

GAME 1 WESTERN AUSTRALIA v NEW SOUTH WALES II

Western Australia won the toss and came out firing against New South Wales II in game 1 of the Division 1 Australian State Schoolboys Competition.

It was thought it might be a tight struggle when Western Australia began with a strong tight scrum, but that wasn't enough to contain the brilliant rugby played by the New South Wales 2 Team.

They got off to a fantastic start dominating mainly in the backs managing to spread the ball wide with great success, and get good momentum from the forwards' pick and go and this is how the first try was scored.

The New South Wales II Team started to really show what they were capable of and began creating space which resulted in their second try. From here on in the tries flowed and it appeared as though the scoreboard could get ugly in the second, and it did.

WA came out firing in the second half and both teams showed good poise and execution in attack and defence. 10 minutes into the second half WA finally had the opportunity to attack inside the opposition half. Some good build up work by the forwards created some momentum and space out wide, but a soft turnover saw the pressure amount to nothing.

Midway through the second the WA team made a lot of changes with the aim was to expose the whole team to the pressure and the intensity of the tournament and so lessons were learnt by all.

The boys continued to push for that elusive try but they were unable to breach the New South Wales defence and the score finished at 71-0. Despite the massive score line WA's spirits were high and keen to play high contact, fast rugby in this quality Division 1 Australian Schools tournament.

NSW II 71 (Joel Luani 2, Jason Siege, Benn Melrose, Joel Gillespie, Ed Wylie, Samuel Ahofono, Boyd Killingworth, James Vaka tries, Stuart Dunbar try, 6 con, 3 pen) defeated WA nil

GAME 2 QUEENSLAND I VS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Australia began the second game on Thursday with a promising start, full of heart but that wasn't enough to contain the brilliant rugby played by the Queensland I Team. They got off to a fantastic start dominating every facet of the game and at the 4 minute mark QLD pushed up the middle, spun wide with overlap evaded the WA tackle and crossed the line but missed the conversion.

The QLD Team rumbled in the forwards near the WA line, with the team picking and driving and preparing the line for a try under the post. From a missed line out a conversion was scored.

The third try was scored in a similar fashion with QLD winning the line-out and their number 8 spinning the ball wide to their winger to cross the line. The Western Australian team forwards continued to show good continuity with a consistent defensive line. This gave the Queensland Team a lead of 19-0.

It was time for WA to really show what they were capable of and in the 12th minute WA pushed over the line but were denied the try due to a push in the back. Although disappointed WA did not stop showing their true flair and willingness to tackle at every opportunity. This came with its casualty with Nathan Oakley Mannasah being pulled from the game due to the blood rule, and Corey Thomas coming on to continue the hard push.

The Queensland tries continued with a kick to the corner and then winning the line-out, followed by a pick and drive between the Post. With a successful conversion the score at the end of the first half showed Queensland were ahead 26-0.

WA came out firing in the second half with the game turning into a really tight struggle. Both teams showed good poise and execution in attack and defence. QLD were too strong again when a minute into the second half they kicked again into the corner and successfully crossed the line after a good line-out.

Western Australia continued to push for that elusive try, and they succeeded 10 minutes into the second half. After three rucks from the left wing with Oakley Mannasah hitting up and another two rucks in front of the post, Ethan Carlisle broke through to score WA's first try in Division 1 history. Hemi Chase followed this up with a successful conversion. The score now stood at 49-7.

Through a hit up and kick over the top Queensland regathered momentum and broke through two tackles to take the ball over once again. The successful conversion put the final score at 61 -7 to Queensland.

QLD I 61 (Cayden Matehaere 2, Walter Petaia, Elisha Paulpe, Sean Cox, Jack Bridges, Lindsay Crook, Giorgio Phillips, Chri F'Sautia tries, Henry Taefu 4 con, Giorgio Phillips 4 con) defeated WA 7 (Ethan Carlisle try, Hemi Chase con)

GAME 3 ACT VS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ACT began the game with the strong wind blowing in their favour, but that wasn't enough to contain the brilliant start of Western Australia. They managed to overcome the windy conditions to spread the ball wide with great success, and get good momentum from the forwards' pick and go and this is how the first try was scored.

The WA Team rumbled in the forwards with WA Prop Olli Hoskins running through a gap near the ruck and off loaded to Hooker Richard Cooper. Cooper ran a couple of metres and scored and the conversion was unsuccessful.

The ACT Team started to use the wind to show what they were capable of, throwing the ball wide and creating space which resulted in their first try. James Field produced a chip kick over the WA line and was picked up on the right hand side of the field by Nick Murray. Murray shot down the line and scored in the corner and with the successful conversion the ACT Team were ahead 7-5.

The first half was categorized by dominance in territory and possession by the ACT Team. Some good backs play was being constructed by the ACT Team, and fly half Field looked dangerous running from the rucks. A good battle developed between opposite forward packs however, poor handling and defensive skills from WA resulted in the score blowing out to 20-5 in ACT favour going into the half time break.

The second half began much the same to the first with the ACT Team controlling possession and territory. Some tough and good rugby by the ACT Team's backs saw winger Daniel Potts barge over in left wing. Field converted to give the team a 27-5 advantage. There were two more tries by ACT capitalising on the overwhelmed Western Australian backs of which were successfully converted.

Midway through the second half both teams made a lot of changes and the momentum swung with WA going on the attack camping in the opposition's half for 10 minutes. WA showed good continuity and determination, but some great defence by the ACT Team and a good clearing kick saw them get out of trouble. They controlled the ball in midfield waiting for a gap, showing good patience.

Some tough and direct rugby by the Western Australia teams forwards saw prop Olli Hoskins barge over near the right upright for the last try of the match. The conversion was successful making the final score 42-12.

ACT 42 (Nick Murray, Jack Jones, Lewis Holland, Jonathon Andrew-Copsey, Daniel Potts tries, James Field 4 con, 3 pen) defeated WA 12 (Richard Cooper, Oli Hoskin tries, Antini Brown 1 con)