

John I Dent Cup Preview: Round 11



Saturday, 15th June, 2013

SKINS Match of the Round:

Royals (2) v Wests (3), Phillip Oval, Phillip

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

What a cracking game we have on the cards this weekend with Royals and Wests taking on each other as they battle for second place on the ladder in the Skins match of the round. With only 5 points separating the teams and both teams in form, despite a loss last weekend by Royals, we can expect this game to be a close encounter.

Royals were unable to stop the undefeated run of Tuggeranong last weekend, going down 13-17 in a match that had it all. Royals started the match off with a bang controlling the ball for over 15 phases before Tuggeranong even got their hands on the ball. However two easy tries to Tuggeranong soon after proved to be the difference in the end as both teams moved the ball around the park and were very physical. Royals have only made the one change this weekend with Michael Andrew-Copsy coming into the run on side.

Wests have continued their winning streaking after defeating a gallant Easts side 54-24. In a game that looked evenly contested as teams traded try for try in the 1st half, the Lions ran away with it in the in the 2nd half after holding Easts scoreless while scoring 28 unanswered points. Tim Small again went on a scoring rampage scoring a total of 19 point which included a try and 7/8 conversions. No changes have been made to the Wests this weekend.

The last time these two teams played: Round 2, 2013: (Wests 32 - Royals 14)

Tuggeranong (1) v Gungahlin (4), Viking Park, Erindale

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

In a very close encounter, Tuggeranong further put their stranglehold on the competition defeating 2nd place Royals away last weekend. With both teams not taking a backward step followed by great defensive efforts by Vikings, Tuggeranong were able to hold off a late charge by Royals and secure victory. Tuggeranong's Rodney Iona had a great game at fly half and as a result was awarded the Skins Man of the Match. Two changes have been made to the side that started last week with JP Praduad coming into the front row & John Field packing down as blindside.

Gungahlin have jumped 5 points clear to hold onto 4th spot on the ladder after their 35-13 win over the winless Owls. The Eagles always had control, shooting out to an early 14-3 lead before running away with it in the second half. Credit must be given to them for holding the Owls up over the line at crucial stages of the match. Boosted by the return of Matt Hawke, Xavier Duffy & Sean Connachie this week, Eagles will be very capable of using direct runners and an up tempo style game to get on top of Tuggeranong and hand them their first defeat.

The last time these two teams played: Round 2, 2013 (Tuggeranong 30 – Gungahlin 14)

Queanbeyan (5) v Easts (6), Campese Oval, Queanbeyan

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

With Queanbeyan coming out of a bye weekend, they have been able to work on the areas of their game that proved costly in there dramatic 3 point loss to Wests in Round 9. Sitting just outside the top four, this weekend's game proves crucial for both the Whites and Easts if they wish to stay in finals contention. Queanbeyan will be relying on key players such as Sam Windsor, Dan Penca & Les Makin to get the Whites back in the winners group seeing as they have lost their last two matches.

Easts have only themselves to blame after a disappointing loss to Wests last weekend. After leading late in the first half and with plenty of momentum, Easts allowed Wests to hit back and go into halftime with a slight lead. This changed the game as Wests went on to score 4 quick tries after half time. As a result, Easts were unable to find that rhythm that saw them secure a 4 try bonus point in the 1st half. Easts welcome back number 8 Jonno Naoupu this weekend who will add some stability in the forwards.

The last time these two teams played: Round 2, 2013 (Easts 15 - Queanbeyan 38)