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GRAND FINAL

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GRAND FINAL WELCOME

Welcome everyone to the 2019 Griffin Legal John I Dent Cup Grand Final day here at Viking Park in Erindale. It's been an incredible twelve-months in club rugby, and we extend our congratulations to all the teams who have made their way through the finals series to be here with us this afternoon. The action has been fast, tough and exciting and a real credit to all involved.

As usual, it's not just at the Premier Division First Grade level, the Griffin Legal John I Dent Cup, that we will crown our champions today as we feature matches from Colts, Second Grade, First Division First and Second Grade and the Women's Premiership with each Grand Final clash offering its own unique characteristics and intriguing possibilities.

Wednesday night saw the crowning of our 2019 MacDougall Medal winner at The Rex Hotel, where we also honoured the great and the good of the 2019 club rugby season. You can read about the winner of the MacDougall Medal on page 17 of this souvenir Grand Final publication.

Once again, we have produced a brilliant accompaniment to Finals day and I'd like to thank our Media team of Editor Russ Gibbs, contributor Rian Murphy and Designer Chelsea Wilson for their efforts in compiling Stampede throughout the year.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank everyone in the Community Rugby Department at the Brumbies along with the Community Rugby Committee for their support throughout the season. Most importantly however, thank you to everyone in club land from the administrators, players and volunteers for all your efforts throughout the season in continuing to make club rugby in the ACT&NSW region a vibrant competition that we should all be proud of. Today is the culmination of a wonderful club campaign and I hope you enjoy the action on the field.

Mathew Vowles

Competitions & Rugby Services Manager

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STAMPEDE 2019

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ORDER OF EVENTS

FIRST DIVISION SECOND GRADE

GRAND FINAL

Queanbeyan Whites v Western District Lions

Kick-Off: 9:35am

(Field 2)

FIRST DIVISION FIRST GRADE GRAND FINAL

Gungahlin Eagles v Goulburn Dirty Reds

Kick-Off: 11:25am

(Field 2)

COLTS GRAND FINAL

Canberra Royals v Queanbeyan Whites

Kick-Off: 11:35am

(Field 1)

WOMEN'S GRAND FINAL

Uni-Norths Owls v Canberra Royals

Kick-Off: 1:15pm

(Field 2)

SECOND GRADE GRAND FINAL

Tuggeranong Vikings v Gungahlin Eagles

Kick-Off: 1:25pm

(Field 1)

GRIFFIN LEGAL JOHN I DENT CUP

Canberra Royals v Tuggeranong

Vikings

Kick-Off: 3:25pm

(Field 1)



FLASHBACK: 60 YEARS AGO — 1959 GRAND FINAL

Queanbeyan convincingly defeated Canberra Royals by 21-14 to win the 1959 A.C.T.R.U. first grade premiership. Behind 11-6 at half time, Queanbeyan scored two tries in the opening minutes of the second half. This was the inspiration the team needed, and for the remainder of the match the Whites always looked the better side. Queanbeyan, following their kick off, penned Royals on their 25 line. A penalty against Hansen for offside, two minutes from the start, gave Armour an easy chance and Queanbeyan the lead. A penalty by Armour went wide and then from a lineup the ball flew across Royals' backline to go to ground in the corner. Ingram gathered the bounce to dive over and Queanbeyan led 6-0 after 28 minutes. From a ruck on Queanbeyan's 25 Hawke came on the blind side. O'Keefe's pass to Meere hit the ground but the winger fielded the ball and flashed over in the corner and Royals were in the game with the score 6-3.

Then suddenly Royals came to life with what was destined to be the only "purple patch" of the game. Well inside their own half Maguire, Hawke and Hansen made ground with Hansen handling the ball twice before in-passing to Douch who flashed into the movement from the full back

position to cap a typical Royals movement with a try between the posts. Keeley converted and Royals led 8-6 after 35 minutes. Royals continued to look dangerous for the remainder of this period and three extra points came their way with a penalty against Morton for a late tackle of Hawke gave Keeley an easy chance and at the break Royals led 11-6. Action came immediately in the second half. Queanbeyan stormed Royals line and a minute after play began R. Rogers was over in the corner. Queanbeyan came again in similar fashion from the kick off and Rogers duplicated his try to put Queanbeyan in front 12-11. Rudd then swooped on a dropped pass to go over and put the Whites further ahead. The end for the Blues came when S. Rogers received the ball to come infield through a breaking ruck to pass to Weekes for the winger to go over and at 18-11 the game was safe for Queanbeyan.

RESULT

Queanbeyan 21 (T: K. Ingram, R. Rogers (2), I. Rudd, J. Wickes, P: I. Armour (2)) Royals 14 (T: P. Meere, A. Douch, C: W. Keeley, P: W. Keeley (2))

From Canberra Times, Monday 7 September 1959

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ACROSS THE STREET ACROSS THE WORLD

MANUKA OVAL

GRAND FINALS

RESERVE GRADE (SPENCE CUP) — 1.45 P.M.

ANGIELE V. CANBERRA ROYALS
(Official Result)

<p>Full Backs</p> <p>1—D. MARTIN</p> <p>2—D. TIDER</p> <p>3—A. LAMB</p> <p>4—N. GIBBYAN</p> <p>5—D. BISHOP</p> <p>6—J. HARTLEY</p> <p>7—B. ROBERTS</p> <p>8—P. FERRIER</p> <p>9—T. SCOTT (c)</p> <p>10—E. EVAN</p> <p>11—J. RUTY</p> <p>12—M. MARTIN</p> <p>13—M. WILKINSON</p> <p>14—E. HAMILTON</p> <p>15—R. ANTONIS</p>	<p>Forwards</p> <p>1—E. BODMAN</p> <p>2—A. CHALKER</p> <p>3—K. HAMILTON</p> <p>4—T. O'KEEFE</p> <p>5—D. BRINGLEY</p> <p>6—D. REED</p> <p>7—K. BRADLEY</p> <p>8—J. SEAFORD</p> <p>9—R. BROWN (c)</p> <p>10—R. GILBERT</p> <p>11—R. HOBBS</p> <p>12—R. HAMILTON</p> <p>13—G. RAGGETT</p> <p>14—T. BROWN</p> <p>15—J. LANGHAM</p>
---	---



D. M. Blake

FIRST GRADE (JOHN I. DENT MEM. CUP)

QUEANBEYAN V. CANBERRA ROYALS
(Official Result)

<p>Full Backs</p> <p>1—P. RYAN</p> <p>2—R. ROGERS</p> <p>3—J. ARMOUR (c)</p> <p>4—J. BROWN</p> <p>5—J. WICKES</p> <p>6—K. INGRAM</p> <p>7—G. NEWMARNA</p> <p>8—J. RUDD</p> <p>9—S. ROGERS</p> <p>10—P. MORTON</p> <p>11—R. MAGRATH</p> <p>12—P. WOODWARD</p> <p>13—C. MAXWELL</p> <p>14—D. WOODFIELD</p> <p>15—R. INGRAM</p>	<p>Forwards</p> <p>1—A. R. DOUCH (c)</p> <p>2—P. ANDERSON</p> <p>3—R. WEAVER</p> <p>4—N. J. HANSEN</p> <p>5—P. M. MEERE</p> <p>6—K. E. HAWKE</p> <p>7—J. MAGUIRE</p> <p>8—J. FOSTER</p> <p>9—P. BLOOMFIELD</p> <p>10—M. KEELEY</p> <p>11—R. WILEY</p> <p>12—R. WILSON</p> <p>13—G. DAVEN</p> <p>14—R. KENNANE</p> <p>15—D. CHISHOLM</p>
---	--

Referee: Mr. R. R. COOK
Touch Judges: D. TIDER, J. SMITH

Referee: Mr. D. M. BLAKE
Touch Judges: R. MARCELLEN, J. LAUTITT

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FLASHBACK: 50 YEARS AGO — 1969 GRAND FINAL

Western District completed a tremendous season when it overwhelmed Ainslie in the first 15 minutes of the rugby union grand final at Manuka Oval on Saturday to take a grip on the premiership which from then on it never relinquished. Wests won the match 27-6. In the most devastating opening to a grand final I have ever witnessed, they scored three tries in the first 15 minutes to go to an 11-0 lead and virtually wrap up the premiership. From the opening whistle play was locked in the Ainslie 25yd area and it was no surprise when, from a lineout close to the Ainslie line, winger Bob Barlow dived over to score West's first try in the eighth minute. Wests kept up the pressure and tries by centre Garry Thomas in the 13th and 15th minutes and a conversion by fullback Jim Smith put the side in an almost unbeatable position. Wests made it 14-0 when Ainslie breakaway Chris Norman was caught off side in a lineout and Smith kicked a good penalty.

Ainslie looked like ending (he first half scoreless when fullback Mick Craft, gathering the ball on his own 25, saw a gap in the defence and streaked through with centre Jim Badger in support. Craft got the ball away inside to Badger and, as Smith moved in to tackle him, Badger passed to second-

rower Barry Gallagher who ranged up inside him. Showing a good turn of speed for a forward Gallagher raced away from the defence to score a great try. In the second half, however, Wests took control again. Ainslie had no answer to the pace of the Wests backs. Thomas added a try, Smith kicked two goals and a penalty goal and Lubans capped a great game by scoring one of Wests' rare forward tries. Stuart Pasfield landed a penalty for Ainslie, but Wests were untroubled to win.

