



Glen Innes Elks Grand Final Preview



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Best wishes for the Grand Final

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□ Elks line-up: (back row) Tom Coldham, Billy Hartmann, Ranald Burridge, Michael Miller, Bart Tomlinson, Todd Burgess, Matthias Wann, Bob Hilton, Jon Pinferi, Harry Vivers, Gill Burgess, Ben Tremain, Jake Marsh, Lachie Perkins, Fergus McIntosh, (middle row) Andrew Willis, Hugh Mitchell, Nick Lanz, Henry Burridge, Jay Hampson, Adam Morris, Tom Benton, Sib Brummell, Cameron Amos, John Dowling, (seated) Toby Lamph, Lachie Stewart and Ryan Lamph.



□ Player/coach: Lachlan Perkins (photo by Sue Vivers).

Top year for Elks

THE 2014 season was shaping up to be an exciting season for us with a number of new and returning faces taking the field.

With this boost in numbers, we decided to start pre-season training early in the year and really lift the intensity.

Firstly to match the College sides in fitness, but also to build an atmosphere of dedication and commitment. This approach was greeted positively by the playing group with numbers increasing from week to week despite the intensity of training sessions.

From a coach's perspective, good commitment to training has

allowed us to work hard on both the finer skills of rugby, such as the break-down and defensive patterns, along with trying to build combinations and game plan's.

To kick start the year we travelled to Yamba for a trial game against the Buccaneers.

This helped us to start developing these combinations and improve match fitness, but also served as a bonding trip to bring the team together as a group.

Our regards to Sid Brummell for organising this trip and the win against Yamba was the start of our 10 game winning streak, which included a 40 nil win against Robb College and a 43 nil win against Guyra, both in front of big home crowds.

These wins came off the back of good numbers and enthusiasm at training along with having full 22 man squads each Saturday. Weekly strong performers during this period were newcomers, Matthias Wann at outside centre, Billy Hartman at flanker and Cameron Amos at half-back, along with club stalwarts Fergus McIntosh and Ranald Burridge.

We saw a decline in numbers around July, partly due to the cold weather, but also likely due to some complacency creeping in; our first two losses occurred during this period. In the last few weeks the dedication has returned and this has been reflected on the field.

Unfortunately we lost arguably one of the best players in the entire zone, Sam Price, through injury however due to the depth of talent available this year we have been able to cover for this loss.

Recently Adam Morris, Tom Coldham and Tom Benton have been standout performers and are going into the grand final in good form. The Semi final proved that we can both come from behind to win and that we can adapt our style during the game.

After being down at half time we changed our style, keeping the ball in tight and controlling the game through our forwards. Through this we were able to starve Albies of possession and field position, and the win came off the back of that.

This weekend we will be taking on an experienced Armidale Blues

side that have matched us all season. From the three games this year we have had a three-point win, a draw and a two-point loss; meaning that from 210 minutes of rugby only 1 point separates the two sides.

The Blues main attacking weapons will be their two centres, so we will have to focus a lot of our attention there. Our forward pack will be looking to get a roll on, especially in the latter stages of the game.

Our backrow has been unmatched this year and we will be looking to them for some go forward. We also have a lot of try scorers in the backs so that'll be where a lot of the points will likely come from.

I would like to thank all the supporters that have turned up all year, but especially on the weekend in Armidale. We easily had the most vocal supporters of all four games and it served as inspiration to win that game.

We are hoping for a good crowd this weekend to see us finish off what has been a great season.

Lachlan Perkins
Coach

Elks determined to win

ELKS co-coach Ron de Cleene is expecting the team to put on a good show this weekend when they take on season rivals The Armidale Blues at the Univeristy of New Enlgand.

The Elks will be playing a team they know is hard to beat, but Ron is confident they have the determination to bring home the win.

"We have beaten them before," Mr de Cleene said. "Although we will have players on the field with a few injuries from last week's game, the team's in good form and should perform well," he said.

