

Harden Murrumburrah
EXPRESS

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Harden Murrumburrah SPORT

Thursday, August 29, 2013

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The Harden Hawks will be looking for another strong performance from forward Chris James when Harden goes up against Binalong this weekend in the grand final. ■ See Page 9

Hawks swoop on Magpies to go into grand final

QUITE a good Saturday greeted the Harden Hawks rugby league team and the Yass Magpies at McLean Oval for the sudden death preliminary final of the 2013 George Tooke Shield.

The ground was in tip-top condition and according to officials from Group 8 was better than Seiffert Oval, where the Canberra Raiders used to play in the NRL competition.

The Harden Hawks suffered a setback the week previously, playing below par, and they definitely needed a lift.

They didn't stoop to peptides or supplements but engaged the services of a sports psychologist whose use of strategic words during Thursday night's training session was well worth the effort and worked wonders.

Yass kicked off towards the south and almost instantly speedster Riley Manwaring sprinted up the eastern sideline but deftly stepped on it and the movement halted.

Soon after a penalty the Hawks were on the

attack, finishing a great backline charge and Royce Kerrison crossed in the corner for try number one, making it 4/0.

Harden, from the outset, were showing purpose and determination, allowing Kerro to repeat the dose. Daniel Drew's conversion from the sideline raised the flag for a 10/0 lead.

At this stage our Hawks were well in control. The result, winger Royce Kerrison scored his third try, which Drew converted from right on the sideline. Harden, 16; Yass, nil.

Then it was the magpies turn to attack and they scored in the High School corner.

The Hawks were still playing with renewed vigour and added another try just before half time and were again pressing Yass' line when the halftime siren was sounded with the score impressive for Harden at 22 to four.

The second stanza began with Yass in possession. But when the Hawks got the ball a Yass player was penalised in the tackle and sin-binned for 10 minutes.

Taking full advantage of the sin-binning, the Maroon and Whites went further when Tim Pinney crossed up the hill end, elevating the score to 26/4.

Ben Drew capped off a good forwards game in the latter stages, scoring two bullocking tries. The final score being Harden Hawks 38, Yass Magpies four.

We now advance to the grand final to play the Binalong Brahmans at Binalong this Saturday at 2.30pm.

The Harden Hawks are to be commended as they finished second on the competition table. They won 13 out of 128 games played, scoring 656 points and having 192 scored against them.

Wouldn't it be great to see as many people support Harden this Saturday and make the effort to attend the final match of the George Tooke Shield in our neighbouring village.

I'll be there, how about you?

Wings

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 Harden Hawks VS Binalong Saturday at 2:30pm at Binalong

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