RESULT

West's 27 (T: Bob Barlow, Garry Thomas (3), George Lubans, C: Jim Smith (3). P: Jim Smith (2)) Ainslie 6 (T: Barry Gallagher, P: Scott Pasfield)

From Canberra Times, Monday 15 September 1969

THE ACT

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PAGE 5

GRAND FINAL TEAMS

WESTS

16. S. McInnes
17. G. Lums
18. J. Kennedy
19. L. Landon
20. M. Maguire
21. M. McIlwain
22. G. Neeson
23. S. Perloff
24. M. Carter

VS

AINSLIE

25. B. Hansen
26. P. Miller
27. M. Smith
28. G. Gallagher
29. G. Williams
30. G. Gordon
31. G. Thorne
32. J. Butler
33. G. Shaw
34. M. Cuth
35. G. Crossbie

AT MANUKU Oval

13.30 pm
Friday 12 November

1. D. Harte
2. R. Heffernan
3. D. Eaves
4. G. Thorne
5. A. Adams
6. G. Shaw
7. M. Cuth
8. Crossbie

9. J. Kennedy
10. M. Maguire
11. M. McIlwain
12. G. Neeson
13. S. Perloff
14. M. Carter
15. G. Williams
16. S. McInnes
17. G. Lums
18. J. Kennedy
19. L. Landon
20. M. Maguire
21. M. McIlwain
22. G. Neeson
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25. B. Hansen
26. P. Miller
27. M. Smith
28. G. Gallagher
29. G. Williams
30. G. Gordon
31. G. Thorne
32. J. Butler
33. G. Shaw
34. M. Cuth
35. G. Crossbie

Get more information about the ACT Budget News and the ACT Budget News website.

Team Ainslie
M4 A13, M1, G1, G2, G3, G4, G5, G6, G7, G8, G9, G10, G11, G12, G13, G14, G15, G16, G17, G18, G19, G20, G21, G22, G23, G24, G25, G26, G27, G28, G29, G30, G31, G32, G33, G34, G35, G36, G37, G38, G39, G40, G41, G42, G43, G44, G45, G46, G47, G48, G49, G50, G51, G52, G53, G54, G55, G56, G57, G58, G59, G60, G61, G62, G63, G64, G65, G66, G67, G68, G69, G70, G71, G72, G73, G74, G75, G76, G77, G78, G79, G80, G81, G82, G83, G84, G85, G86, G87, G88, G89, G90, G91, G92, G93, G94, G95, G96, G97, G98, G99, G100, G101, G102, G103, G104, G105, G106, G107, G108, G109, G110, G111, G112, G113, G114, G115, G116, G117, G118, G119, G120, G121, G122, G123, G124, G125, G126, G127, G128, G129, G130, G131, G132, G133, G134, G135, G136, G137, G138, G139, G140, G141, G142, G143, G144, G145, G146, G147, G148, G149, G150, G151, G152, G153, G154, G155, G156, G157, G158, G159, G160, G161, G162, G163, G164, G165, G166, G167, G168, G169, G170, G171, G172, G173, G174, G175, G176, G177, G178, G179, G180, G181, G182, G183, G184, G185, G186, G187, G188, G189, G190, G191, G192, G193, G194, G195, G196, G197, G198, G199, G200, G201, G202, G203, G204, G205, G206, G207, G208, G209, G210, G211, G212, G213, G214, G215, G216, G217, G218, G219, G220, G221, G222, G223, G224, G225, G226, G227, G228, G229, G230, G231, G232, G233, G234, G235, G236, G237, G238, G239, G240, G241, G242, G243, G244, G245, G246, G247, G248, G249, G250, G251, G252, G253, G254, G255, G256, G257, G258, G259, G260, G261, G262, G263, G264, G265, G266, G267, G268, G269, G270, G271, G272, G273, G274, G275, G276, G277, G278, G279, G280, G281, G282, G283, G284, G285, G286, G287, G288, G289, G290, G291, G292, G293, G294, G295, G296, G297, G298, G299, G300, G301, G302, G303, G304, G305, G306, G307, G308, G309, G310, G311, G312, G313, G314, G315, G316, G317, G318, G319, G320, G321, G322, G323, G324, G325, G326, G327, G328, G329, G330, G331, G332, G333, G334, G335, G336, G337, G338, G339, G340, G341, G342, G343, G344, G345, G346, G347, G348, G349, G350, G351, G352, G353, G354, G355, G356, G357, G358, G359, G360, G361, G362, G363, G364, G365, G366, G367, G368, G369, G370, G371, G372, G373, G374, G375, G376, G377, G378, G379, G380, G381, G382, G383, G384, G385, G386, G387, G388, G389, G390, G391, G392, G393, G394, G395, G396, G397, G398, G399, G400, G401, G402, G403, G404, G405, G406, G407, G408, G409, G410, G411, G412, G413, G414, G415, G416, G417, G418, G419, G420, G421, G422, G423, G424, G425, G426, G427, G428, G429, G430, G431, G432, G433, G434, G435, G436, G437, G438, G439, G440, G441, G442, G443, G444, G445, G446, G447, G448, G449, G450, G451, G452, G453, G454, G455, G456, G457, G458, G459, G460, G461, G462, G463, G464, G465, G466, G467, G468, G469, G470, G471, G472, G473, G474, G475, G476, G477, G478, G479, G480, G481, G482, G483, G484, G485, G486, G487, G488, G489, G490, G491, G492, G493, G494, G495, G496, G497, G498, G499, G500, G501, G502, G503, G504, G505, G506, G507, G508, G509, G510, G511, G512, G513, G514, G515, G516, G517, G518, G519, G520, G521, G522, G523, G524, G525, G526, G527, G528, G529, G530, G531, G532, G533, G534, G535, G536, G537, G538, G539, G540, G541, G542, G543, G544, G545, G546, G547, G548, G549, G550, G551, G552, G553, G554, G555, G556, G557, G558, G559, G560, G561, G562, G563, G564, G565, G566, G567, G568, G569, G570, G571, G572, G573, G574, G575, G576, G577, G578, G579, G580, G581, G582, G583, G584, G585, G586, G587, G588, G589, G590, G591, G592, G593, G594, G595, G596, G597, G598, G599, G600, G601, G602, G603, G604, G605, G606, G607, G608, G609, G610, G611, G612, G613, G614, G615, G616, G617, G618, G619, G620, G621, G622, G623, G624, G625, G626, G627, G628, G629, G630, G631, G632, G633, G634, G635, G636, G637, G638, G639, G640, G641, G642, G643, G644, G645, G646, G647, G648, G649, G650, G651, G652, G653, G654, G655, G656, G657, G658, G659, G660, G661, G662, G663, G664, G665, G666, G667, G668, G669, G670, G671, G672, G673, G674, G675, G676, G677, G678, G679, G680, G681, G682, G683, G684, G685, G686, G687, G688, G689, G690, G691, G692, G693, G694, G695, G696, G697, G698, G699, G700, G701, G702, G703, G704, G705,



George Laboss (Western District), left, and Stuart Pasfield (Alindie), contest a lineout in the RU grand final at Manuka Oval on Saturday.

FLASHBACK: 40 YEARS AGO — 1979 GRAND FINAL

Royals' 13-12 win against Queanbeyan in the ACT rugby union grand final yesterday was the more impressive because the team of relatively young and inexperienced players came from behind to shrug off immense pressure. They grabbed two of the very few chances presented them in a very tight but surprisingly open and totally absorbing game and grabbed them when Queanbeyan's first senior premiership in 20 years seemed only a formality and only seconds away. They also came back when they had shown every sign of panic and dejection, so, fittingly capped a great season and, with the dejected Queanbeyan men, sculpted one of those games which will be talked about for years to come. Queanbeyan, which had so dominated the match and seemed so to deserve to win, relaxed their hitherto unrelenting pressure almost imperceptibly.

With injury time running out they gave Michael O'Connor the inch and he took the field goal that marked the mile-long difference between being the premiers and being, under the Australian system, nothing. it was a climactic ending to a game which had shown an exceptionally large and excited crowd just about every aspect of the code. Queanbeyan took the lead at three, minutes when John Maguire kicked a penalty.

Then David Wilson equalised at 10 minutes. He missed at 20 and Maguire put Queanbeyan ahead at 32. It stayed Queanbeyan 6, Royals 3, at halftime. Maguire missed at four minutes of the second half, Wilson at nine. Berry scored at 31 minutes with this converted to a penalty try, which Maguire converted to give Queanbeyan a 12-3 lead. O'Connor kicked a penalty goal at 34 minutes, scored ..his try at 37i minutes and at 45 minutes of elapsed time, cool and calm, dropped the goal which gained the premiership.

RESULT

Royals 13 (T: Michael O'Connor P: David Wilson,
Michael O'Connor, DG: Michael O'Connor)
Queanbeyan 12 (T: Penalty-Try, C: John Maguire P:
John Maguire (2))

From Canberra Times, Sunday 9 September 1979

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GRANDSEVEN

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1st Grade

1st Grade

1st Grade

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REVVALS

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EXVALS

1st Grade

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Price
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1979

THE A.C.T.

**RUGBY
NEWS**

*Col Perman makes a break against Wales. Note the close support of the A.C.T. forwards.
A Ken Wood photo.*

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Clark featured again in the next try at 15 minutes. Serviced well by a pack which knew only forward gear, halfback David Kinnane spun maul ball. Clark dashed through and would have scored if he had not slipped on his third side-step. He went down, the forwards poured in to gain the scrum

feed. They then won ball quickly and neatly, yet again. John Ross picked up, hinted at a feint right but went straight over for a soft try and an easy Moore conversion. It was 12-3. Daramalan rallied but could not beat Roche, Ross or Kani Ferris to the ball, nor overcome the tight five of Stewart Thomas, Dean Merrilees, Geoff Didier, Jim Taylor and a fanatically dedicated Matt Rainey, playing his best game of my experience. Fulivai's try came at 34 minutes after a sharp Daramalan rally. He turned an orthodox back move into a beautifully choreographed solo, pivoting round and through tackles to the line.. It was a matter of playing time out until Roche could be deservedly hoisted into ACT Rugby Union's history.

