



2007 WEEKLY WRAP

FINALS WEEK 4

When quizzed by journalists last week about so called "8 point games", in reference to the upcoming match between West Coast and the Kangaroos, John Worsfold said he didn't believe in the concept, quite simply because there are no 8 point games. Of course Worsfold would not have taken Dan into his calculations - who so vehemently loathes the West Coast, that any Eagles win is a 4 point strike against his personal tally. Likewise, Dan has a passion for the Kangaroos that could only be rivaled by a male figure skater's love for putting socks down his pants. Ergo, a kangaroo loss is another 4 point loss for Dan, bringing this weekends total to 8 points!

If only it was as simple as an 8 point loss or the Ruckmen. With both sides in career best form, the 2007 Grand Final promised to be an epic contest. And it didn't disappoint. The two teams that finished the regular season in the top two positions on the ladder fought out a game that was arguably the greatest in BMRWFC history. The Death, riding an 8 game win streak, in which they scored over 2100 points in every game, produced more of the same in the Grand Final, racking up a daunting total of 2336. On Sunday morning, it appeared as though the Ruckmen were gone for all money, but scintillating performances by Hodge (153), Bartel (189) and Pavlich (195) brought them storming back from the brink. But just like Jan in real life, the Ruckmen came up short, ultimately losing by just 74 points.

Jan once famously claimed that his drafting strategy, and secret to success was to pick 22 players who averaged 100 points each. Like Damian Drum, his genius was flawed - he needed them to average 114 to beat the Death. And where to now for the Ruckmen? The despair, like Derek after drinking 600ml of chock milk, can be smelled from a mile away. But any coach, given the chance to score over 2200 points in a Grand Final, would take it. Indeed, the score was good enough to win any previous grand final since the current scoring system was adopted in 2003.

The Death have achieved the improbable of 4 BMRWFC premierships, won 2 out of the last 3 and accumulated a record of dominance that could be matched only by the West Coast team of the nineties. Superlatives are inadequate to describe the role played by Matthew Richardson, who captained the Death to all four flags. One senses that Richo's time is almost up, but he will surely look back to the day that he was traded from the Ballbaggers to the Death, as the luckiest day of his life.

The Gazz shored up their position as All Time Ratings champions by beating the Fwippers in the Plate final. In the end, it was not even close, as the Fwippers, perhaps disheartened to have been bumped out of contention by the Ruckmen last week, could

not find the motivation to prevail. Still, it is Coach Phil's highest ever finish, which, if he searched hard enough, would be some consolation. The Gazz, to Dan's unmitigated incredulity and dismay, continue to defy the odds by placing third. Like Richo, the Gazz skipper Rowan Rowan Jones may be approaching the end of his influence - will it be the same fate for the Gazz? One thing is for sure - they still haven't finished lower than xth.

FINALS WEEK 3

Ruckmen to take on Death in a blockbuster, Pav claims spoon.

That the Ruckmen have been so good for so long, and are only now set to play in their first grand final, is a testament to how hard it is to win the BMRWFC. Jan gets his chance to right all previous wrongs this weekend, after thrashing the Fwippers by over 200 points in the first Preliminary Final. Things looked dicey for the Ruckmen on Sunday morning, especially after Brad Ottens decided to go on French leave, but the Fwippers were clearly below their best, scoring their third lowest tally for the year, and their worst since round 4. Coach Phil now has a taste of what Jan has been eating for the last three years - disappointment under finals pressure! Still, it was an impressive performance by the Fwippers, who were probably the most consistent side of the year, and claim their highest ever finish.

The excitement down in the Ruckmen camp must be intoxicating. Will this be the time Jan will achieve the immortality of a silver shield on a white dinner plate, or will it be another case of being beaten down by an ageing kick boxer outside Ogilvy's? On Sunday night we will know.

