



# DOWNS RUGBY ROUND-UP

Welcome Downs rugby followers to the current installment of our regular newsletter which covers all the recent activity.

Hopefully you all had an enjoyable Easter break. In the seniors that was our only bye so the rugby competition re-starts with earnest running right through until the big day in September. The Juniors continue with their competition and the Teenagers are about to start their second term competition. There has been some exciting news with the venue for the State Championships for Teenage Rugby, funding approval for sports coordinators and representative rugby on the horizon. All this and more so please enjoy the read.

## **Competition Updates:-**

**Juniors** – We are up to Round 5 this weekend (14 May) and it has been going great. Some fantastic weather on the weekend saw lots of players back after the holidays with renewed energy after the long Term 1 for School. I am sure all coaches are glad we don't have too many 12 week terms. Congratulations for all clubs for grasping the new pathways and working with all the changes this year. The players on the field all appear to be enjoying their rugby, which is the way it should be. We have only a couple of weeks until the Grammar Carnival. All clubs available will be placed into a draw. If you know your team won't be able to play, please advise ASAP to assist with draw creation.

*In case you weren't aware, The Chronicle publishes a Junior Sports Section each Wednesday. Please encourage your coaches to submit game reviews and photos to ensure your club and teams get the recognition they deserve.*

**Teenage** – The Term 2 competition started on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May. Five games were played at Gold Park with 6 under 13 teams and 4 under 15 teams being nominated. It was a great morning of rugby and all players looked like they enjoyed the competition. Special mention must be made of Roma who travelled in with an Under 15 team to play.

**Seniors** -- The ladder at the end of Round 4 in A Grade is:-

| Team            | P | W | L | D | F   | A   | Df   | Opp Fft | BP 4t | BP <7p | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|------|---------|-------|--------|-----|
| USQ Saints      | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 194 | 18  | 176  | 0       | 4     | 0      | 20  |
| UQ/Highfields   | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 144 | 62  | 82   | 0       | 4     | 1      | 17  |
| Toowoomba Bears | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 104 | 60  | 44   | 0       | 2     | 0      | 14  |
| Roma            | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 113 | 139 | -26  | 0       | 2     | 0      | 14  |
| Goondiwindi     | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 96  | 75  | 21   | 0       | 2     | 1      | 11  |
| Rangers         | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 118 | 111 | 7    | 0       | 2     | 1      | 11  |
| Condamine       | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 62  | 99  | -37  | 0       | 1     | 1      | 6   |
| Warwick         | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 73  | 114 | -41  | 0       | 0     | 1      | 5   |
| Dalby           | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 29  | 144 | -115 | 0       | 0     | 0      | 4   |
| St George       | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 60  | 171 | -111 | 0       | 0     | 0      | 0   |

# Downs Rugby Round-up

## DARLING DOWNS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



On Saturday April 30th, James Slipper from the St George Queensland Reds travelled up the range to spend time with Flynn Gill at St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba. Flynn is an 8 year old boy who has Cystic Fibrosis. He has had a tough 12 months with lung infections and other complications. Flynn spends a lot of time in and out of hospitals in Brisbane and Toowoomba. He is a lover of rugby union and participates in matches when he is able.



James took some time out from training with the St George Queensland Reds to spend it with Flynn and his family. The two discussed all matters relating to rugby and it was evident that both Flynn and James enjoyed each others company. Flynn's family thanked James for coming and spending time with him at the Hospital.

After saying goodbye to Flynn, James took the time to visit others in the St Vincent Children's ward and hear their experiences. All who met James on Saturday were thankful of the opportunity to spend time with the St George Red and QANTAS Wallaby hero.

The Under 15 and Under 18 Darling Downs school-boy rugby trials were held on the 5<sup>th</sup> April at Toowoomba Grammar School and Downlands College respectively. There was a good mixture of students from across the Downs who participated and positions were tightly contested. A big thankyou to all who were involved with the organising of the day and I look forward to watching the Darling Downs school-boy teams playing in the state championships.

In April, two students from the Darling Downs were select to represent Queensland. Adam Waters from Harristown High School and Beau Jackson from Toowoomba Grammar School represented the Under 18's Queensland Indigenous Rugby Squad at the National Indigenous Rugby Championships in Alice Springs. The Queensland team were unbeaten through the tournament with a draw against Combined States before having wins against Northern Territory and New South Wales. Congratulations boys.