RESULT

Royals 12 (T: Anthony Hofmeier, John Ross, C: Anthony Moore (2)) Daramalan 7 (T: Albert Fulivai, P: Adam Friend)

From Canberra Times, Sunday 17 September 1989

	<h1>CANBERRA BUILDING SOCIETY</h1> <p><small>CANBERRA BUILDINGS TO LIVABLE BUILDING SOCIETY</small></p> <h2>CBS RUGBY COMPETITION</h2>	
<h3>FIRST GRADE GRAND FINAL</h3> <p>"John D'Arcy Cup"</p> <p>MANUKA Oval - SATURDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER, 1989</p> <p>2.30 P.M.</p> <p><small>(Weather dependent - subject to change without notice)</small></p>		
<p>DARAMALAN</p> <p>Fullback 15 ADAM FRIEND Winger 20 MICK PEENEY Centre 13 ALBERT FIDELLIA Centre 12 CRAIG HALL Prop 10 TERRY COLE Five Eighth 10 GLEN CAREY Half Back Number 8 9 ANTHONY MCCORMACK Number 6 STEVE HUNT Flanker 7 PETER O'NEILL Hooker 11 TERRY COLE Lock 5 PHIL JOHNSTONE Lock 4 MARK DOWNES Prop 3 CRAIG TODD Hooker 2 PETER HOKE Number 1 LEIGH DONNELLAN (C) Coach: BRENDAN MAGUIRE</p>	<h2>DARAMALAN v ROYALS</h2> <hr/> <p>GUILTY</p> <p>SORTS COATS</p> <p><small>THESE ARE THE NAMES OF THE PLAYERS WHO WERE CONVICTED FOR BREACHING THE RULES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND/OR THE RUGBY REGULATIONS IN THE PREVIOUS SEASON.</small></p> <p>RODER DUFFIN</p> <p><small>MEMBER OF THE CLUB SINCE 1981</small></p>	<p>ROYALS</p> <p>Fullback 15 MATTHEW PINN Winger 14 ANTHONY HOMERIE Centre 13 GREG CUNY Centre 12 ANDREW CLARK Prop 11 PHILIP LUTHERTON Five Eighth 10 ANTHONY MOORE Half Back Number 8 9 DAVID KIRKANE Number 6 JOHN ROSS Flanker 7 MICHAEL HOCH (C) Hooker 11 KEVIN TERRIS Lock 5 STEWART THOMAS Lock 4 DEAN MERRILLS Prop 3 GUY OGDIER Hooker 2 JIM TAYLOR Number 1 MATTHEW RABNEY Coach: KIM THURSDON Manager: ALEX STEVENSON</p>

RUGBY NEWS

VOLUME 38 PRICE \$2.00 NUMBER 24



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY RUGBY UNION

**CANBERRA BUILDING SOCIETY
RUGBY COMPETITION**



Grand

Final



Manuka

Oval

Saturday, 16 September, 1989



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ROYALS



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ROLANDO WINS MACDOUGALL MEDAL

Canberra Royals sharp-shooter Pedro Rolando has claimed the 2019 MacDougall medal, presented to him this week during the annual Awards Ceremony held at the Rex Hotel in Canberra.

The scrum-half also scooped yet another Gus Vallance Memorial Trophy at the 2019 MacDougall Medal Awards, the silverware presented to the highest points scorer in the first-grade competition, the unerring boot of the Canberra Royals scrumhalf being a major factor in the Royals charge towards finals football.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the South American has been a mainstay for the Royals for a number of years now and was initially capped at NRC level in 2017 and will likely compete at that level again this season. An experienced head, Rolando is often tasked with guiding the younger players around the park when called upon.

Rolando's haul of 212 points, included nine tries as well as a plethora of points from his metronomic boot, putting him well clear of his closest challenge for the Medal, Tuggeranong Vikings scrumhalf Ryan Lonergan.

VITAL STATISTICS

Club: Canberra Royals

Position: Scrumhalf

DOB: 21/6/1989

Birthplace: Buenos Aires, Argentina

Height: 172cm

Weight: 80kg

School: Colegio San Felipe Apostol, Don Torcuato, Buenos Aires, Argentina

NRC Caps: 6

NRC Points: 9 (1T, 2C)

Canberra Viking#: 79

Canberra Vikings Debut: 2017 v Queensland Country (Viking Park, Canberra)

Canberra Vikings Caps: 6

Canberra Vikings Points: 9 (1T, 2C)

Representative Honours: Brumbies Runners, Brumbies 7s, Seleccionado de Buenos Aires (Argentina)



'GPS have clinched the Australian club rugby championship with a magnificent fightback against the fancied Sydney Uni, clawing back from a 17-point deficit in the second half.' So read the opening paragraph of a report on rugby.com.au last March as the Queenslanders saw off the challenge of NSW Champions Sydney University to be crowned 'Australian Club Champions'.

It's unarguable that GPS are a quality side and deserve the mantle, but wouldn't it be great if one of our own, our club rugby Champions from the Griffin Legal John I Dent Cup, were given a chance to compete and claim the title? Canberra Royals and Tuggeranong Vikings, winners of the local competition in the past two seasons, would surely have given GPS or Sydney University a run for their money.

But why stop there? The Dewar Shield Champions from Victoria could be invited to the party. For example, Melbourne RFC who are favourites for the Shield would be a worthy opponent for any of the aforementioned club-sides and, there's the potential for further expansion with the winners

of the other State and territories in Australia being given a shot.

The FFA, the guardians of the round-ball code in Australia, currently have a similar competition in progress where the league champions, those who finish top of the respective round-robin from NSW, ACT, Queensland, Northern NSW, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia meet in a free-draw knockout finals series.

The Quarter Finals is drawn randomly whilst the hosts for the semi-finals are determined via a formula relating to time of winning (normal time, extra time or penalties), goals scored and allowed, and yellow/red cards. This competition, in its infancy, has yet to catch the imagination as much as the FFA Cup, but allows local players to shine on the national stage.

Costs, of course, would need to be taken into consideration, but there must be a sponsor out there who would like the opportunity to promote their brand nationally, opening the doors of their business to prospective new customers by

sponsoring the naming rights of something that is unique and would tap into the spirit of grassroots rugby, club-land, where the badge on your jersey is the be-all and end-all.

Format would be key, perhaps there would be a dispensation into the latter stages for the 'big boys' from New South Wales and Queensland, straight to the semi-finals, the other teams playing a series of matches depending on respective strengths of the unions to fill the remaining two spots. That way any major miss-matches could be avoided.

All of this, and potentially broadcast nationally via Fox Sports and their subsidiaries, even rugby.com.au might be keen to show fixtures, and getting free-to-air coverage would be crucial, could bring yet more attention to the burgeoning club game, bring interest in the sport and, just maybe, give a reinvigoration to the rugby fan and encourage them to visit their local Super Rugby club.

At the moment it's all pie in the sky. The costs for the Club Championships as it was run in 2018 were funded by the two competing teams. That shouldn't have to happen. To promote the sport and expand its horizons beyond the often-myopic interest of each state, something that is different, accessible and with the potential to offer intrigue, and the exotic and unknown, is surely worth exploring further. With the NRC in need of re-vamp, is club rugby, and a national's finals series the way ahead?

POTENTIAL AUSTRALIAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS

Based on the respective ladders of each State and Territory at the time of publication

VICTORIA: Melbourne RFC

NSW: Sydney University

ACT: Tuggeranong Vikings

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Palmyra

QUEENSLAND: Brothers

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Brighton RUFC

TASMANIA: Devonport Bulls

NORTHERN TERRITORY: South Darwin

POTENTIAL AUSTRALIAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW

Week 1

Match 1: Western Australia [Palmyra] v Tasmania [Devonport Bulls]

Match 2: Northern Territory [South Darwin] v South Australia [Brighton RUFC]

Week 2 – home advantage to be decided via draw

Match 3: Western Australia/Tasmania [Palmyra/Devonport Bulls] v ACT [Tuggeranong Vikings]

Match 4: Northern Territory/South Australia [South Darwin/Brighton RUFC] v Victoria [Melbourne RFC]

Week 3 – home advantage to be decided via draw

Match 5: Winner of Match 3 v Queensland [Brothers]

Match 6: Winners of Match 4 v NSW [Sydney University]

Week 4 – GRAND FINAL

Match 7: Winner of Match 5 v Winner of Match 6





NATIONAL RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW CONFIRMED FOR 2019 SEASON

The Canberra Vikings National Rugby Championship challenge for 2019 will begin with a visit to Melbourne to take on the Rising and will include four home matches, all at Viking Park, as the latest instalment of the exciting competition gets underway in late August. A popular feature of the NRC will be continuing the use of suburban grounds, bringing fans closer to the action with all the benefits of Club Rugby. One match per round will be broadcast LIVE on FOX SPORTS with the remaining games to be shown LIVE on Kayo Sports and RUGBY.com.au.

The 2019 season will open with a NSW derby between Sydney and the NSW Country Eagles at Apex Oval in Dubbo. Last year's runners up, Queensland Country start their campaign in Perth against the Western Force, whilst the Vikings take on Melbourne Rising. Two of the Vikings home matches will precede Wallabies fixtures at the Rugby World Cup with the matches against Fiji Drua, on Saturday 28 September, and Sydney, on Saturday 5 October being played with mid-day kick-offs as Australia meet Fiji and Uruguay in Pool encounters in Japan at 2.45pm on the same day.

Rugby Australia will also trial two law variations for World Rugby in this year's NRC with law 21 amended and an introduction of a 50:22 kicking play. Law 21 will change to see the defending team be rewarded for good defence with a goal line drop out when the ball is held up in the in-goal area. A 50:22 will reward a team that kicks the ball indirectly from open play or a free-kick from within their own half and the ball reaches the touchline inside their opponents' 22 or the ball reaches the touchline inside their opponent's half. The attacking team will then have the lineout throw, rewarding aggressive territorial kicking.

