

Semi-Finals - 2013

In the biggest boilder in FIDA Finals history, the Williamstown Seagulls Senior side charged into the Division 1 Grand Final with a thrilling 3 point win over hot favourites, the Kananook Bulls. With two late withdrawals leaving the team with only the regulation 3 interchanges, each and every player made a commitment to “do my best” for themselves, their team and their club. Stunning the Bulls in the first quarter with a sterling two goal to nil effort, the eager Seagulls stood staunch in the second term when the Bulls roared back into the game. Another two goals in the “Premiership Quarter” meant the Willi boys took a 9 point lead into the fourth stanza. An early goal to Kananook looked like it would be the harbinger of an onslaught, but to the absolute credit of the Williamstown players, they dug deeper than any of them had imagined they could. Careful use of the ball ran time off the clock, while individual acts of desperation and sacrifice generated ongoing inspiration to team-mates. The backline was fearsome in their resolute defence, the midfielders were inspiring with their sharp skill and dogged fitness, while the forward line offered unselfish scoring promise coupled with swarming pressure.

Final scores:

Williamstown 4.11 (35)

Kananook 4.8 (32)

Goals: Kelvin O'Connor 2, Corey Murphy 1, Burger 1 (and another disallowed).

Best: Backline. Midfield. Forwards. Team effort. Special mention: Kelvin O'Connor. Never has the club song been sung with more gusto.

It was then the turn of the Reserves to take up the challenge against Kananook. Given that the Reserves were considered by many opponents to be “easy beats” at the start of the year, their success in winning their way into the Semi Final series cannot be overestimated. Unfortunately, the Bulls team on the day was older, more experienced and physically bigger than the Seagulls outfit. However, this did not deter the gallant Reserves, who stuck to their task all day. Their positive attitude and willingness to sustain the contest saw them rewarded with top quality goal scoring results. The future of the Seagulls was on display, and yje future is very bright indeed.

Final scores do not accurately reflect the contest.

Williamstown 4.2 (26)

Kananook 21.16 (142)

Goals: Laurie Pollard 1, William Lang 1, Theo Causon 1, Mo El Hawli 1, Chantelle Gordon 1.

Best: Backline. Midfield. Forwards. Team effort. Special mention: Sam Belden.

I am so proud of our Seniors side having earned their way to the Grand Final, but I am completely in awe of the Reserves team for their improvement over a season and their character and integrity in competeition, win, lose or draw.

The Reserves sang the club song at the end of the game as well. Because they deserved to.