



John I Dent Cup Preview: Round 6



Saturday, 11th May, 2013

SKINS Match of the Round:

Gungahlin (4) v Queanbeyan (3), Nicholls Oval, Nicholls

First Grade: 3.05pm, Reserve Grade: 1.40pm, Colts: 12.15pm

As the competition continues to unfold, this weekend the John I Dent Cup has been boosted with up to 19 Brumbies contracted players taking park it all fixtures as a result of the Brumbies Super Rugby bye. This weekend's matches will be very exciting but no more so than the SKINS match of the round between Gungahlin and Queanbeyan, with both teams on equal competition points.

Last weekend the Eagles put in their best performance thus far with a very impressive 34-18 win over a highly fancied Wests outfit. Securing their second victory for the season after losing in the opening two rounds, Gungahlin are starting to gain some serious momentum. With injuries to Brumbies contracted player Ruaidhri Murphy and Rutikha Ilolahia two changes have been made, Patricio Noriega and Darragh O'Bryne will now be in the starting forward pack.

Queanbeyan on the other hand, suffered a heart breaking 38-37 to Royals at Campese. Leading for the majority of the game, Queanbeyan were unable to prevent Royals from pulling off a great comeback which saw them score after the siren to win the game. Starting the season off with two wins, the Whites have now suffered two losses in a row and are very eager to get back in the winner's circle. Queanbeyan happily welcome the return of Brumbies contracted players Leon Power and Robbie Coleman who will both bring a lot of experience and X factor to the side.

The last time these two teams played: 2012 Minor Semi Final (Gungahlin 23 – Queanbeyan 25)

Easts (5) v Royals (2), Griffith Oval, Griffith

First Grade: 3.05pm, Reserve Grade: 1.40pm, Colts: 12.15pm

Easts will be raring to go this weekend after coming off a bye and an extraordinary win over Wests in Round 4. Outplaying their opponents after ill-discipline and a number of errors in the first half, Easts were able to rally and starve Wests of the ball and shut them out of the game. This weekend proves another test for the boys from Griffith as they take on the red hot Royals team, however the inclusion of 5 contracted Brumbies players will be give Easts plenty of confidence that they can claim another victory for the season in front of their home crowd.

Royals displayed a great fighting spirit to come away with the points last weekend after Soakai Tai crossed after the siren to defeat Queanbeyan at Campese. Defeating the Whites at home is always a very tough asks for any team and Royals were very lucky considering they were down to 13 players at back end of the match. For this match Royals will see the return of Australian U20's player Tom Staniforth and inclusion of Brumbies contracted player Siliva Siliva to their already monstrous forward pack which will have a battle on their hands as Easts also possess a huge forward pack.

The last time these two teams played: Round 15, 2012 (Royals 46 –Easts 15)

Wests (6) v Uni-Norths (7), Jamison Oval, Jamison

First Grade: 3.15pm, Reserve Grade: 1.50pm, Colts: 12.25pm

After being touted as competition favourites, Wests have slipped back in the pack after suffering another loss last Saturday to Gungahlin. The loss now has Wests sitting in 6th place on the ladder with only 1 win. While the season is still young, the Lions will need to improve greatly if they are to consider themselves as genuine championship contenders. Coach Craig Robberds has made five team changes this week in hope of inspiring his side to a victory, Ray Dobson, Jeremy Tisdall and Jaxson Taylor have all been named in the forward pack with Brumbies contracted player Scott Fardy at Number 8. Joining Fardy will be team mate Pat McCabe who will slot into the fullbacks position.

Uni-Norths continue to struggle thus far after suffering yet another huge loss at the hands of Tuggeranong 52-5. Again the Owls were their own worst enemy continually turning the ball over and with poor execution. However, to their credit, after a slow start they managed to open up Vikings defence and also with stood numerous attacking raids. This weekend Uni-Norths have been boosted by the return of Jackson Te Huki and welcome Harry Ellis who is making his 1st grade Debut. Brumbies contracted players Tom Cox and Ian Prior will also run out for the Owls in this match.

The last time these two teams played: Round 18, 2012 (Wests 48 –Uni-Norths 11)