Vikings 2019 National Rugby Championship Draw
(all times are local)

ROUND 1

Saturday 31 August
Melbourne Rising v Canberra Vikings (Box Hill Rugby Club, Melbourne, 13:30)

ROUND 2

Sunday 8 September
Queensland Country v Canberra Vikings (Bond University, Gold Coast, 15:00)

ROUND 3

Saturday 14 September
Canberra Vikings v Brisbane City (Viking Park, Canberra, 14:00)

ROUND 4

Saturday 21 September
Western Force v Canberra Vikings (UWA, Perth, 15:00)

ROUND 5

Saturday 28 September
Canberra Vikings v Fiji Drua (Viking Park, Canberra, 12:00)

ROUND 6

Saturday 5 October
Canberra Vikings v Sydney (Viking Park, Canberra, 12:00)

ROUND 7

Friday 11 October
Canberra Vikings v NSW Country (Viking Park, Canberra, 18:00)

FLASHBACK: ROYALS MAKE GRAND FINAL BREAKTHROUGH



The 1954 ACT Rugby Union Grand Final was a memorable occasion for those of a Royal Blue persuasion as, at the fourth time of asking, the Canberra Royals finally secured the John I Dent Cup. The men from Phillip had been beaten finalists in each of the three preceding years, losing all three to the storied-RMC side of that era, 19-9 in 1951, 9-5 in 1952 and 18-5 in 1953.

Their opponents in the 1954 Final were surprise package Norths, last finalists themselves in 1948 when they won against RMC. Norths had finished the regular season in fourth on the ladder and won their way into the Grand Final by disposing of Easts 14-3 in the Minor Semi-Final (now Elimination Final) before defeating RMC 11-9 in the Preliminary Final.



According to contemporary reports of the time, Royals Captain Brice Weisell was a star of the Grand Final day whilst ACTRU Treasurer, Arty Duffel was Norths Coach in the game. Brian Cook, who played on the wing for Norths in the 1954 Grand Final, would go onto take up the whistle and would be in charge of the 1956 version between RMC and Norths.

As for the game itself, Royals edged a close encounter 11-3 to take home their first title, a try from three-quarter W.U. Bodle was converted by Weisell who also added a brace of penalties. Norths captain J. Goodwin crossed for the vanquished team's sole points of the encounter which attracted a decent sized crowd to the venue, Manuka Oval.

CANBERRA ROYALS v NORTHERN SUBURBS		
(Ryl blue WhiteV)	(Myrtle green)	
Full backs		
23 B.Weissel (C)	W.Vest	1
Threequarters		
5 P.Griffen	B.Cook	2
4 N.Hansen	J.Watt	4
27 R.Crittendon	A.Evans	3
8 W.U.Bodle	K.Browning	5
Halves		
6 K.Hawke	P.Evans	6
7 J.Maguire	K.McAllister	7
Forwards		
18 R.Brown	G.Kaye	8
10 W.Keeley	J.Goodwin (C)	9
28 P.Maguire	R.Brown	10
2 A.Douch	E.Percival	11
15 R.Wiley	A.Axelson	12
11 G.Redcliffe	R.Tuckerman	13
14 K.Kinnane	B.Leonard	14
12 J.Griffen	R.Birch	15
Reserves		
17 H.Vest	A.McAllister	16
9 R.Irlam	A.Clark	17
REFEREE: Mr. H. C. Geiss. =====		



CLASH OF THE CANBERRA TITANS

It's here, the big one and despite 2019 being one of the most competitive years in recent history, Vikings and Royals will matchup once again to crown a Griffin Legal John I Dent Cup champion.

It's where most would have thought we would end up on the final day of the season, but that doesn't make this battle any less compelling. With Vikings struggling to hit top gear the last two weeks, the playing field going into this one couldn't be more even. You'd guess that anyway. Yes, Vikings beat Royals twice in the regular season, but the Blue Baggers came out on top two weeks ago in the Semi-Final and have the added benefit of the extra week off.

Vikings on the other hand endured another brutal 80 minutes last Saturday against the Uni-Norths Owls, who pushed the champions to the final whistle. Early on, Tuggeranong looked to be peaking at the right time. Scoring twice early, and threatening another, Vikings played with a lethal combination of pace and accuracy.

However, and perhaps the bulk of the credit here should go to the Owls, Vikings lost their way a bit, in a similar way that happened against Royals the previous week. It's in those middle minutes, that Vikings have traditionally

turned the screw and gone on to dominate, but the second-wind just didn't show up and they were forced to cling on against a surging Owls squad.

But they did hang on. They weren't always at their best in the regular season, but they still finished top of the heap. Vikings have a winning culture, an All-Black-esque ability to grind out wins, and produce form when it's needed. So yes, it's an evenly matched Grand Final but you just get the sense that Vikings have another two levels to go to. Royals will have to match them when they start to roll, slow the quick ball as they did last time out and as Uni-Norths did.

In attack, they'll have to take opportunities. Almost every time they entered Vikings red-zone, Royals came away with points in the semi, and it was still close. It may take another vintage Pedro Rolando performance from the boot, but if that's what it takes, Royals will happily kick their way to victory.

It's a fascinating contest, one which all of ACT rugby will relish. It's Canberra's answer to El Clasico, a clash of titans whose intertwining history makes this more than a standard Grand-Final. A fitting way, to end another remarkable season, in the Griffin Legal John I Dent Cup.

PREVIOUS FINALS

GRIFIN LEGAL JOHN IDENT CUP

1938	RMC	11	Norths	6	1979	Royals	13	Queanbeyan	12
1939	RMC	14	Easts	0	1980	Royals	10	Wests	3
1940	Norths	12	Easts	3	1981	Queanbeyan	13	Royals	10
1941	RMC	6	Easts	6	1982	Queanbeyan	23	Daramalan	3
1942	No Competition	-		-	1983	Queanbeyan	29	Daramalan	12
1943	No Competition	-		-	1984	Daramalan	22	Royals	11
1944	No Competition	-		-	1985	Royals	13	Daramalan	4
1945	RMC	27	RAAF	3	1986	Daramalan	13	Royals	9
1946	RMC	22	Navy	12	1987	Royals	25	Daramalan	3
1947	Easts	17	Norths	3	1988	Royals	4	Daramalan	3
1948	Norths	14	RMC	14	1989	Royals	12	Daramalan	7
1949	RMC	28	Forestry Sch.	6	1990	Royals	18	Daramalan	7
1950	RMC No 2	17	RMC No 1	15	1991	Royals	14	Tuggeranong	13
1951	RMC	19	Royals	9	1992	University	22	Royals	17
1952	RMC	9	Royals	5	1993	Wests	28	Royals	25
1953	RMC	18	Royals	5	1994	Tuggeranong	19	Royals	14
1954	Royals	11	Norths	3	1995	Tuggeranong	14	Daramalan	6
1955	RMC	8	Royals	3	1996	Wests	13	Tuggeranong	5
1956	Norths	19	RMC	17	1997	Tuggeranong	30	Royals	10
1957	Royals	40	Queanbeyan	17	1998	Tuggeranong	11	Royals	10
1958	Royals	14	RMC	11	1999	Tuggeranong	13	Royals	10
1959	Queanbeyan	21	Royals	14	2000	Wests	14	Tuggeranong	13
1960	RMC	24	Queanbeyan	14	2001	Wests	23	Tuggeranong	20
1961	RMC	22	Royals	8	2002	Wests	29	Royals	12
1962	RMC	15	Royals	0	2003	Gungahlin	26	Tuggeranong	20
1963	Norths	6	RMC	3	2004	Tuggeranong	33	Gungahlin	13
1964	Royals	12	Norths	6	2005	Wests	19	Tuggeranong	17
1965	Royals	6	Norths	3	2006	Tuggeranong	39	Gungahlin	19
1966	Royals	22	Norths	19	2007	Queanbeyan	33	Gungahlin	12
1967	Norths	9	Ainslie	3	2008	Queanbeyan	22	Easts	15
1968	Royals	28	Ainslie	0	2009	Tuggeranong	30	Queanbeyan	28
1969	West	27	Ainslie	6	2010	Queanbeyan	30	Tuggeranong	28
1970	West	27	Royals	3	2011	Tuggeranong	44	Wests	18
1971	Norths	8	Queanbeyan	3	2012	Tuggeranong	29	Wests	17
1972	Norths	17	RMC	13	2013	Tuggeranong	28	Royals	21
1973	West	33	East	10	2014	Tuggeranong	25	Queanbeyan	13
1974	West	18	RMC	0	2015	Royals	21	Tuggeranong	17
1975	West	25	North	9	2016	Tuggeranong	26	Queanbeyan	22
1976	West	24	Royals	13	2017	Royals	28	West	12
1977	Royals	16	West	0	2018	Tuggeranong	29	Royals	17
1978	West	17	Queanbeyan	9					



WE HAVE HISTORY: ROYALS v VIKINGS

Today's encounter between Royals and Vikings will be the ninth time that these old foes have met in the title decider as the two go into battle for the Griffin Legal John I Dent Cup. The most recent of those was, of course, just twelve months ago when the Vikings emerged as victors, downing the Royals 29-17, in what was a cracking showpiece to end the season.

It was unsurprising that the Grand Final produced a close tie, a match befitting the big occasion as, in the main, that's been the story of Vikings versus Royals when they have met with the silverware up for grabs. History favours the Vikings, their six victories to Royals brace tipping the balance of success in their favour, and yet few would be certain of the outcome when these two goliaths meet on the playing fields of the nation's capital.