Rugby education in the Darling Downs was again prevalent in April, with three coaching course accreditation sessions provided by the QRU. There were two level one (foundation) courses on the 15<sup>th</sup> at Harristown State School and the 17<sup>th</sup> at Toowoomba Grammar School as well as a smart rugby course on the 18<sup>th</sup> at the Downs Rugby Office. A reminder to all that the next smart rugby course will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May at 6.00pm at the Downs Rugby Office, so be sure to register online at the Queensland Rugby website. This is a mandatory requirement for all coaching staff.

Over the next two weeks I will be travelling out to Stanthorpe, Warwick, Goondiwindi and Roma to conduct school rugby clinics. There will also be smart rugby courses provided in Goondiwindi and Roma. Please contact either myself or your respective clubs for further information on these courses.

Partnering -- Queensland Rugby with Downs Rugby,

Tom Bower

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## DOWNNS RUGBY – SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

### Queensland Country versus NSW Country -- By Chris Meibusch –

The GrainCorp Qld Country Heelers held out a determined NSW Country Cockatoos for a 20-15 win at Lang Park, Brisbane last Saturday (23/4) as the curtain raiser to the Qld/NSW SuperRugby clash. The Heelers scored 2 tries to nil but ill discipline cost them heavily with the Cockatoos converting 5 penalties to stay in touch until the final whistle. The Heelers stunned the Cockatoos with Gold Coast centre Blair Corey scoring an early try however successive first half yellow cards gave Cockatoos sharpshooter David Kennedy easy conversions. The win was sealed late in the second

## Downs Rugby Round-up

half as Dalby centre and Heeler's captain Leighton Saal sliced through out wide to take a 20-12 lead.

Heelers flanker, and former Condamine Cod, Will Campbell made amends for a first half sinbining in a powerhouse man of the match performance.

NSW Country's loss is the Cockatoo's second after a close 3 point loss against the ACT Griffins in Canberra last weekend.

Qld Country Cockatoos 20 (Leighton Saal, Corey Blair tries, Dan Nethery 2 pen, 2 con) d NSW Country Cockatoos 15 (David Kennedy 5 pen)



Will Campbell, Leighton Saal, James McUtcheon, Mat Howse

### GRAINCORP QUEENSLAND COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS – SOUTH QUEENSLAND v CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

Where: Toowoomba Sports Ground (formerly known as The Clive Berghofer stadium – Arthur Street)

When: 28 May 2011

Free Admission

Come and watch some of our local rugby heroes play for the South Queensland Opens and under 19 representative teams against their Central Queensland counterparts.

Games are as follows:

3.30pm – Under 19

5.00pm – Opens



**Come and enjoy a family day out (free admission) watching some entertaining representative rugby union.**

### Darling Downs Referees Association.

#### Notes from the Centre

Five weeks in and going strong. I hope that everybody in the rugby community is having a great time so far. I don't want to have to say that I told you so that we have lots of games each weekend and not enough referees. But "*I told you so*" at the start of the season and it is happening again this season.

For anyone that was not at the AGM at the start of the season I did a quick calculation that on a big weekend on the Downs we have 60+ games of rugby and only about 20-25 active referees. It is not hard to do the maths. I have been receiving panic phone calls, can we supply refs on short notice or the refs not here what do we do. Yes there have been two cases that I know of that the ref did not show either through reasons out of his control or game times being changed and no



# Downs Rugby Round-up

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one letting the ref know. As referees we don't call the club president and have a panic attack if a team is short players. We just get on with it and do what has to be done.

I have always encouraged anyone interested in refereeing to contact us. Five weeks and stony silence from club land until things go a little out of shape. I still say that each club should have at least two qualified referees so that if for some reason the ref is delayed or unable to make the game then panic does not set in and everybody has a good time. That is what it is all about. Now I have had my little rant we just need more people stepping up and refereeing.

Following on from the last news letter I will try to explain the "Advantage Law" in a few quick paragraphs.

The "Advantage Law" and its application is one of the main things that makes rugby the great game that it is and distinguishes from the other codes that we shall not speak of. It is designed to keep the ball in play for longer periods of time so you have a continuous and free flowing contest.

When you are refereeing and you call "Advantage" you are looking for several things. Firstly there has to be a chance that an advantage may come. If a player knocks the ball on and the immediately picks the ball up there is no chance of an advantage and a scrum is awarded to the non-offending team. If the attacking player knocks the ball on and it is picked up by a defender then there is a chance that an advantage may come.