Fraser Gehrig managed one mark, no disposals and one free kick against during his Friday night match against the Bulldogs, an achievement which Dennis Commetti claimed would puzzle statisticians for years to come. Rest assured Dennis, it has puzzled our own Coach Garry for almost a decade, after his former captain, Anthony Ingerson could manage just one mark and no disposals for the Gazz! There was no confusion for the Gazz this weekend, however as they felt must have felt like they got ironed out by Josh Carr (only the hit from the Death came from the front). A match that promised so much delivered very little, with the Gazz slipping to within 8 points of their lowest score of the season. It was almost as if a fifth column was at work in the Gazz as they had two late withdrawals - for Nathan Bock, it was his first miss for the season! Garry's grief will be somewhat assuaged by his continuance as the All Time Ratings champion. The Death march on, managing another impressive score, and will take an 8 game win streak into the grand final. It will be the third straight grand final for Coach Davo, who will be hoping that his aging stars, typified by the magnificent Matthew Richardson, can eke one final game out of their tired legs. The grand final promises to be a blockbuster, with both teams riding good form - it may well come down to the late withdrawals!

The playoff for 5th and 6th was notable mostly for the lack of interest shown by both coaches. A total of three players were named for their BMRWFC team, but not for their respective AFL club, with Coach Mark being the worst offender. Never mind for Dan though, he was good enough to win the game and finish 5th. Undoubtedly, Dan will be lamenting another season where he was better than everyone else, but

finished with a result that is beneath him. No such thing for the Math-o-mats, however, as they grab their highest ever finish at 6th, and manage a finals appearance in only their second season, likely to be worthy of a nomination for Coach of the Year. Coach Mark will be salivating at the thought of how many quality West Coast players will be available at pick 6 in next years draft.

Despite the efforts of Fraser Gehrig (1 point) the United triumphed over a lamentable Orgazmo outfit in the battle for 7th place. Coach Denno has been doing so much traveling he may well have sailed over the edge of the Earth, so dramatic was his capitulation. Having been in relatively strong form throughout the season, The Orgazmos posted scores of 1799 and 1539 in the finals, crashing to consecutive losses and a disappointing 8th. Consistent with a view held by many former girlfriends, Coach Denno remains the most boring person in the BMRWFC, having never attained an award of any kind - good or bad! Throughout the season, the United appeared to be attracted to 8th spot like Jan to a junior girls netball game, but this victory sees them leap out of their comfort zone to a lofty 7th place - their highest finish under Coach Riemann. It remains to be seen if they can continue to improve while coping with the demands of a 1 year old - something which the Buddhas have not managed!

And speaking of the Buddhas, their dream run came to an end at the hands of the resurgent Farmers. Frank, obviously refreshed from a weekend in Melbourne, bounced back with a solid 2047 to claim the coveted victory in the repechage and the first pick ion next years draft. Amazingly, Derek could be in the running for Coach of the Year, after improving his side from 14th last year to 10th in 2007. Just ask Paul Roos - its all about timing!

The Craakers salvaged something from the year by defeating arch rival Cakey, but still suffered a precipitous fall to finish in 11th (down from 5th last year). Jorgo's post season review will no doubt include a commitment to avoid black cats, umbrellas and ladders in 2008. The Ballbaggers need not have bothered getting out of bed for season 2007 - all they really did was provide an opponent for 15 other sides, having finished 12th again. Coach Cakey has been stockpiling early draft picks, however, and promises to be back with a vengeance.

The Stickmen and the Trucks were both highly fancied to be playing for the spoon in 2007, but instead found themselves fortunate enough to notch a win in the post season. It was the reformist Trev who managed the victory in this case, but so unimpressive was the spectacle, it was like watching two girls fight without taking their clothes off. None the less, the Trucks have shown signs of improved performance and commitment, and a better drafting strategy next year may take him to uncharted waters - having a full 22 players on the track. The Stickmen were let down badly by late withdrawals, and it ultimately cost him the victory. Unless Coach Steve can turn his side around soon, his premiership may well be attributed to the drafting genius of former coach Berro.

And the most important, and perhaps the most predictable result of the weekend, was the fight for the spoon. Few people would have picked the improved Tooty Men to be playing in this game, but many underestimated Coach Tim's ability collapse in the face of pressure. It was a close affair, but the football gods smiled on the Tooty Men, inflicting 2 late withdrawals to each club. That left the result up to the talent on the

field, which was never going to be a good thing for the Pavlovas. Coach Steve falls to his lowest ever finish, and now has something for the trophy cabinet, only it is dull and wooden instead of nice and shiny.