Royals won the first of the big battles for the John I Dent Cup, the 1991 victory being the first final that Tuggeranong contested, and Royals eight Grand Final of an unprecedented eleven in a row. The last of that run was also against the Vikings who claimed their inaugural crown in 1994 with a five-point win over the men from Phillip Enclosed.

That was the start of a hex that the Vikings had on Royals in Grand Finals with the Southsiders winning the next four times that they clashed,

the treble winning 1997-1999 vintage followed by a seven-point win in the 2013 meeting. Royals finally got their hands back on the trophy in 2015, 24 years after their previous victory, whilst just last term the Vikings edged their great rivals. This afternoon will write another chapter in the rich history of the Vikings-Royals rivalry and, just like their previous eight encounters, this one could go either way.

1991: Royals 14 Tuggeranong 13
 1994: Tuggeranong 19 Royals 14
 1997: Tuggeranong 30 Royals 10
 1998: Tuggeranong 11 Royals 10
 1999: Tuggeranong 13 Royals 10
 2013: Tuggeranong 28 Royals 21
 2015: Royals 21 Tuggeranong 17
 2018: Tuggeranong 29 Royals 17

Played: 8, Vikings 6, Royals 2





PAST PERFORMANCES COUNT FOR LITTLE COME GRAND FINAL DAY

The scoreboard reads two to one in favour of Vikings in the season matchups so far, but it's Royals who hold bragging rights heading into today's Grand-Final. It was June before we were treated to the first 2018 Grand Final rematch and at the time, it was Royals who had the momentum. Unbeaten and coming off a hard-fought victory against Gungahlin, the Blue Baggers certainly weren't expecting the beatdown that was coming their way.

Vikings on the other hand, were only starting to hit their straps after a sluggish start, making the performance they put in that much more devastating. Royals started the game well, but once Vikings got on a roll, they were unplayable on the day. The win was inspired by a young Vikings pack that pregame was tipped to struggle against the more experience Royals unit. With a number of frontline players unavailable, some of the Vikings young stock were forced to step up, not least Jack Wright who made his First Grade debut in the game.

He was brilliant, as were the rest of the Vikings forwards, the backs backing up with a couple fabulous finishes, Len Ikitau at the heart of everything, his pass to Dean Wilson in the closing moments capping off a dominant 54-17 win. Once again, we waited for the rematch. Finally, it came on the final day of

the season with Vikings once again coming away victorious. That game was different though. Vikings shot out to an early lead, but Royals stayed in touch and even could have won the game late on. Ultimately, the gap was too big to bridge for Royals and Vikings hung on for a Minor Premiership sealing victory, 22-17.

Ironically, Vikings winning meant they set a date against Royals the following week in the qualification final. Vikings once again looked the more dangerous side early on and had the lion share of possession in the opening stanza, but only managed to open a slim lead. Royals still seemed like they would succumb to another loss. Somehow, Royals managed to pull themselves out of the hole and found enough inspiration to drag themselves into the lead and with pure grit and determination, they hung on for a famous, 21-13 win thanks to tries from Seth Going, Craig McMahon and Lincoln Smith, all of which were converted by Pedro Rolando.

Recent history often counts for very little in these games. Last year, Royals had the rub over Vikings and Tuggeranong won reasonably comfortably in the Grand-Final. So study the form guide all you like, and make your predictions, but when the Cup is visible on the sideline, anything can happen.



CANBERRA ROYALS R.U.F.C



THE FINALISTS: CANBERRA ROYALS

THE CLUB

Founded: 1949

Head Coach: WAYNE SOUTHWELL

Captain: BEN JOHNSTON

Home Ground: PHILLIP OVAL

JOHN I DENT CUP FINAL

APPEARANCES: 39

WINNERS: 18

MOST POINTS

218 – Pedro ROLANDO

MOST TRIES

10 – Seth GOING, Rory SCOTT

THE KEY MAN

PEDRO ROLANDO

Another season in which the Royals' Argentinean scrumhalf led from the front with his immaculate passing and kicking game a standout. Rolando was his usual effective self from the kicking tee, racking up over 200-points for the campaign, and was the catalyst for most of the attacks from a free-scoring outfit. His influence will be vital on the outcome of the Final.

RESULTS

March

30 Queanbeyan Whites (a) W 23-10

April

6 Bye

13 Easts Rugby (a) W 31-10

27 Western District Lions (a) W 29-27

May

4 Uni-Norths Owls (h) W 33-25

11 Bye

18 Queanbeyan Whites (h) W 47-24

25 Easts Rugby (h) W 75-15

June

1 Gungahlin Eagles (a) W 37-32

8 Tuggeranong Vikings (h) L 17-54

15 Western District Lions (h) W 54-14

22 Uni-Norths Owls (h) W 40-21

29 Bye

July

6 Queanbeyan Whites (a) W 23-14

13 Easts Rugby (a) W 71-14

20 Gungahlin Eagles (h) W 25-22

27 Tuggeranong Vikings (a) L 17-22

August

3 Tuggeranong Vikings (QF) W 21-13

SEASON REVIEW

Before the season, a lot of people said Royals relied too heavily on a couple of star players, and that without them, they may struggle. You can see their argument. Two years ago, when Royals went unbeaten to win the John I Dent Cup, they were spurred on by the likes of Tom Cusack, Tom Staniforth, Sam Carter, Faalelei Sione, Lausii Taliauli and Andy Muirhead. Last season, they lost Staniforth to Sydney and didn't see much of Cusack and Carter, the latter only playing the Grand-Final and generally the success of 2017 meaning Muirhead and Taliauli in particular were involved more with the Brumbies. This year, there's been no Cusack again and Royals have seen little or none of their Brumbies talent. Instead, the Blue Bagger machine has been running on some new fuel, youth.

Indeed, the machine has been built over many seasons. Royals have a culture, and identity and you can see that in everything they do, personified by their Captain Ben Johnston and star halfback Pedro Rolando. You add in the foot soldiers, the Bodmans, Swains, Goings of the world, those types and you start to see success forming. What the competition didn't see was the wave of young talent coming through.



Rory Scott has been a revelation this season. His days in the John I Dent Cup may already be numbered with higher honours not too far over the horizon. The return of Siuta Tai to Royals, another key addition. Sam Von Blanckensee and Jack Farrell, great additions and Lincoln Smith a year older and more experienced. That core helped Royals to a second-place finish but even at that, Royals only lost two games, both against Vikings. With the returning Brumbies embedded in the newly updated Blue Bagger Machine, Royals were astonishing against the Champions two weeks ago.

Not because they were amazing in attack (they were at times), not because they lost BJ, their talisman at half-time (fingers crossed we see him lead out the side today) but because they never gave up, and defended like dogs for 80 minutes, taking their chances when they needed to. Dynasty is a word often associated with sport. Royals can't claim that yet, though they will if they keep adding trophies to their cabinet but every year, they are there or thereabouts. One step closer this year, than last year, and Wayne Southwell's side will begin to be talked as one of the best sides in John I Dent Cup.



MATCH OF THE

CANBERRA ROYALS
R.U.F.C



ROYALS V

PREMIER DIVISION

3.25pm, V

griffin



- 1 Sione Havili Mau
- 2 Connal McInerney
- 3 Ryan Kotlewski
- 4 Samuel Von Blanckensee
- 5 Hugh Cowan
- 6 William Morrison
- 7 Jack Farrell
- 8 Rory Scott
- 9 Pedro Rolando
- 10 Craig McMahon
- 11 Ben Johnston (C)
- 12 Jamie Bodman (VC)
- 13 Jason Swain
- 14 Seth Going
- 15 Andrew Muirhead

COACH: Wayne Southwell

EST.

Broadcasted live on Bar TV



THE ROUND



VIKINGS

ON GRAND FINAL

Wiking Park

illegal.



1938



Vikings

TUGGERANONG
RUGBY UNION

- 1 Sione Taula
- 2 Lachlan Lonergan
- 3 Angus Wagner
- 4 Cooper Taekata
- 5 Darcy Swain
- 6 Jayme Field
- 7 Luke Gersekowski
- 8 Angus Allen
- 9 Ryan Lonergan
- 10 Isaac Thompson
- 11 Ernest Suavai
- 12 Noah Lolesio
- 13 Andrew Robinson
- 14 Maika Ravouvou
- 15 Dean Wilson

COACH: Nick Scrivener

MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Matthew Hogan

ARI: Brodie Ingram

AR2: Dennis Beissner





THE FINALISTS: TUGGERANONG VIKINGS

THE CLUB

Founded: 1973

Head Coach: NICK SCRIVENER

Captain: ISAAC THOMPSON

Home Ground: VIKING PARK

JOHN I DENT CUP FINAL

APPEARANCES: 22

WINNERS: 13

MOST POINTS

173 – Ryan LONERGAN

MOST TRIES

10 – Ryan LONERGAN

THE KEY MAN

NOAH LOLESIO

One year ago, to the day Noah Lolesio announced himself on the first-grade stage with a stunning performance in the Vikings Grand Final victory. Earning man of the match plaudits in that game, the Brumbies playmaker showcased his unique eye for space and game management and has gone on to greater heights this season, with the Junior Wallabies. His direction could be key for the Champions.

RESULTS

March

30 Gungahlin Eagles (h) L 26-29

April

6 Western District Lions (a) D 47-47

13 Bye

27 Uni-Norths Owls (a) W 27-22

May

4 Queanbeyan Whites (h) W 50-29

11 Gungahlin Eagles (a) L 25-26

18 Easts Rugby (h) W 80-17

25 Bye

June

1 Western District Lions (h) W 49-21

8 Canberra Royals (a) W 54-17

15 Uni-Norths Owls (h) W 29-20

22 Queanbeyan Whites (a) W 37-28

29 Gungahlin Eagles (a) D 33-33

July

6 Easts Rugby (a) W 66-5

13 Bye

20 Western District Lions (h) W 63-14

27 Canberra Royals (h) W 22-17

August

3 Canberra Royals (QF) L 13-21

10 Uni-Norths Owls (PF) W 34-31

SEASON REVIEW

It wasn't your typical, barnstorming year, but no matter the route, the Tuggeranong Vikings are minor Premiers and today have a chance at another Premiership. Before the season started, that's exactly how most would have predicted it to go too, but this season has been far from easy for the Vikings. For most of the year, the defending Champions sat in third, quietly building with a new core of young talent.

