

## **Harcourt v Avoca**

Avoca make the trip to Harcourt on Saturday to meet the undefeated Lions who are taking all before them and it will be a tough task for the Bulldogs to win their fifth game of the season and keep their finals hopes alive.

The Bulldogs last game was a disappointing loss to Natte-Bealiba after a third quarter lapse was costly and will need a four-quarter effort against the Lions.

Avoca and Harcourt have played each other twenty-four times since 2005 with the Lions winning on fourteen occasions and Avoca winning nine times with one draw.

Harcourt has had the upper hand in recent years, but Avoca did win in 2018. A lot of time has passed since that last win and Harcourt are sitting second on the ladder undefeated with a massive percentage of 468% as they average twenty-one goals a game. In comparison, Avoca has a percentage of just 133% and averaging fifteen goals per game.

Mathematically Harcourt is tipped to win the encounter, and should do so quite comfortably/

Harcourt's defence is the best in the League only allowing 36 goals to be scored against them and they will provide a tough challenge for Avoca's key goal kickers.

Avoca's defence has allowed one hundred and two goals through in their nine games, and they will have a tough challenge against the likes of Zac Denahy with thirty-six goals and Benny Leech with thirty-three goals.

The Lions have many other avenues to goal, and it could be a very hard day at the office for the Bulldogs defenders.

## **Navarre v Talbot**

Talbot travel to Navarre in what could be the game of the round as both teams appear to be evenly placed on the ladder.

Navarre and Talbot have played eleven games since 2011 with the Grasshoppers winning eleven times and the Hawks have only won twice.

Navarre has obviously had the upper hand over the Hawks during the past ten years, but Talbot has evened the playing field in recent times with wins in two of their past three games.

Currently Navarre has won three games for the season with Talbot winning four games, including victories in their last two games.

Navarre has also only kicked fifty-eight goals in the nine games played, while Talbot has kicked one hundred and two goals, so Talbot takes an advantage into the game up forward.

Talbot has had ninety-five goals scored against while Navarre's back half has allowed one hundred and thirty-six goals through so the defensive figures favour Talbot as well.

The figures only mean something depending on injuries and availability and Navarre has been affected by several their players working in the mines, and if they have a full quota of players and playing at home could have a big bearing on the match.

Although two of Talbot's victories over the Grasshoppers have been at Navarre so they will have no fear of the away venue.

The break for the covid lockdown will allow both teams to enter the game fully fit and rested and they will both be looking forward to getting back on the park.

Talbot are higher up the ladder and will be favoured to win their third ever game against the Grasshoppers on Saturday.

### **Dunolly v Maldon**

It has been a very tough season for the winless Eagles, and it doesn't look likely to improve in a hurry when they host Maldon at Deledio Park on Saturday.

The Eagles sit at the bottom of the ladder while Maldon sit comfortably in fourth place after a massive seventy-five-point victory over fifth place Lexton in their last encounter.

The Bombers are also unveiling recruit and former Bomber Julian Lockwood who returns to Maldon this season after time away in the Northern Territory, where he played top level football with Nightcliff and the Northern Territory Thunder.

Lockwood is a one-hundred and ninety-eight centimetre forward-ruck and will certainly create turmoil for the Eagles defence on Saturday when they now must worry about a two-pronged forward line of Rhys Ford and Lockwood.

Tyson Cope has been leading the way in the Ruck for Dunolly and will also have a challenge against the height and leap of Lockwood, but will no doubt give his all as he tends to thrive on the challenge put before him.

The Eagles have not fared well against teams in the top four this season and their highest score against the top teams was 4.6.(30) against Harcourt, but the Lions kicked forty goals in that game.

It is quite possible that Maldon could be kicking a big percentage booster on Saturday as they look to finish off the remaining home and away season games strongly.

### **Maryborough Rovers def by Natte Bealiba**

Natte Bealiba went bang in Saturday's senior football return, with the Swans eclipsing Maryborough Rovers 5.4 (34) to 35.17 (227) at Jubilee Oval.

The Swans knew they were in for a big one, planning a rise up the ladder, now needing to finish top six to defend their reigning premiership title.

