas on how to fix things.

"These old heads, the Barretts, the McGregors, The Hornbys need to come here and help us fix this. They know the recipe and they could fix this"

McGregor was having none of it "You've made your bed, you can lie in it. They shut us old blokes out and started to sink, so now they can learn how to swim. Fair Dinkum if I was in charge they wouldn't be in this mess"

Round 5 doesn't get any easier for the Dragons either. They will face competition leaders Balmain, who just put 1,046 on title contenders and former Premiers Dazzlers Dingoos.

The Tigers are now 3 and 1 and sit atop of the premiership table on for and against from surprise packets Basic B!tches. The Dingoos in turn have slid from 2nd to 6th after 2 straight defeats after the lockdown period.

"I thought I got Jamayne Isaako... But I got Jamayne Isuckyo"

Nevan Clarkson didn't hold back when asked about his centre three quarter..

The Dingoos will face an out of sorts Noah's Arks, while Basic B!tches will face a Papatoetoe side hell bent on trying to write their wrongs.

The Eely Avengers got the better of the Arks on the weekend, with the Arks Bradman Best putting in a stellar performance, but it was not enough as the Avengers coasted home with a 68 point victory. While they still sit in 9th place, the Melbourne outfit has put a few clubs on notice and no one will take them lightly.

2Great4U definitely improved their for and against in their win over the Dragons. Captain Cam Smith once again leading the way and showing age is merely a number. By far one of the greats of the game, Smith is showing no signs of slowing down, and has even had talks with coach Eddie Rangitiki about extending his playing career beyond this season.

"The body feels good and with the promotion to head referee post Covid, I feel I could definitely go another round in 2021" said Smith after the latest Referees meeting.

Kieran Foran was solid, yet unspectacular in the Ramage defeat to Basic B!tches. Originally drafted by the Piranhas, Foran was cut for Scott Drinkwater when his injuries looked as though they would keep him out for 8 weeks. Jeremy Barton threw him a lifeline, when he probably should have thrown him a brick. With Cody Walker expected back from suspension in Round 5, I think Foran will once again be on the sidelines, and for the first time in years he will be playing second fiddle and hoping Cody tries to kick another deadbeat at 3am.

THE BACK PAGE

THE TOP 5: THE BEST OF ROUND 3

- 5: Tigers v Dingoes** – A very rare back to back defeats for the Dingoes. And Balmain's 2nd 1000+ score.
- 4: Bradman Best** – 123 points on debut for Noah's Arks. Don't get much better.
- 3: Eely Avengers** – Tommy Turbo in 2nd gear and still produce the goods. The tide is turning.
- 2: Filthy Grubs** – Out to prove a point and broke the regular season hoodoo against Papatoetoe
- 1: Kalyn Ponga** – Made the Dingoes look like amateurs. Makes John Holmes look terrible at his craft.

TEAM OF THE WEEK: Balmain



PLAYER PROFILE: Kalyn Ponga

AGE: 22

CURRENT TEAM: Balmain Tigers

PAST TEAM (S): Bltches, Avengers

FCFL PREMIERSHIPS: Nil

CAREER GAMES: 36

ALL-FCFL SELECTION: 2018, 2019



THE NUMBERS GAME

- 31** - Amount of points needed by the Tigers to break their own league record of 1094.
- 124** - Points needed by Dragons to avoid the dreaded Lowest round score EVER.
- 3** - Total regular season losses for the Dingoes in 2019. They have 2 after 4 rounds in 2020.
- 4** - Total amount of 1000+ scores in FCFL history. Tigers 2, Dingoes and Piranhas (100N80)