It's a factor that hasn't been talked about enough; this is baby Vikings team. Other than leader Isaac Thompson, every player who steps on the field for Vikings is under the age of 23. That's crazy to think about. Now, a lot of those young players are contracted with the Brumbies, so the expectation remains the same, but you have to acknowledge the impact experience plays, particularly come finals time.

Early on, they struggled (to meet their usual standard anyway). Then midway through the season, Super Rugby began to affect their stocks, Darcy Swain, Len Ikitau getting their chance at the top level. Vikings also had Lachlan Loneragan leave for the Junior World Cup.



So, the champions continued to hold on, beating the teams they needed to. Luke Gersekowski returned from Ireland, giving Vikings another option in the backrow, and with a fit and firing Angus Allen, they began to dominate with young star Jayme Field. Cooper Taekata stepped his game up, and Vikings unearthed Jack Wright as another Lock to combine with Taekata and Swain. Dean Wilson, a revelation this season, became a key figure for Vikings.

Against Royals, away from home, the young Vikings showed out. That was the moment when the competition was put on notice and from then, they have been the best team in the competition. Towards the backend of the year, Swain, Loneragan and co. came back into the fold, adding steam to the Vikings charge to the Minor Premiership.

Finals have been a slog for Tuggies, losing to Royals and being brought to the brink by Owls. That doesn't matter now. Win today, and that's forgotten and with their championship pedigree, would you bet against them?



The Rise and Rise of Rork Projects

From humble beginnings in Canberra, Rork Projects is now one of Australia's prominent Indigenous fit-out and refurbishment companies offering comprehensive and tailored solutions to the education, medical, corporate and government sectors.

The multi award-winning business now proudly boasts some 70 staff working across offices in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane - who run up to 25 projects at any one time all over the country.

Co-owned by Brian O'Rourke and John Paul Janke, Rork Projects' excellence in quality and service has been recognised with a number of outstanding industry awards.

Their national reach and demonstrable experience enables Rork Projects to successfully deliver diverse fit-out, refurbishment and design and construct projects across a broad range of industry sectors.

Rork Project's ACT General Manager Scott Lamb (*pictured right*) has co-ordinated a diverse range of stunning projects here in Canberra - including a 4000m² Office refurbishment for the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), demolition and roof replacement work at CSIRO's Black Mountain campus, the University of Canberra Refectory upgrade, and projects at the Commonwealth Ombudsman, the Canberra Hospital, Australian National University and recently at the Australian Council for International Developments (ACFID).

As an Indigenous Business, Rork Projects vision is to meaningfully engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in order to build reciprocal capacity, leverage on and create opportunities for Indigenous employment and businesses from procurement.

Rork are proud members of Supply Nation and committed to Indigenous business development; supporting, developing and fostering opportunities for new partnerships within our supplier and sub-contractor chains, shaping the future of Indigenous business in Australia.

Rork's national capability and Supply Nation membership allows them to establish connections within communities across Australia with a true commitment to support local industry and actively seek opportunities that develop and engage local Indigenous people and communities.





GRIFFIN LEGAL JOHN I DENT CUP: TOP SCORERS

POINT SCORERS:

Pedro Rolando	Royals	212
Ryan Lonergan	Vikings	159
Declan Meredith	Wests	113
Jordan Thompson	Uni-Norths	96
Isaac Walker	Gungahlin	95

TRY SCORERS:

Corey Toole	Gungahlin	10
Rory Scott	Royals	10
Albert Watego	Vikings	9
Mack Hansen	Gungahlin	9
Pedro Rolando	Royals	9
Seth Going	Royals	9
Ernest Suavai	Vikings	9
Ryan Lonergan	Vikings	9



YEARS BEST NAMED IN TEAM OF THE SEASON

The 2019 Team of the Season provides a snapshot of the players who defined what was a remarkable year in the Griffin Legal John I Dent Cup.

A pillar of consistency for the Eagles, Ray Dobson's inclusion at loosehead was never in doubt after dominating the set-piece exchanges all year long for Gungahlin. Teammates Alex Small and Tristan Stanley are also worth additions at Hooker and Lock respectively, joining Tuggeranong Vikings tighthead Angus Wagner and Royals Hugh Cowan in a terrifying looking front-five.

Wagner was far and away the standout on the right side of the scrum while Cowan did the all the hard yards for his Blue Bag brothers from the row, allowing the likes of Rory Scott to rampage in the loose, the young Number 8 going straight from the school into the Team of the Season.

Scott's ball carrying will be backed up by the uncompromising figure of Uni-Norths Owls talisman Phil Ferreira and all-round dynamo Angus Allen. Ferreira was the pick of the Owls forwards while Allen's return to play for Vikings have them an extra presence at the ruck and genuine threat in the channels.

Halfback was one of the hardest positions to fill, with Ryan Lonergan having a standout

season as well as the likes of Kadin Te Nana, Joel Atkins and Lachlan Creighton. Ultimately, Lonergan finished runner up to the 2019 MacDougall Medallist, Royals magician Pedro Rolando who was the linchpin of Royals fantastic season. At five-eighth, "Danger" Declan Meredith is rewarded for a sensational maiden season with Wests, Jamie Bodman caps yet another standout season with Royals with his inclusion at inside centre.

Outside Bodman, Brumbies youngster Len Ikitau was another one of those who there was no doubt about after a dominant season for the Champions. In the back-three, Eagles pair Mack Hansen and Corey Toole are recognized for the effect they had on Gungahlin's terrific season. Likewise, Callum Richardson is rightfully rewarded for being a consistent standout for the Owls.

On the bench, Wests TP Luteru earns the replacement hooker spot while Vikings Vunipola Fifita and Royals Ryan Kotlewski are the prop reserves. U18 marvel Zeph Tuinona's first senior season for Queanbeyan gets him a spot on the bench, with Vikings pilfer-machine Luke Gersekowski rounding out the reserve forwards. Joining Lonergan as backs cover are Whites youngster Will Goddard and Easts captain George Morseu, completing a stacked 2019, Griffin Legal John I Dent Cup Team of the Season.



Griffin Legal John I Dent Cup

2019 Team of the Season



R. Dobson



A. Small



A. Wagner



P. Ferreira



T. Stanley



H. Cowan



A. Allen



P. Rolando



R. Scott



D. Meredith



C. Toole



J. Bodman



L. Ikitau



C. Richardson



M. Hansen

RESERVES



16. TP Luteru



17. V. Fifita



18. R. Koltewski



19. Z. Tuinona



20. L. Gersekowski



21. R. Lonergan



22. W. Goddard



23. G. Morseu



DOGS BITE AT EXACTLY THE RIGHT TIME

Whilst all attention in Canberra will be fixated on Viking Park on Saturday as the Grand Finals commence and we crown the victors of six different competitions, there's still the not insignificant matter of the Preliminary Final to be fought out in the regional South Coast Monaro competition and, with tournament favourites Taralga Tigers upset in the Qualification stage, there's an intriguing plot developing.

For the Tigers to lose one game in recent seasons has been a shock, but to see them downed in back-to-back clashes on successive weekends has sent shockwaves throughout the rest of the division. Crookwell Dogs, who started the season sluggishly, have found their form at exactly the right time and, just a couple of weeks after being handed a hefty loss at home to the Tigers, exacted the perfect revenge with a 14-12 win in Taralga.

There was only one try in an epic encounter, Dogs' Reilly Martin forcing his way over the line for the underdogs, and that proved to be the pivotal moment of the fixture. Liam Jones missed the conversion, but was accurate enough with three penalties and, despite the lethal boot of Joel Croker banging over four penalties for the Tigers, their usual efficient attacking machine failed to function.

They'll have a chance to rectify the wrongs when they meet the Jindabyne Bushpigs in the preliminary Final this week, but it was the Bushpigs who defeated the Tigers in the last round of regular season action and therefore the men from the Snowy Mountains will have no fear, especially given the manner that they roared into the penultimate game of the season.

The Bushings six tries to two demolition of the Batemans Bay Boas indicated a side high on confidence, clicking as an attacking until and sufficiently strong in defence, that they will fancy their chances of making the Grand final and a date with the Crookwell Dogs. Against the Board, Matthew Caldwell was the star of the show as he barged his way over for a hat-trick of tries.

Mat Bruton added a brace, as well as kicking three conversions, with Lucas Rixon grabbing the other try. Jared Cummins converted two of the tries and Dylan Johnson the other as the Bushpigs kicking game yielded six from six via three different goalkickers. That versatility might just prove key.

South Coast Monaro (Semi-Finals)
(Qualification Final) Taralga 12 Crookwell 14
(Elimination Final) Jindabyne 42 Batemans Bay 10



GRAND FINALS 2019

The 2019 Club Rugby season concludes today with five matches in addition to the Griffin Legal John I Dent Cup Final. Players will compete at Colts, Second Grade, First Division First Grade, First Division Second Grade and Women's for the opportunity to end the season with silverware and a place in the history books. Over the next ten pages Stampede looks at the big matches.

