



John I Dent Cup Preview: Round 13



Saturday, 29th June, 2013

SKINS Match of the Round:

Queanbeyan (5) v Gungahlin (4), Campese Field, Queanbeyan

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

After the grandstand finish in last weekend's match of the round, we have ourselves another blockbuster on the cards in Round 13, with Queanbeyan taking on Gungahlin. Renowned for their physicality and a very dangerous attacking structure, Queanbeyan and Gungahlin will not be holding back and will do anything to get the competition points. With only 3 points separating both teams and 6 rounds left to go, securing competition points will be crucial this weekend, as the loser of this match will be placed outside the top 4.

Queanbeyan have responded in the best possible way after their shock loss to Easts in round 11 with an impressive win over Royals at Phillip 29-14. Royals scored first and it looked as though it may have been a tough day at the office for the Whites, but to their credit and with the help of a double by Robbie Coleman, Queanbeyan rallied and were able to secure a vital 4 competition points. This weekend the Adam Fahey coached side will be looking to the confidence they gained from the victory last week to help them build momentum and consistency as they push for a spot in the top 4.

Gungahlin are back after a much needed week off after a humiliating defeat at the hands of Tuggeranong in Round 11, 71-28. With the scores separated by 1 point in the second half, Gungahlin were unable to stick with Vikings which resulted in a blow out score line. With time to work on key areas so such a thing doesn't happen again, the Eagles will no doubt come out firing as they will want to send a message they are still a force to be reckoned with in this competition.

The last time these two teams played: Round 6, 2013: (Gungahlin 12 – Queanbeyan 10)

Royals (3) v Easts (6), Phillip Oval, Phillip

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

Royals have now lost 3 consecutive matches and are sitting in 3rd spot after their disappointing loss to Queanbeyan in front of their home fans. Starting with a bang, Royals opened the scoring with a very well constructed backline play but from there Royals were unable to capitalise on their opportunities which eventually cost them. With Easts having a monstrous pack this weekend, Royals forwards will have to muscle up and dominate if they want to have any chance of breaking this losing streak. Due to injuries, a number of changes have been made with Teo Tai coming in for Sokai Tai and Jamie Bodman slotting in for Ben Johnston. Royals welcome back Siliva Siliva who will boost their front rower stocks for the match.

Easts have continued their promising season with a 45-15 win over Uni-Norths at Griffith last weekend. After having lack of field position and the Owls hot on the attack for the first 30 minutes, Easts were able to withstand the pressure and manage to go into half time with a 14-3 lead. From there, Easts never looked back and continued to frustrate the Owls and capitalise. Full of confidence having won back to back victories for the first time in years, Easts have named 4 of their allocated Brumbies players this weekend in their attempt to stay in touch with the top 4.

The last time these two teams played: Round 6, 2013 (Royals 26 – Easts 13)

Uni-Norths (7) v Wests (2), ANU North Oval

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

Uni-Norths produced one of their worst performances last Saturday, against Easts, in a game they could have easily won. While the score line tells a different story, the first 30 minutes the Owls were all over Easts. Poor execution cost the Owls as they were unable to turn pressure into points. To the Owls credit, they finished strongly scoring 2 tries, but it was all too little and too late for them. A much harder task is ahead of them this weekend with Wests, but with the addition of Brumbies Ian Prior and Tom Cox they will add some strength to crucial positions.

Wests surrendered a 7 point lead very late in the second half and lost in the final play of the game, 24-19, to Tuggeranong in a contender for game of the year. Wests had the chance to win the game but the field goal attempt stuck the upright giving Vikings one last chance to secure the win which they did in dramatic fashion. While the loss was disappointing, Wests can take a lot out of that game knowing that they are genuine title contenders. The lions welcome back Tim Small who will be playing half back this weekend instead of his usual fullback position which will be filled by Jimmy McAuliffe.

The last time these two teams played: Round 6, 2013 (Wests 43 – Uni-Norths 14)