FINALS WEEK 2

The Spartan society, born in the 8th century BC were famous for their self denial, discipline, extraordinary physical toughness and their ability to stand firm when facing overwhelming odds. Which all serves to remind us just how unlike the Spartans Jan really is. Davo, Frank and Jan were set to lead a BMRWFC mission to Melbourne on the weekend, unfortunately Jan and Frank pulled up sick mid week, throwing the whole venture into doubt. Frank, man of steel, donned a superman t-shirt (this is not a figure of speech, he really did) and packed his bags. Jan claimed that he was too sick, too busy and decided that using his airline tickets for a trip to Melbourne with his girlfriend at a later date was a better option. The trip was a success without him, despite the best efforts of Qantas, which could only deliver the lads to the Telstra Dome at quarter time of the clash between the Bulldogs and West Coast. Coaches Steve "Craig Turley" Riemann, "Sticko" Steve Johnson and Derek "Buddha" Osborn were all accomplices in the weekend events.

The Gazz seem to have an innate ability to figure out which end of the stick is sh!t, and which end means business. Like New Zealand loses world cups, the Gazz do well in the BMRWFC finals. In round 14 the Fever humiliated the Gazz in a match that had as much posturing by the coaches as kicks by the players. In round 2 of the finals it was mutatis mutandis, as the Gazz sent the Fever home for the summer, setting up a rematch of the 2006 grand final with the Death. And where to for the Fever? Not since Gary Ayres at Adelaide has there been a coach so confident in their own ability, but who failed to deliver on the big stage. In Dan's defense, the loss of Sam Mitchell was always going to make it tough and the Gazz put in an absolute scorcher, led, as they always are, by the inimitable Rowan Jones.

Apparently the shoe did not fit Coach Mark, as the Math-o-Mats fairy tale came to an end well before midnight. They put up a brave challenge but fell short of the Fwippers who had all their usual sangfroid. Both teams took a weakened line-up into the match, but Phil showed that he had more than enough cattle, amassing 2181 points with a player missing. He now looks forward to a preliminary final with the Ruckmen.

The only thing in the same league as the Buddhas late season turnaround in form, is the backflip by Wayne Carey over Dean Laidley as coach of the Roos. There is a new found zeal in the Buddha Camp, not seen since the bright days of the mid nineties. A single victory for the Buddhas in the repechage is their version of Elysian Fields - to be playing off for the number 1 draft pick must be cosmic. But that is the position Derek finds himself in this week, after shocking the in-form Ballbaggers, defeating them to the tune of 100 points. The weekend got off to a good start for the Buddhas - Coach Derek sat in the Telstra Dome bleachers on Friday night and witnessed Matthew Boyd rack-up 151 points. Ballbagger discard Fraser Gehrig was instrumental for the Buddhas, scoring 69 points on the bench, but Cakey was dealt a terminal blow when Buddy Franklin pulled a Jan and failed to front for Hawthorns trip to Tassie.

Frank was mopish all weekend, caused by a combination of his slow recovery from the flu and the seemingly poor performance of the Farmers. But he needn't have fretted, since, as he was playing the Craakers, luck was always going to be on his side. That luck came to Frank late on Sunday afternoon while sitting, once again, in the Telstra Dome in the form of a rampaging Matthew Lloyd, who kicked 4 goals in the opening term and ended up with 126. That was 126 more than Craaker full back Dustin Fletcher, who did not suit up and probably decided to spend the weekend with his girlfriend or something. In the end it was a single lousy possession that separated the Farmers from the Craakers.

Trev's oft-criticized youth policy saw him become a warm favourite for the spoon in the early stages of the season, but those odds did not take into account a repechage match-up with Tooty Men, who appear to have a limpet like hold on the title of All Time Ratings Loser. The Tooty Men went down by just 50 points to the trucks, and really have no-one to blame but themselves. Coach Tim's strategy to go with experience and name veteran Jason Johnson on the bench was disastrous - Johnson was not even picked to play for the Dons.

The Stickmen ensured they would not need to make room for a second spoon on the cabinet next to their premiership trophy, as they trounced the watery Pavlovas. The Stickmen's season started poorly but they steadily improved to respectability, enough to avoid a playoff for the spoon next weekend. In contrast, the Pavlovas season came off the rails around week 5 and there was no breakdown train to help them back on. In fact, it's more like they skidded off a bridge and into a river. Only an upset win over the Tooty Men could salvage something from 2007 for Coach Pav.