A 193-point win has done it, with opening and closing 10-goal quarters being the best scoring highlights of the day.

Rovers went scoreless in the opening quarter, but dug deep to put up a score against a classy side to honour club legend Brad Fraser who pulled on the boots for his 350th senior game.

Known for his forward abilities, currently leading Rovers' goalkicking after just two games, Fraser got on the board on Saturday despite playing all over the ground and was celebrated by both sets of players for a career spanning more than three decades.

Rovers' best in a high-spirited game were Alex Mahony, Jack Dawson, Marshall Murray, Reece Perry and coach Brendon Hedger.

Kieran Johns, Chris Scragg, Murray, Fraser and Brent Hudson were the Pies' goalkickers with one apiece.

It was a massive debut for Jayden Templeton who kicked a bag of 10 in his first game for the Swans since moving over from Maryborough to lead scoring ahead of assistant coach Trent Mortlock who kicked seven and Jye Mortlock kicked five.

Votes went to Templeton, Kegan Ross, Trent Mortlock, Jarrod Bateson (1), Jaxon Stewart and Mitch Olafsen (3).

Natte is now in sixth place and will have to fend off Newstead next round to sustain this ranking while Rovers will brace for another tough game against seventh placed Talbot.

### **Newstead def by Lexton**

It'd been 51 long days since the boys at Lexton had sung their song with the side seizing their chance to get back onto the winners list over Newstead on Saturday.

Going down to Maldon in the last round before back-to-back lockdowns, the Tigers were itching to get back into it at the weekend and had a big day out in front of goals to take a 59-point win at home.

Kicking truly to open with four goals straight, the home side had the early lead with the Kangaroos kicking 2.4 (16).

The Roos were kept to a single minor score for the whole second term, all the while Lexton put up 4.4 (28) to lead by 35 points at half time.

The Steaders just needed a break and were back amongst it in the third, however inaccuracy saw them kick 2.4 (16) falling far behind the Tiges who slotted 5.4 (34).

A 53-point lead backed Lexton in for a comfortable closing term, marginally outscoring their visitors 3.4 (22) to 2.4 (16) for the 16.12 (108) to 6.13 (49) win.

The Kangas really struggled to put up majors and have no chance of playing finals, currently ranked ninth with one game left of their season.

Mitch Stevens had another good game for the Roos, as did Joel Smith, Jedd Pedretti, Rhys Smith and Matt Schembri made a great impact in his first senior game for the side.

Brad Richardson was best in front of the big sticks with three goals.

The Tigers, now ranked fourth on the ladder will face third-placed Carisbrook this weekend in a massive clash, while Newstead will play Natte Bealiba in its last game of the year, dealt the bye in round 12.

Lexton's scoring and votes wasn't uploaded.

### **Royal Park def by Trentham**

Trentham's undefeated run into finals has continued with the Saints handing Royal Park a 97-point loss in the first round back.

The Tigers trailed by 21 points at quarter time and the side was able to sustain this exact margin into half time with both teams scoring 12 points in the second term, for Park that was two goals and for Trentham that was one goal and six behinds.

This must've riled up at the visitors who put on an explosive second half to take a near triple-figure win.

Park put up just one goal a quarter in the second half of the match, falling behind to 6.4 (40) from the Saints in the third, doubling their entire score and finishing it off with a 7.6 (48) closer for the 5.1 (31) to 18.20 (128) victory.

Joel Cowan was named best on for the Saints, followed by Taylor Ford, Riley Matricardi, Ryan Bourke, Lewis Bruton and Alister Ferrier with Jake Keogh and Ferrier leading the way up forward with five and three goals respectively.

Luke Parker got votes for Bushy, followed by Luke Relouw, Ryan Guareschi, Jackson Lanfranchi, Jay Anderson and Karson Guareschi who kicked a bag of three.

The Saints are ranked second, only behind undefeated Harcourt in first, while Royal Park are in 11<sup>th</sup> and any previous finals hopes are well and truly dashed.

The Saints will face Harcourt in a blockbuster, while Park has the bye and will finish the year off with the chance for a win against Dunolly.