29 – COLTS: Preview & Teams

Canberra Royals v Queanbeyan Whites

31 – SECOND GRADE: Preview & Teams

Tuggeranong Vikings v Gungahlin Eagles

33 – WOMENS: Preview & Teams

Uni-Norths Owls v Canberra Royals

35 – FIRST DIVISION FIRST GRADE: Preview & Teams

Gungahlin Eagles v Goulburn Dirty Reds

37 – FIRST DIVISION SECOND GRADE: Preview & Teams

Queanbeyan Whites v Western District Lions



ROYALS AND WHITES SHOWDOWN IN COLTS BIG DAY

Royals will take on the rampaging Queanbeyan Whites in the Colts Grand Final as two teams that have lit-up the competition go head-to-head in the showdown at Viking Park in Erindale. The scorebook might currently read 2-1 to Royals, based on results in the 2019 competition to date, but the in-form Whites will no doubt provide a serious threat to the Royals in the final.

In the Colts' division there have been clear leaders on the ladder throughout the competition, Royals being red hot in the opening rounds, Queanbeyan hitting their straps at the back end, and Gungahlin Eagles being the dominant force throughout. The latter of course faded at exactly the wrong time and will watch on from the sidelines as these two protagonists go toe-to-toe.

Royals opened their season with a six-game winning streak, including a round one ten-point win then a three-point win against the Whites in week five. However, their momentum waned in the second half of the season and a patchy record going into the finals may have concerned the Blue Baggers.

All self-doubt was quickly eradicated when they dramatically beat the competition leading Gungahlin Eagles in the Qualification Final. The kicking accuracy of halfback Thomas

Hallam, sure to be a vital component of today's Grand Final match-up, secured the win and booked them their Grand Final ticket.

Nonetheless, a real threat awaits Royals in the finals. Queanbeyan may have struggled to find consistency in the early rounds of the competition, but after Round 11 it has been nothing but victory for the men in white. A close win against Tuggeranong Vikings in the Elimination Final kept their season alive and was followed by a demolition of the wounded Eagles in their penultimate game last weekend. It's safe to say that confidence is at an all-time high in Queanbeyan camp.

A win for the Whites would see them claim a second Colts title in the past three seasons, emphasising the quality of the young players coming through the Queanbeyan production line. Royals though have some young guns of their own and, if they can fire, they could cap a tremendous conclusion to a cracking Colts campaign.

QUALIFICATION FINAL: Gungahlin Eagles 22
Canberra Royals 23

ELIMINATION FINAL: Queanbeyan Whites 24
Tuggeranong Vikings 21

PRELIMINARY FINAL: Gungahlin Eagles 26
Queanbeyan Whites 40

Words: Eamon Moore



COLTS

KICK-OFF 11.35AM | VIKING PARK I

Andy Scheele	1	Vincent de Masson
James Pearson	2	Caleb Bower
James Bundy	3	Mika Eli
Tom Iles	4	Daniel Vrkic
Oliver Miller	5	Zeph Tuinona
Daniel Goodwin	6	Matthew Winchester
Connor Smith	7	Kane Kilmister
Samuel Villata	8	Davea Teoteo
Thomas Hallam	9	Ben Magro
Zac Ross	10	Brad Winchester
Liam Maguire	11	Haloti Fonua
Harry Quinlan	12	Will Holland
Riley Van Leeuwen	13	Jack Gilmour
Liam Shaw	14	Brendan Jimenez
Tyler Meredith-Brown	15	Michael Rademaker

COACH: Andrew Smith

COACH: Daniel Hawke

MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Brodie Ingram

AR1: Robert Whyte

AR2: Mitchell Beissner



VIKINGS AND EAGLES MEET IN SECOND GRADE DECIDER

It seems fitting that the Tuggeranong Vikings will play host to the Gungahlin Eagles in the 2019 Second Grade Grand Final. They were the two most in-form teams throughout the season, with Tuggeranong finishing the regular season in second position and Gungahlin claiming the minor Premiership a couple of weeks ago. Let's delve in to how both teams reached this year's Grand Final, looking back throughout the season and picking out a couple of matches that proved that either team was the real deal for 2019.

The Gungahlin Eagles were unstoppable all season. Fourteen regular season matches, fourteen wins with thirteen bonus points, finishing on a near perfect 69 out of a possible 70 points in a season. The only hiccup came in the first week of finals when they were surprisingly beaten 46-26 to the men, they would ultimately end up facing in the Grand Final, the Vikings, perhaps proving the old adage of what goes around comes around. The Eagles kickstarted the season in Round 1 where their opponents were ironically Tuggeranong and Gungahlin claimed an important 33-31 upset victory.

The Eagles were able to cement themselves as favourites for the title in Round 6 after defeating the Vikings at home in another close fought affair 19-11. The only other opposition that really made the Eagles work for their

money was Royals. In Round 9, Royals stretched out to a 22-7 lead after only ten minutes. Only for the men from the North to fight back and steal an epic 26-22 victory at home.

Tuggeranong have been an absolute try scoring machine this year with most of their matches having scores of above 40 points, with a couple of them exceeding 70. With eleven wins, three losses and a dozen bonus points, they finished the regular season on 56 points. Those three losses all came from the hands of Gungahlin, except for the Qualification Final match, where they won, and earned their way into the Grand Final. There were a couple of close calls on the way, Round 10 against Royals claiming a tight victory 19-13, as well as in Round 12 against Queanbeyan 29-26.

Both of these teams deserve to be this year's finalists. They have been miles in front of other teams in the competition. If their previous encounters are anything to go by, the match we are about to witness on Saturday afternoon is going to be a thriller.

QUALIFICATION FINAL: Gungahlin Eagles 22
Tuggeranong Vikings 46

ELIMINATION FINAL: Canberra Royals 8
Queanbeyan Whites 16

PRELIMINARY FINAL: Gungahlin Eagles 51
Queanbeyan Whites 20

Words: Rob Davison



2ND GRADE

KICK-OFF 1.25PM | VIKING PARK I

Junior Sotogi	1	Oscar Cunningham
Samuel Thomas	2	Connor Jones
TJ Sione	3	Nooroa Katuke
Luke Corcoran	4	Stuart Crew
Thomas Hooper	5	Marc Berthelot
Saimoni Vunilagi	6	Jacob Helgesen
Rhys Griffiths	7	Iualua Vailoaloa
Richard Joyes	8	Simon Anau
Seamus Smith	9	Mitchell Ward
Jack Evenden	10	Daniel Garner
Nicolas Marshall	11	Misieli Sinoti
Trai Henderson	12	Mitchell Connolly
Travis Pula	13	Luke Duffey
Jayden Macken	14	Claude Edwards
Jed Englert	15	Jamie Kotz

COACH: Brendan Allardyce

COACH: Glenn Carey

MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: James Morris

AR1: Mitchell Beissner

AR2: Steve Peak



ROYALS AND OWLS TO SETTLE WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP

After finishing fourth in the five-team competition, the Canberra Royals Women may have had the toughest path to a Grand Final you've ever heard of. In the past three weeks they have played in three separate Elimination Finals, beating Wests, Vikings and Easts respectively, and today they will be attempting the clean sweep when they take on the only other team remaining.

That team is the Uni-Norths Owls. The Owls finished the competition in second place, just two points behind the table-topping Easts. Their run to the Grand Final hasn't been much easier; they put away Tuggeranong in the first week of finals, then made a statement by beating the highly fancied Easts 47-0 to earn themselves a week off before the big game.

This won't be the first time these two teams have met this year. In round one, Uni-Norths put on a dominant display in a 54-7 thumping in Phillip. However, when they came up against each other in round six they shared the competition points in a thrilling 19-19 draw, almost snatching the win via an Ashlea Bishop penalty at the end.

For the Royals, Bishop has been immense in recent weeks. The young star has been a consistent try scorer and is extremely handy with the boot. If the Owls are undisciplined in defence Ash will make them pay on the scoreboard. Darcy Read and Grace Kemp are

two more young players to keep an eye out for. The Brumbies Women's duo have huge potential in the sport, and they will have to be at their best today if their team is to claim victory.

For the Owls the go-to ladies have to be Georgia O'Neill and Sammie Wood. Both players were included in an extended Wallaroos squad this year and Georgia has of course represented Australia at the top level in the past. Wood brings a cool head to her team and seems to be involved in everything that happens on the park. Meanwhile O'Neill, like any good flanker, can usually be found making devastating tackles or launching herself into the ruck. The pair combined for three tries in the 47-0 win over Easts a fortnight ago while Dana-Louise Deklin picked up a hattrick.

They will have to be bring their A-game if they are to take down a confident Royals team that are coming into this final with a lot of momentum. It is unusual to see a team beat the rest of the competition one-by-one throughout a final's series, but if the Royals can pull it off, they will be the undisputed champions.

QUALIFICATION FINAL: Easts 0 Uni-Norths Owls 47

ELIMINATION FINAL: Vikings 7 Royals 41

PRELIMINARY FINAL: Easts 10 Royals 28

Words: Pat Woods



WOMENS

KICK-OFF 1.15PM | VIKING PARK 2

Iris Verebalavu	1	Louise Burrows
Emerena Aviga	2	Erin Chant
Anna Korovata	3	Renee Didier
Belle Turner	4	Sarah Pearson
Jenna Fallace	5	Amy McCloskey
Mesepa Salesa	6	Justine Dagorno
Georgia O'Neill	7	Skye Churchill
Rosaline Aumale	8	Grace Kemp
Jane Garraway	9	Kiahana Bellchambers
Claudia Obst	10	Ashlea Bishop
Dana-louise Deklin	11	Brooke Gilroy
Samantha Wood	12	Michelle Perry
Stokapesi Palu	13	Courtney Brackenrig
Natasha Salisbury	14	Ella Boundy
Rachel Crothers	15	Darcy Read

COACH: Greg Ritchie

COACH: Darren Goodwin

MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Dennis Beissner

AR1: Robert Whyte

AR2: Amy Kilmister



TOP TWO DO BATTLE IN THIRD GRADE SHOWDOWN

The two best teams in the First Division First Grade competition will lock horns in the Grand Final at Viking Park as the Gungahlin Eagles and Goulburn Dirty Reds meet to lash out who will be the best of the best at this level in 2019. The two teams will reprise their opening finals match of the campaign, a game dominated by a hat-trick of tries from Antonio Vailoaloa that sent the Dirty Reds on the long way around to the Big Dance.

