



The Bagger

Volume 09 – Episode 4

DALES FALL AT THE FINAL JUMP.

With the pain of the previous weeks belting still smarting the Dales regrouped for a new challenge against an in form Melbourne. The Ds were second on the ladder and looking every bit as good as their reputation before the bounce of the ball. This was a game that nearly never was. An organised early start, followed by an unscheduled late start, two umpires that were only a whisker from being medically diagnosed fully retarded when they both thought the game was next week. Seems 100 blokes and playing officials turned up at the same ground at the same time but these two knuckle heads forgot about the back to back round. Never mind! I suppose it's a little like the jury system. You put yourself in the hands of 12 people that couldn't get out of jury duty and expect a reasonable result. But back to the game. The long wait was worthwhile and with the sun rapidly setting and every player very warmed up it was time to bounce the ball. Some players were so warmed up they were exhausted and it was indeed fortuitous our friends at the St Johns Ambulance were well on hand. One player who shall be nameless. (Aussie) trying to stick to his normal pregame routine ate 4 pies and 3 sausage rolls. Wombat's Bulimic antics also left the start mid fielder quite dehydrated. Things were looking a little overcooked until 48 arms, 48 legs, one committed team....strode the green green grass of the Gerry Green Reserve. A perfect day for footy and a challenge for the locals to make amends lay all before them.

The first quarter was quite stunning with Peter "Pluggger" Falaskas dominating up forwarding bullocking his way to the front of packs and marking everything. Hacky was his trade mark "tough as old boots" approach was questioning the opposition at every stoppage crashing into legs, heads or anything else that got in his way. Reidy was looking dangerous up forward, as was Darren "Daisy" Whyte and Mark "The Freak" Michaelitis. Whytie seemed to find his way to the drop of the ball all too often and just missed some opportunities. The first quarter left both teams only separated by the barest of margins.

The second saw the Dales kick away only to be pegged back some committed Melbournians. Corny was dominant until the bionics went down leaving the symptoms of a hamstring strain. Master trainer, Wayne Allen managed to reprogram Corny with a rub, a re boot and bag of lollies. Carts was wonderful, dominating the centre tap outs and with the opposition a wake up to him it was up to Goody to counter with some sharking of his own. Big Dave "Conan" Bartlett who had being very quiet the week before sprung to life in this quarter crashing through packs and stopping traffic in the "don't argue" style that made him famous.

Scores were all tied up at the long break and this arm wrestle was far from over.

Skipper Tony Smith delivered his usual address to the nation to spark his chargers and the third quarter was a classic. Bad Boy Johnny Rotten and Danny were great down back with Matty Riz holding up the forwards. Johnny "Benjamin Button" Lught was involved in an incident where he ducked through three tackles in the same passage of play. "I could feel the wind rushing over my head. I thought at one stage I was going to end up like one of those stuffed trophy heads on a wall." Said Johnny. I'm telling you



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Johnny when I was nearly tacking up the board myself. Aussie was rock solid after some half time colonic irrigation. Only points separated the two teams at the final break and it was time for coach Hansford to weave some magic. Wild card Sammy “Ken Hands” Ingram tried hard and “Mad” Matty Cox decided to change is shooting style and fired one across the body for a minor score. Goody slipped forward and scored but the horse had bolted and Melbourne got home by 10 points. A disappointing loss but the Dales have now played all teams in the top half of the draw. Opportunities will be knocking and its time to open the door.

Parkdale Supers you’re good enough for finals but your life is in your hands.

“Bagger”