Now this is where the judgment of the referee comes into play. There are several criteria that we look for when we call "Advantage" the advantage has to be true and real and that comes in the form of either a tactical or territorial gain by the team in possession. The extent of the gain also depends if it is a scrum advantage or penalty advantage and where in the field of play that "Advantage" was called.

With a scrum advantage. If the team in possession have clean ball and are able to use it in the equivalent that would of come from a scrum then advantage will have been played and called "Over" Going sideways across the field is not an advantage. Comes back to tactical or territorial. Normally for a scrum advantage you will let play go for 1 or 2 phases to see if anything will come of the advantage.

With a penalty advantage. You still look for all of the same criteria as a scrum advantage. It is even more critical that you are looking for a tactical or territorial gain as points may of be scored from a penalty. When playing advantage for a penalty advantage you will let play go through a few more phases to see if there is a true and real advantage. If in your mind the answer is yes then you will call "Advantage Over". If in your opinion there is no advantage you come back for the penalty at the place where the infringement occurred.

"Advantage" in the Red Zone. For those that don't know what the Red Zone is. It is the area approximately 15 to 20 meters from the try line or the area on the field where there is the greatest chance that a try may be scored. If you have called "Advantage" in the red zone you tend to let play go for as long as possible to give the attacking team the possibility of scoring. In saying it is also looked at that the defending team may be dealt with a little harder if they commit an offence in the Red Zone that can be looked at as a Professional Foul which may result in a Penalty Try, Red or Yellow card depending on the severity of the offence.

I may of been a little long winded this week but it is a part of the game that makes it a GREAT GAME.

Best of luck in the coming games and still looking for more referees.

Peter Buchanan -- President DDRRA -- 0412 854 211

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## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

We are looking for Expressions of Interest in attending Refereeing and Touch Judge courses.

We are able to provide courses but must have a minimum number of attendees. Please advise Tom Bower if you are able to attend any Referee Courses.

## 2011 QJRU STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS:-

We are very pleased to advise that the 2011 State Champs will be held in Toowoomba – to start on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

We are currently securing accommodation for all visiting regions.

A full programme of the State Championships will be available as we get closer to the event.

There will be plenty of opportunities for sponsorship opportunities attached to this great event. If you know anyone interested in assisting in this regard, please have them contact our office.



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## 2 X SPORTS CO-ORDINATORS JOBS APPROVED FOR DOWNS RUGBY

*The Department of Communities, Sports and Recreation have approved our grant applications for funding under the Local Sport and Recreation Jobs Plan as rolled out by the Qld Government.*

*This is great news as we will now work with the local Sport & Rec office to seek employment of local co-ordinators, one each for the Eastern and Western zones of our region. Both co-ordinators will be based in our Toowoomba Office.*

*This marks an exciting era for Downs Rugby as we will now have the resources to work with the invaluable volunteer army which supports our clubs.*

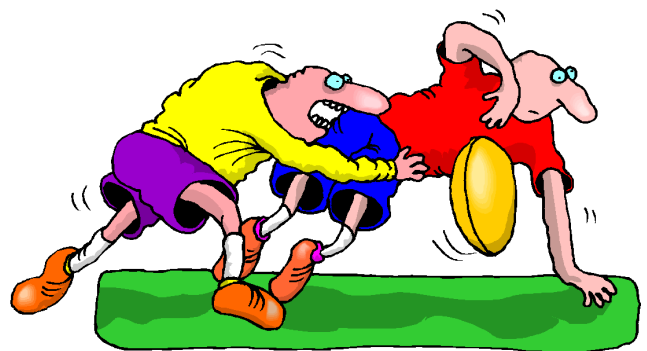
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## RUGBY MUSINGS:

Two elderly gentlemen in hospital, one is gravely ill. The healthier one says to the other “When you are in heaven could he please give me a sign that Rugby is the game actually played in Heaven?”

A week after the gentlemen passed away, the surviving man has a dream. In his dream he has a conversation with the deceased wherein the dead man reports “I have some good news and some bad news – the good news is that they do play rugby every day, the weather is great and the standard is really high!. The bad news is.....”

“You are on the team sheet for Saturday.”



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[www.downsrugby.com](http://www.downsrugby.com)

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