That they managed to make it says much to the resilience of character and determination that the side from Goulburn have shown in spades throughout the majority of the 2019 season. They regrouped from the disappointment of the loss to the Eagles to comprehensively dismiss Queanbeyan Whites in the Elimination Final stage, keeping themselves alive for one more week.

The preliminary Final, held at this venue seven days ago, was a ding-dong affair and proved to be an excellent advert for the game at this level as the Dirty Reds managed to win an arm-wrestle of a contest against ADFA, taking out a victory by 33-27 in an intense and absorbing fixture. Boyd Newby crossed twice for the Dirty Reds as they bagged five tries in seeing

off the challenge from a physical and adept ADFA unit that can count themselves unfortunate that they are not in the Grand Final themselves.

Prior to their Finals meeting a couple of weeks ago, Gungahlin and Goulburn had met at Nicholls Enclosed with the home side, the Eagles, storming to a 36-19 victory. They claimed a nap-hand of tries that day as Anthony McQueen, Benjamin Stuart, Johnny Pawa, Vailoaloa and Andrew Cathie crossed for scores. In reply, the Dirty Reds went over the whitewash three times with Ben Todkill, Chris Broadman and Jordan Lees dotting down five-pointers.

The Eagles will be favourites to land the crown, of that there is little doubt, and yet Finals football can do funny things to a team's form and psyche. Dirty Reds will have nothing to lose and that, coupled with the fact the potential glory awaits at the end of seventy minutes of hard slog, will make them a very dangerous proposition indeed. This should provide a fitting climax to an enthralling season.

QUALIFICATION FINAL: Gungahlin Eagles 24 ADFA 21

ELIMINATION FINAL: Goulburn Dirty Reds 30 Queanbeyan Whites 12

PRELIMINARY FINAL: ADFA 27 Goulburn Dirty Reds 33



3RD GRADE

KICK-OFF 11.25AM | VIKING PARK 2

Sitiveni Tora	1	Boyd Newby
Christopher Grierson	2	Llewellyn Davies
Benjamin Stuart	3	Bradley Muddiman
Andrew Gibson	4	Nick Tabner
Mitchell Colbert	5	Jordan Wilcox ©
Toby Afflick	6	Bradley Clements
Matthew Vernon	7	Benjamin Cheetham
Kane Broadrick	8	Mikael Webber
Sean Connochie	9	Jackson Reardon
Matthew Power	10	Aidan Greaves
Thomas Scott	11	Matthew Spratley
Michael Nicholas	12	Ben Todkill
Eremasi Kelei	13	Alec Palmer
Johnny Pawa	14	Jordan Lees
Jye Connochie	15	Adam Lachlan

COACH: Chris Grierson

COACH: Ben Pearson

MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: Reece Henshaw

ARI: Graeme Billett

AR2: Damien McLachlan



DREAM LIVES ON FOR WESTS

It might just be the most improbable Grand Final storyline of all time. Wests, who ended the First Division Second Grade ladder in sixth, having lost more games (six) than they had won (five) are eighty minutes away from writing a remarkable conclusion to a memorable final's series. If this was a Disney movie, nobody would believe the plotline.

Under the new finals system in place in this grade, Wests snuck into the top six having finished one point above ADFA in the race for the finals spots and were pitted against Gungahlin Eagles in the first of the Elimination Rounds. A thrilling 38-30 win later, Des Faigafa claiming a hat-trick of tries, saw Wests come through to progress into the next phase.

There they met Canberra Royals, the team who had ended the season on top, and had surprisingly been thrashed 46-0 by the Queanbeyan Whites in their first finals outing., Incredibly, the table-toppers were out in straight sets, stunned by a resurgent Wests who were finding their form at the critical part of the calendar. The 31-8 success include another try for Faigafa, one of five players to find a way across the Royals try-line in the eight minutes.

Still they weren't done. Last week saw a trip to Viking Park and a meeting with Tuggeranong

Vikings where Wests were underdogs yet again. But, out went third placed Vikings, dramatically beaten by a point as Faigafa made it five tries in three finals matches by crossing again, Tavake Taholo and Naqase Khan adding the others with Alex MacNamara converting one and slotting a match-winning penalty.

Their opponents, the Whites, having knocked off Royals in Week 1, added the Vikings to their list of scalps with a 15-12 win in the Qualification Final to earn their berth in today's clash. If their previous meeting with Wests is anything to go by, we could be in for a Grand Final for the ages. That's because the Round 11 game between the pair ended in a scarcely believable 38-all draw.

Luke Cochrane blazed over for a treble of tries for the Whites that day with Aaron Robinson scoring once and kicking four conversions. The evergreen Craig Robberds was on hand to score for Wests, kicking four from the tee himself and if we see something approaching that kind of quality, we should be in for a treat. Whites will have slight favouritism, but Wests fairy-tale story may have one more chapter yet.

QUALIFICATION FINAL: Queanbeyan Whites 15
Tuggeranong Vikings 12

ELIMINATION FINAL: Canberra Royals 8 Western Districts 31

PRELIMINARY FINAL: Tuggeranong Vikings 19
Western Districts 20



4TH GRADE

KICK-OFF 9.35AM | VIKING PARK 2

Tangi Maine	1	Chris Rigter
Timothy Woods	2	Toni Tu'ulakitau
Jason Wirangi	3	Tyson Soli
Eddie Eteuati	4	Sam Jones
Dirk Wilkens	5	Naqase Khan
Jonathon Murphy	6	Max Clarke
Tom Darmody	7	Patrick Bacon
Aaron Mcinnes	8	Tavake Taholo
Johnny Lalatoa	9	Steve Amosa
Daniel Hawke	10	Des Faigafa
Luke Cochrane	11	Amos King
TBC	12	Stuart Lolotonga
David Kerr	13	Alex McNamara
William Truscott	14	Jordan Banks
Aaron Robinson	15	Craig Robberds

COACH: Luke Cochrane

COACH: Adam Blue

MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: James Hagan

AR1: Matthew Huggins

AR2: Nathan Mass



VIKINGS FINISH 2019 WITH THE SPOILS

BOB HITCHCOCK TERRITORY SHIELD

The Bob Hitchcock Territory Shield didn't go on the line until Round 5 in 2019 when the Canberra Royals, who successfully held the initial Shield over the summer break, put it up for challenge at their inaugural home match of the season, the visit of the Uni-Norths Owls on Saturday 4 May. Royals didn't have it all their own way as they held-off a strong-finishing Owls to win 33-25, Pedro Rolando crossing for two tries and kicking four conversions in the victory.

Wayne Southwell's team were to defend the Shield successfully twice more, a spirited 47-24 win over Queanbeyan Whites in Round 7, Ben Johnston gaining two of the Royals eight tries, and a 75-15 blow-out of Easts a round later, the eleven-try hammering including a double for hooker Siuta Tai.

After seven successful defences of the trophy, Royals eventually succumbed in Round 10 at their home ground, against the Tuggeranong Vikings, with Nick Scrivener and his men not only wresting the Shield away from Royals but doing so with a superb performance hitting the fifty-point mark in a huge 54-17 win. Dean Wilson claimed two of the Vikings eight tries with Ryan Lonergan ending the match with 19 points.

Putting the Shield up for grabs again a week later, the Vikings enjoyed a more prosaic 29-20 victory over the Owls, the difference between the teams the kicking of Isaac Thompson as both sides scored four tries with the owls failing to land any of their shots at goal. The challenge went into hiatus until Round 16 when Vikings brushed aside Wests 63-14, Albert Watego crossing for four tries, setting up a final round decider with Royals.

Fittingly it was a nail-biting contest with Vikings edging home 22-17 to secure the Shield for 2019. Vikings will put it up for defence in their first home match of the 2020 season.

BOB HITCHCOCK TERRITORY SHIELD RESULTS

[HOLDERS IN BRACKETS]

R5: Royals defeated Owls 33-25 [ROYALS], R7: Royals defeated Whites 47-24 [ROYALS], R8: Royals defeated Easts 75-15 [ROYALS], R10: Vikings defeated Royals 54-17 [VIKINGS], R11: Vikings defeated Owls 29-20 [VIKINGS], R16: Vikings defeated Wests 63-14 [VIKINGS], R17: Vikings defeated Royals 22-17 [VIKINGS]

Wins/Defences (up to and including R17, 2019)

Royals: 8 (7 successful defences)

Vikings: 4 (3 successful defences)

Easts: 2 (1 successful defence)

Whites: 1 (0 successful defences)

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2ND DIVISION

== TEAMS ==





2ND DIVISION — TARALGA SPORTS FILED 2.30PM

Thomas Andreatta	1	Issac Maw
Isaac Elliott	2	Lochie Wallis
Jace Cosgrove	3	Chris Marshall
Samuel Hand	4	Simon Rudd
Christopher Roberts	5	Ian Vagg
Lachlan Young	6	Samuel Pfitzner
William Hedley	7	Lochlann Colin
Samuel Conlon	8	Deon Becker
Benjamin Thomas	9	Kris Jones
Joel Croker	10	Matthew Caldwell
Dale Graham	11	Brandon Nikora
Petelo Epati	12	Cooper Swan
Nicholas Bennett	13	Mat Bruton
Thomas Croker	14	Ben Kuner
James Marmont	15	Jared Cummins



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For more information contact Rugby Development Manager Damien Tyson on d.tyson@brumbies.com.au

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