



John I Dent Cup Preview: Round 18

Saturday, 10th August 2013



Match of the Round:

Gungahlin (5) v Wests (4) Nicholls Field, Nicholls

First Grade: 3:05pm, Reserve Grade: 1:40pm, Colts: 12:15pm

The round 18 Skins Match of the Round is not only one of the most important games of the season, but has the most at stake for both Gungahlin and Wests, as it directly impacts their chances of making the finals. For Gungahlin, if they don't win, it can almost guarantee their season is over, but if they win; Wests will have the tough task of securing a round 19 victory against Tuggeranong. With so much riding on this game, we can expect both teams to come out firing and won't be holding anything back.

Gungahlin suffered a heart breaking 26-21 loss at the hands of Royals last weekend in a match that could have gone either way. The loss now makes the Eagles chances of making the finals a lot tougher as this is their last match of the regular season before their bye in round 19. Mitch Connolly stood out for the Eagles against Royals scoring 11 of their 21 points and was also a constant threat in attack. Sticking to the same side as last week, the Eagles will be out to disrupt Wests renowned fast attacking style.

Coming off the bye, this has provided Wests with a great chance to freshen up and prepare for this must win match. The week prior, the Lions rejoined the winners circle defeating Easts 52-18, which saw Wests point scoring machine Tim Small rack up a total of 22 points which include 2 tries and 6 conversions. Wests welcome back from injury Dave McKern and Ben Coutts who will beef up their forward pack, who will be looking to dominate up front.

The last time these two teams played: Round 8 2013 (Wests 22 – Gungahlin 17)

Royals (2) v Uni-Norths (7) Phillip Oval, Phillip

First Grade: 3:05pm, Reserve Grade: 1:40pm, Colts: 12:15pm

Royals have backed up their impressive win over Vikings with a grinding 5 point victory over a desperate Gungahlin side. Blind side flanker Sokai Tai and centre Craig McMahon were stand outs for Royals, with Sokai being named 'Skins Man of the Match'. Sitting 5 points clear of Queanbeyan in second place, a win this weekend for Royals could potentially lock in second place for them, with other results going their way. Royals welcome Brumbies player Siliva Siliva into the run on side this weekend, but will be without standout performer Tom Cusack.

Uni-Norths again showed that while they remain winless this season, their attitude and efforts on the field continues to push teams for the full 80 minutes. Despite the score line showing a 55-22 defeat, the game itself demonstrated end to end rugby, however it was Queanbeyan who capitalised the most on their attacking opportunities. The Owls have a tough ask this weekend taking on a hot Royals outfit, but with nothing to lose, Uni-Norths will be looking to throw the ball around and disrupt Royals run to the final series.

The last time these two teams played: Round 8, 2013 (Royals 40- Uni-Norths 17)

Queanbeyan (3) v Tuggeranong (1) Campese Field, Queanbeyan

First Grade: 3:05pm, Reserve Grade: 1:40pm, Colts: 12:15pm

Queanbeyan are looking as one of the most dangerous teams in the latter part of the season as they haven't lost since their round 11 clash against Easts. This run of form has seen them climb up the ladder, and are now in a position to claim second spot on the ladder. This match against Tuggeranong though, will be a big test for the Whites and a win here will surely send a message to the rest of the finals bound teams.

Queanbeyan will welcome into their side Brumbies Leon Power and Robbie Coleman, who will not only boost the team's backs & forwards but will also be serious threats when it comes to set piece and counter attack.

After suffering their first loss of the year, Vikings have bounced back trouncing Easts 64-21 at Griffith. Tuggeranong are now 14 points clear at the top and again have secured the 1st Grade Minor Premiership for 2013. Captain Tim Cree has continued his amazing try scoring ability, scoring 3 of the 10 tries. Tim has now scored 3 or more tries in one match on three separate occasions this season. Tuggeranong, not to be outdone by Queanbeyan and their inclusions of Brumbies players, Vikings will have Colby Faingaa and Zach Holmes line up for them who will add leadership and experience to the side.

This match will be another very exciting affair and will give us an early preview for what is in store for the 2013 finals series

The last time these two teams played: Round 8 2013 (Tuggeranong 27 – Queanbeyan 10)