



# Junior Committee Newsletter No. 18 – 8<sup>th</sup> September

It's Grand Final time .....  
**GO COUGARS!!**



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## Round Up – Finals

### Under 5's – Cougars 35 - vs. Palmerston - 40

First loss this season, but what a battle under 5's fought. Crocs had strong attack and strong defence which seemed to out match the cougars this week. The Under 5's are improving each and every week working out how to become a team and how to get fast ball to the new players with great communication and how to make sure everybody gets the ball and they seem to have mastered the skill of scoring tries. Its just ensuring that the defence stay strong. Great team work by Charlie & Cooper yet again. Zayden, Riley, Ben, and Noah help contribute to the attack both first half and second half. It is a shame for this week to be the finals I think a few more weeks and under 5's would be unstoppable. Hopefully this week will bring luck for the last game of the season. Thanks to everyone for helping out with the Under 5's this season.

### Under 7's – Cougars - 60 vs. University - 45

Our second last game of the season was indeed a memorable one. We defeated University 60-45 with our 12 tries being scored by 7 different players. What made it memorable was just how much our guys have developed as Rugby Players as the year has progressed. Watching the Pirates in attack reminded me of our first training session of the year – absolute chaos. They had one kid that was almost sent off for foul play – truly amazing. Adam and Joey scored three tries each, Odin got two while Nikitas, Lara, Jameson and Jathurson all crossed once. Thomas didn't score in terms of tries but he did muscle up in defence to square off against those Pirates guilty of rough play on some of our smaller players. As we all know Under 7's Walla Rugby is non competitive in terms of a Premiership, however it is still nice to know how we compare with our opposition. Below is a ladder that clearly indicates what a good season we have had so far.

Team	Played	Won	Draw	Loss	Pts
Casuarina	17	14	1	2	58
Palmerston (1)	18	11	3	4	50
Palmerston (2)	16	9	1	6	38
Dragons	18	6	6	6	36
South Darwin	18	6	6	6	36
Swampdogs Blue	17	5	1	11	22
Swampdogs Red	18	3	1	14	14

### Under 9's – Cougars - 24 vs. Dragons - 14

The Mighty Cougars Under 9's are without a doubt the most consistent performers at the tail end of the season defeating the top of the table Dragons outfit 24-14 on Friday night. The Cougars started the game as strong as they finished and showed the crowd what teamwork and discipline are all about. Try scorers Harry Smith-Lester (3tries) and Lodoviko Cocanauto (1try) paved the way for a thrilling game of fast running rugby and rugged contests at the breakdowns. The support play of Simon Anderson, Dylan Anderson, Rowan Boscato, Jackson Phillips and Braedan Slann was essential in maintaining repeat phase play and Simon deserves praise for his efficient distribution at the rucks. Trey Crowley, Samuel Moore, Harry Smith-Lester and Sam Murray were the stand out performers in defence with the Dragons throwing everything at them during the match. Special note to Ben Thompson who had an outstanding game in attack, passing the ball on the run and drawing defenders in close, well done Ben. Madison Hollingworth tried hard and always showed eagerness around the paddock. With the last game this Friday it will be good to see all the players at training and concentrating on finishing the year with a win against Palmerston. Thanks to Griggysy and Karen for their help at the match and to Lance who took the boys on Tuesday for training. Go Cougars!

### **Under 13's – Cougars 17 - vs. Palmerston - 12**

Going in we knew that previous form and results meant nothing, "Finals are different" and this game highlighted the truth in this statement. The lads got off to a solid start, with the forwards executing as a coordinated group, hunting in packs and supporting the ball carrier. Hayden Knowles, Wayne Cokanauto and Brandon Folino-Driver were particularly energetic in the early stages. On the back of this good start, the backs enjoyed some solid possession. Liam Moseley and Jake Turner-Long were excellent at Fly-Half and Inside Centre, whilst Mikey Coombes was an ever present threat chiming in from Fullback. Jake opened the scoring with a nice try on the back of slick ball movement. From this point on however we struggled to maintain a rhythm. Whilst always looking the most likely to score, we started to make basic mistakes and give up possession at the rucks. To Palmy's credit they were particularly strong in this area, consistently beating us to the contest with numbers and intent. Boo Boo managed to capitalise on some great work by Mikey and Liam and crossed over for our second try.

We found ourselves leading 12 nil, but Palmy refused to call it quits. They came back hard and on the back of some poor discipline by our lads which lead to a series penalties Palmy closed the gap just before half time to 12-5. Keena Hicks, Xavier Anderson and Jacob Boscato came of the bench and provided some much needed energy and commitment in the forwards ensuring we did not give up any more ground.

The second half started the way the 1<sup>st</sup> had finished, with poor discipline and a series of penalties being given away for infringements at the ruck. Palmy went the length of the field on the back of 4 straight penalties and crossed to level the scores. The next ten minutes were tense, we threatened to score on a number of occasions, knocking the ball on as we crossed or were about to cross the line to score. We always looked the most likely, but it took until there was only 1 minute left on the clock to seal the deal. With our lads constantly peppering the Palmy try line, through some forceful work from the forwards, particularly Harrison Oakhill, Matty Smith, Xavier Anderson, Hayden Knowles, Denzel Cooper and Brandon Folino Driver we were securing our fair share of possession. Benny Long and Liam Moseley were starting to take control of the game and the outside backs Boo Boo, Zac Robinson, Noodles, Gary Watson and Jordan De Barros were consistently crossing the advantage line.

The game winning brake came from Matty Smith who following a smart pass from Liam charged through a yawning gap to take us within 10 metres, drawing the defence before he slipped a pass to Jake who quickly summed up the situation, saw the opportunity out wide and shifted the ball quickly and brilliantly to Zac who crossed for the game winner. Many a parent was heard to draw in a collective breath, for some I suspect it had been 10 minutes since their last.

Few things more enjoyable in sport than Grand Final week, lets savour the experience, get out there and cheer for the lads. Win, Loose or Draw it does not matter – if you are all anything like the lucky coach of this team, you are already incredibly proud of the manner in which these lads have carried themselves this year. Quality Rugby Players, Quality Team-mates, Great blokes and Great Sports – they deserve our applause.

### **Grand Finals Details**

<b><u>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September</u></b>	<b><u>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>6:00pm</b> - Under 7's and Under 5's</li><li>• <b>6:50pm</b> - Under 9's</li><li>• <b>7:55pm</b> - Under 11's</li><li>• <b>9:00pm</b> - Under 13's</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>2.00pm</b> – Under 15's</li><li>• <b>3.30pm</b> – Under 17's</li><li>• <b>5.15pm</b> – B Grade</li><li>• <b>7.00pm</b> – A Grade</li></ul>

### **Junior Presentation Day**

**When: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

**Where: Cougars Clubhouse**

**Time: 4.00pm onwards.**

**The BBQ will commence at 4.00pm with the presentation of trophies between 6.00pm and 7.00pm.**

**BBQ provided for players and families and the bar will be open for the purchase of drinks.**