WYOMING 45BC CHRONICLES

MAJOR SEMI FINAL

Vs

02 SEPTEMBER 2023 | vs OURIMBAH | OURIMBAH OVAL 2

Finals football had finally arrived and for the third straight semi final we were scheduled against lower ranked opponents … at their home ground. The word 'Major' had no sway on getting the superior field either. Here we were on the dirt patch up against an opponent who would be determined to ruin our party in any way they could. Would we overcome another fiery encounter and secure a Grand Final berth at Central Coast Stadium??

One thing was certain leading up to this game, there'd be a selection headache with 19 players declaring their availability. Dylan, still cautious with the mending collarbone, declared himself out if we had the numbers. Jamesy was doing his utmost to recover from his ailing heel but when he responded "just" to the question if he was able to sprint, it was decided to rest him for another week; Fitzy kindly agreed to sit out with a guaranteed Grand

Final spot; and Clive ruled himself out mid-week with a chest cold. They all quite adamantly remarked "you better f#&ing win!". Clive scared us further by threatening to chase us all in a gimp suit if we bowed out this weekend. As a silver lining, Snorky saw dollar signs for his business with that news, there'd be the need for a lot of yellow tape!!

As the players of both sides lined up for the officials to have their ugly mugs and numbers checked, it was promptly noticed that amongst the Ourimbah team was their suspended goalkeeper. Despite not being on the teamsheet, he'd been ticked off by an official to play. We could've let it go, played the game and see them disqualified it they'd won it… or appeal to the officials. We opted for the latter and just before kickoff he was informed he could not play.

So yes, the drama had started even before kickoff, and would it fade out as the game progressed? … hell no! It was about to get worse. Mikey D made a run into the box and collided heavily with the opposition. There was no foul, but Mikey D remained on the ground clutching his knee. The game continued despite some appeals to kick it out. Tooley was oblivious to this, and when the ball came to him – courtesy of Garvs - he took a long shot that sailed into the net. The ref declared it a goal and the Ourimbah crew went off calling us cheats. Pot calling the kettle black much? Alas, no whistle had been blown so he we were, the ref called it, we were up one nil.

So, did we take that lucky break and put away a few goals to put it beyond doubt? No. It was an ugly first half with poor passing and stagnant play that eventually saw us punished. Akin to their goal against us a few weeks ago, it started from a throw-in and crossed to an unmarked No. 20 who swiftly got a shot away and the diving Rob was unable to block it. Other than that moment, neither keeper was really tested. Rob tested the nerves a couple of times with cheeky little turns when an attacker approached but cool as cucumber he was, fitting as he does like to wear all green .. he prefers to be identified as an asparagus though.

The most painful part of the first half was how much our opposition slowed the game down. It took an age for them to collect the ball for a throw-in or a goal kick, even resorting to chucking a second ball on the field to stop play. It got to the point that at half time, the ref threatened yellow cards if it continued.

The boys huddled at the break, frustrated but hopeful that the worst was behind us. Other than a couple of scary counter attacks though, we were slowly owning the second half. Nige was solid. The same can't be said about his boots, one of them crumbling apart. Thankfully he had another pair. Chad's injection onto the field generated more attacking chances on the right edge and combined well with Nige. Dean started to get more ball when he moved to the center, and Boz was dominating at the back. Unfortunately, Stitty's afternoon ended abruptly with a knee injury. He also had his ankle trodden on by a certain Ourimbah player who somehow continues to get away with abhorrent behaviour.

But moving right along, the less said about them the better. This was our day. The final fifteen minutes saw us dominating the attack. Garvs came ever so close when he hit the crossbar; Luca's shot from an Andy chip veered just wide; and there was a handball inside the box that unfortunately went unnoticed. Then with a couple of minutes to go, Andy's throw-in found Garvs just outside the box. He worked his magic with a quick turn, maneuvered through the traffic and got the shot away! Goal!!

Defend! Defend! was the mantra for however time there was left but Ourimbah helped us out with that by putting a twelfth player on the field. The linesman picked up on this, the ref stopped the play, trekked fifty-odd meters to confer with his colleague. That clocked enough time for the ref to blow the full-time whistle and that was it, we arre into the Grand Final… at the Stadium! Hell yes!! It wasn't pretty but we've made it and that's twenty straight wins.

Goals (Assists): O'Toole (McGarvey), McGarvey (Kennedy)

FULL-TIME: WYOMING FOOTBALL CLUB **2** — OURIMBAH UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB FALCONS **1**

THIS WEEK

3	BOHRINGER (28)
2	MEAD (25)
1	STINGMORE (17)

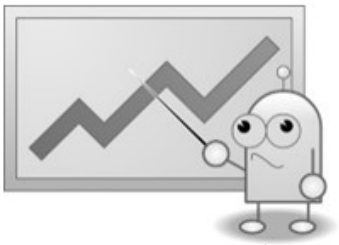
( ) = TOTAL VOTES

3-2-1 POINTS

PLAYER'S PLAYER

SEASON TALLY

15	McGARVEY
14	BOHRINGER
10	LARGE, MEAD
8.5	SCURI
8	AVERY, STINGMORE
7	STITT
6	SNODGRASS
5	WALLACE
5	MUNRO, O'TOOLE
3	BELL, DONAFEE, JAMES, KENNEDY
2	MALONE
1.5	ASHTON



STATS

PAUL ASHTON (90 Games)
CHRIS LARGE (10 Games)
MICHAEL McGARVEY (40 Goals in 2023)

GOAL SCORING TALLY

GOALS	
40	McGARVEY
12	DONAFEE
8	JAMES
6	BOHRINGER
4	MUNRO, O'TOOLE, STINGMORE
3	ASHTON, SCURI
2	KENNEDY
1	SNODGRASS

ASSISTS	
24	McGARVEY
8	DONAFEE 7 JAMES, LARGE
6	KENNEDY, SCURI
5	ASHTON, STINGMORE
4	MUNRO 3 MEAD
2	BOHRINGER, FITZPATRICK, O'TOOLE, SMITH, SNODGRASS
1	AVERY, BELL, STITT

SEMI FINALS								M45BC
2/09/2023	13:00	AVOCA		0	vs	1	KILLARNEY	Ourimbah Oval 1
2/09/2023	13:15	WYOMING		2	vs	1	OURIMBAH	Ourimbah Oval 2
GRAND FINAL								**M45BC**
9/09/2023	14:00	WYOMING			vs		KILLARNEY	Central Coast Stadium