The Elks and the Blues have been evenly matched throughout the season, with close wins and losses keeping the squads inseparable.

The game is on this Saturday in Armidale.



Glen Innes Elks Grand Final Preview



Elks finals match up



☐ Lachlan Perkins (Coach)



☐ Michael Miller



☐ Bart Tomlinson



☐ Bob Hilton



☐ John Dowling



☐ Tom Benton



☐ Jake Marsh



☐ Lachlan Stewart



☐ Henry Burrige



☐ Harry Vivers



☐ Fergus McIntosh



☐ Ranald Burrige



☐ Nicholas Lanz



☐ Sid Brummell



☐ Jay Hampson



☐ Matthias Wann



☐ Adam Morris



☐ Billy Hartman



☐ Sam Price



☐ Tom Coldham



☐ Ben Tremain



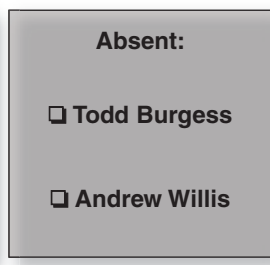
☐ Cameron Amos



☐ Jon Pinferi



☐ Michael Lamph (Club President)



Absent:

☐ Todd Burgess

☐ Andrew Willis

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Looking back on winning season

AS another exciting year for the Glen Innes Elk Rugby Club draws to close I would like to draw attention to some of the highlights for the Club.

Renewed training numbers and excitement within the Club, led to a much earlier start to the season. This has definitely paid off over the year as we now make this claim to be 2014 Second Grade premiers. An early away trip down the hill to play and socialize in Yamba had set the mood within the Club that with extra hard work through the up coming year, anything was possible.

Some new faces to the Club were welcomed and along with the return of some older familiar faces, the playing ranks were looking strong. The buzz within the Club has been one of our real strengths this year and not only has the standard of Rugby been high but the social outings have also brought a lot of people together.

The main highlight for

the year was the move from Rugby Park to the Showgrounds. Unfortunately the very dry summer and autumn of the 2013/14 left the playing surface of Rugby Park unsafe to use and therefore the move up the hill to the showgrounds. A big Thankyou must go to the Showground Trust Committee for allowing us to use their facilities whilst plans are put into place to upgrade Rugby Park in the near future. Our record at the showground was 7 from 7 wins and a draw. Not a bad result for a forced move.

One of those highlights this year was the auctioning of a stand alone Dress Jumper sponsor. A big thankyou goes out to Tim and Jo Lockyer from Lockyer Ground Spreading Services for purchasing this right and the comments have been greatly appreciated on the new Blue Elks Dress Jumpers.

The big highlight of the year for all players and supporters was the Bi-annual Charity Day

and Ball. This years theme was "Pink and Blue" with funds raised to support the McGrath Foundation and the Elk Rugby Ground Upgrade. With three guest speakers and a healthy crowd at the last home game and evening ball some \$12,000 has been raised for these two causes. The "Pink and Blue" jumpers were a hit and a big thankyou must go out to all sponsors and helpers who made the day and evening a huge success.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the very supportive sponsors of Glen Innes Rugby, many of whom have come together to produce this feature, for their continual support of the Elks over the past year. Once again there are numerous people who behind the scenes,

help not only put the players on the park each week but also run the bar, bbq and canteen, drive the buses when needed. Also a big thanks to the Glen Innes community for their vocal support at those home games this year or who made the trips to give cheer at the away games. Our gate numbers have risen again this year and the support we have received from all has been fantastic.

Finally on behalf of the

Glen Innes Rugby Club, I wish all those involved in this year's squad all the very best for this Saturday's Grand Final. It has been a very successful year to date for the Elks. Go the mighty Elks.

Michael Lamph
Glen Innes Elks Club President.



Elks: Matthias Wann (top) and Jay Hampson (below) led the Elks' charge in last weeks game against UNE's St. Albert's College. (Photo by Sue Vivers).

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