

## **Round 1 – Alexandra v Yea**

**By Patrick Evans**

### **Seniors**

Alexandra 9.7-61 defeated by Yea 14.15-99

It was a massive build up to round one and Yea delivered on a pre-season of expectation, knocking off Alexandra on the road by 38 points in warm conditions despite a strong start by the home side. The Rebels made the early running and registered five early scoring shots, including two majors, before the Tigers got on the board through recruit Sean Bamblett, following up with three goals in the back half of the term to lead by a point at the first break.

For the next two quarters, the visitors took complete control, constantly driving the ball forward and despite some errant kicking for goal, locking the ball inside the front half of the ground through pressure and maintaining defensive structure. During this period, Yea piled on 6.13 to just two behinds, and should have been further ahead than the three-quarter time margin of 50 points, which shrunk quickly after Alexandra booted the first three of the final term.

However, a clutch major from the forward pocket by Michael Pitman snuffed out the Rebel's fightback and restored the ascendancy, with the Tigers adding three more to take final deficit beyond six goals. It was an even performance from the Tigers with contributors on every line; Chris Graham presented well to finish with 3.2, Dan O'Dwyer (one goal) was strong in the air across half back and Riley Aldous had cameos all over the ground, slotting two majors and tackling hard.

Adrian McCarthy was consistent in the midfield and Bamblett's two first quarter goals were invaluable, while Lachie Beattie and Pitman worked tirelessly on their respective wings. While there are plenty of things to work on, it was a solid first up effort, and the Tigers will be pleased to come away with the four points and no injury concerns. Yea will host Thornton-Eildon in their first home game of the season on Saturday.

Goal Kickers: C. Graham 3, R. Aldous 2, M. Pitman 2, S. Bamblett 2, H. Jarvie, R. Timmins, D. O'Dwyer, J. Carroll, L. Beattie

Best Players: S. Bamblett , R. Aldous, C. Graham, D. O'Dwyer, M. Pitman, A. McSpeerin

### **Reserves**

Alexandra 5.6-36 defeated by Yea 14.6-90

Yea got their season off to the perfect start on the weekend, easily accounting for Alexandra by 44 points thanks to a blistering first half and a great blend of youth and experience. The Tigers shot out of the blocks, with Andrew Butterworth slotting the first two goals of the match after marking strongly on the lead, taking a 19-point buffer into quarter time.

The second term was nothing short of brilliant, with the visitors slamming on seven goals to one thanks to some dominance through the midfield and establishing a near-unassailable 55-point advantage at half time. By the last change, Yea had extended their lead to beyond 11 goals and cruised to victory, failing to register a major in the final time as the hosts booted a couple late. Ferg McKenzie (two goals) and Sean Connell, both playing their first games back at the club in years, ran riot through the middle of the ground, taking advantage of Brad Clement's dominant performance in the ruck.

Andrew Butterworth finished with four goals in a new role up forward, Dylan Jannke offered some great drive out of defence and Jaryed Garlick found plenty of the football on the wing, while Trent McMahon (three goals) was dangerous in attack. The Tigers will be full of confidence when they take on Thornton-Eildon at home this week.

Goal Kickers: A. Butterworth 4, T. McMahon 3, K. McKenzie 2, B. Wilsmore 2, B. Broadway, B. Middleton, R. Sargeant Best Players: B. Clements, K. McKenzie, D. Jannke, S. Connell, A. Butterworth, J. Garlick

## **Netball**

**By Cindy Hayes & Deb Schickerling**

### A Grade

Yea started off their 2018 campaign in fine form, demolishing a young Alexandra side. Yea were never headed, racing away to a 24-5 goal first quarter, then following on with 25, 22 & 24 goals in the following 3 quarters.

Despite the ball being in Yeas forward end for the bulk of the game, Yea's defence stood strong when Alexandra moved the ball into attack, intercepting numerous incoming balls to propel Yea back into attack. The ball movement of the Tigers was fast and precise and a delight to watch.

Head coach Mel Martinov was strong in goals, shooting 17 goals in every quarter to amass 68 for the game. Fellow newcomers Sam Coppinger and Kath Duncan were both fantastic in the midcourt and defence. Great start Tigers.

### **Yea 95 def Alexandra 26**

Goals: M Martinov 68, R Hickey 27

Best: M Martinov, S Coppinger, K Duncan

### B Grade

Yea began their premiership defence with 6 premiership players in the line-up, with the bonus additions of Meg Sundblom, Sophie Watts and Sarah Armstrong.

Yea made a great start bolting to a 9-0 lead, the Rebels mounting challenges throughout the first half but that handy start kept Yea comfortably in the lead, extended to 18 by half time. Alex won the the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter but couldn't make any headway into the lead after that with the Tigers running out 27 goal winners after a solid last quarter. Meg was brilliant in GS, providing an amazing target, slotting 52 goals for the game. Cindy, Lauren and Sarah were on top in defence all day and the mid court girls moved the ball beautifully all game. Well done Tigers.

### **Yea 69 def Alexandra 42**

Goals: M Sundblom 52, C Hayes 16, R Bell 1

Best: M Sundblom, C Newcomen, C Hayes

#### C Grade

Unfortunately, it wasn't the start to the season the C grade girls would have liked. With three players, out it was a big ask on Kate Broadway and Sarah Loblely to step up after having played a full game in D in the warm conditions, but both players did a great job and slotted into the team well. The first quarter saw Alexandra double Yeas score and it was catch-up netball from then on. Fresh legs each quarter and the ability to convert on the Tiger's mistakes meant the Rebels were the victors on the day by 9. Although it wasn't the outcome the girls would have liked there were positives to take from the game including the fantastic debut games of Maggie McSpeerin in goals and the midcourt and Elly Hendrie rock solid in defence. The next time the two teams come up against each other it will be a very different affair.

### **Alexandra 36 def Yea 25**

Goals: F Purvis 12, M McSpeerin 4, S Loblely 8

Best: Jordan Watts, M McSpeerin, E Hendrie

#### D Grade

The first game of the day and the season on Alexandra's new netball courts was a nervous affair by both teams. But it was Yea that settled first and the debut girls who have come up from juniors (Teagan Britton, Ebony Edge, Caitlan Broderick and Hannah Broderick) played beyond their years. Having Stacey Murray return after having a baby had a settling impact in the attacking end. The always reliable Sarah Loblely (who normally dominates the defence end) was given the chance to expose her impressive goaling ability this week with Hannah Broderick. The defence duo of Jill Hargreaves and Teagan Britton worked hard and got lots of turn overs and solid performances by midcourts Caitlan Broderick, Kate Broadway and Tess Walton meant the Tigers had the opportunities. The third quarter did test the Tigers with the Rebels winning the quarter by 3 but with a few changes and positive words from Coach Martinov the girls regrouped and came away the victors by 5.

### **Yea 25 def Alexandra 20**

Goals: S Loblely 15, H Broderick 8, S Murray 2

Best: T Britton, C Broderick, S Loblely