

WKFL Triumph over NPFL

The first representative game played by the West Kimberley Football League in many years, travelled to Port Hedland at the weekend to take on the North Pilbara Football League.

The two Leagues starved from representative football due to cost and distance, organised the game amongst themselves with the sanction and support of the WA Country Football League. With the idea that the West Kimberley travel to Hedland this year and the Pilbara team travelling to Broome in 2013.

The game was played under lights at Colin Matheson Oval on Saturday evening. The game began at a frenetic pace with the North Pilbara in control in the early part of the first term. The West Kimberley boys making many unforced errors, missing targets by hand and foot, clearly nerves playing a part. Once settled it began a very even contest in the latter part of the first quarter. Good players for the WKFL in this quarter were; Tim Richter, Jack Reagan, Robert Sampi and full back Paul Taylor under immense pressure from an attacking North Pilbara.

The West Kimberley settled, regained their composure and led by a point at quarter time. In this quarter the WKFL received a blow when co-captain Brett Claudius who had begun well, strained a ham string and was forced from the ground for the remainder of the game. However, this had minimal effect , as a quality mid field led by Tim Richter, all stepped up to fill the void.

The second quarter saw the WKFL gain complete control, kicking 6.4 to 2.1, leading at the half time break by nearly five goals. A potent forward line led by Evan Russell kicking goals, Lyle Buck coming into play and Ben Saunders along with Tim Richter starting to dominate. Jo Dann provided a focal point up forward, creating making options. Ben DeMeo was in control with some superb ruck work supplying our fleet of mid fielders with ample opportunities.

The third quarter began with the North Pilbara kicking a goal within 30 seconds. However the West Kimberley bounced back and kicked another 5 goals to the NPFL 2 goals. The back line led by Paul Taylor, Ben Weardon, Sean Gregory and Dave Siebel had the measure of their opponents. Tim Richter continued his Best on Ground performance, gathering many possessions. The rotations off the bench, included Geoff Clarke, Jack Reagan, Jordan King and Davo Cox, all having an influence, creating immense pressure on the NPFL mid fielders. Up forward Clinton Bangmorra, Dom Treacy and Lyle Buck all got in on the act of kicking goals. This quarter saw the sparkling skills of Angelo Thomas on display as he danced and weaved, mesmerising spectators and opponents.

Three quarter time the writing was on the wall – the WKFL by how far?

The last quarter saw the WKFL do just that, continue their dominance having another seven shots at goal to two. What had the hallmarks of being a tight contest had not eventuated. The WKFL with their brilliant skills and willingness to support and run hard for each other, continued their dominance. One would have thought this talented group of 24 footballers had been playing together for a number of years, not pulled together in two months.

Having travelled 600+ kilometres to play a talented team, presented a logistical nightmare having not done this for many years. The players along with coach Peter Kelleher, assistant coach Lee Hislop and their support staff are to be congratulated.

Game Details:

	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	TOTAL:
WKFL	3.4	9.8	14.14	17.18	120
NPFL	3.3	5.4	7.4	8.5	53

Goal Kickers: Lyle Buck (4), Evan Russell (3), Clint Bangmorra (2), Dom Tracey (2), Geoff Clarke (1), Tim Richter (1), Angelo Thomas (1), Jo Dann (1), Ben Saunders (1).

Best Players: Tim Richter (BoG), Jo Dann, Ben Saunders, Sean Gregory, Paul Taylor, Ben Weardon.