FINALS WEEK 1

Ruckmen hit their straps, Buddhas reach Nirvana.....

The finals are upon us and the time for histrionics is over. This week saw some serious muscle flexing by the contenders - Jan probably can't take his eyes off himself in the mirror, so pleased would he be with his form. There were some danger signs leading into the finals, leading many to ponder whether Ruckmen were set for more finals malaise, but they saved their best for last - a season high score of 2334 that sent the Fever packing. The excitement in the Ruckmen camp is palpable. Can they hang on? For his part, Coach Dan was happy with the Fever's form despite the loss, pointing to the absence of Simon Black as a major cause. Whatever the case, Dan must now face his demons in the form of a sudden death match with the Gazz Jazz. Of course, facing demons is a relative term because were Dan to actually face a demon, he would probably rate it. But Garry - not rated.

The Death and the Fwippers fought out a see-sawing battle, not decided until the final game of the AFL round. Unlike Dan, Coach Phil was sharp enough to exclude Simon Black from his lineup, but just did not get enough out the rest of his team to knock off the Death. Dom Cassisi, who the Fwippers stole from the Death in the 2005 draft, was well below average this week, scoring just 82. Adam Cooney, the player Coach Davo was forced to take instead of Cassisi, managed just 48. The Fwippers must now get themselves up for the cheeky Math-o-Mats.

The Gazz Jazz used all their experience and guile to hold off the finals greenhorn United. It was a brave effort by Coach Riemann, but the specter of the all time ratings champion, dual premierships winning, big talking Texan was too much in the end. The United have had a solid, yet unspectacular year and will no doubt be better for the experience. The Gazz showed their moxie by naming Ben Cousins in their starting 18 in his first game back. While not quite in the same league as the Gazz's captain, Rowan Jones (who celebrated his 150th game on the weekend), Cousins was impressive, scoring 164. Could Cousins be the Gazz trump card in the finals? One thing is for sure - if Cousins helps the Gazz beat the Fever next week, it will be an even more pitter pill than usual for Dan.

Despite bold predictions by their coach early in the week, the Orgazmos fell short of beating the Math-o-Mats. It was a low scoring game, but the Math-o-Mats eked enough out of the West Coast victory to get over the line. While coach Mark was happy enough to give Ben Cousins a standing ovation on Saturday night, he may not be so thrilled by his effect on Matt Priddis. Priddis has averaged almost 110 without Cousins this year, but scored just 41 this weekend! For the Math-o-mats, the win was a bright spot on an otherwise gloomy week for New Zealand, after the Silver Ferns got smashed by Australia on Tuesday night. Coach Denno is left to lament another season of lost opportunity. Injuries were cruel to the O's - a cloud over the fitness of Chris Judd led to him being replaced by the disappointing Cameron Howat, the absence of Winderlich and Kenneally, and the early loss of Gilbee all played a part.

Approaching the end of the season, the Tooty Men had a bright future and were hopeful of a finals berth. One week into the finals, and things are looking darker than Jeff Farmer's career. Tim had the misfortune of playing the Buddhas, who's entire season is targeted at performing well in game 1 of the repechage series. They are now embroiled in a skirmish to avoid the spoon, with the first battle scheduled against the Trucks next weekend. After holding the mantle of All Time Ratings Loser for 2 straight years, expectations for a move northward were high. Instead, it's like ducks in winter for the Tooty Men (unless you are in the southern hemisphere). The Buddhas season would be judged a calamity by most standards, but for Derek, it is alpine. Like the Dockers, who measure success by the number of times they beat West Coast instead of premierships, Derek is sated by avoiding the spoon. He has achieved this goal in 2007 without even breaking a power walk with his work shoes on.

The Ballbaggers are looking to make the most of another disappointing year by claiming a high pick in next year's draft, and they got off to a good start by trimming up an undermanned Trucks team. Luke Ball sent a clear signal that he does not have any trouble with his ball bag, shrugging off any OP concerns to lead the way with 182 points. The Trucks were unable to fill a side for the 9th straight week and, Trev will be wondering if he can rally the troops just one more time and steal a win. Perhaps he could elevate Ben Cousins - Trev did show some cajones by naming him on the bench, but his cajones were not as big as Garrys!

The Farmers have had an indifferent year, in many ways like the career of Des Hedland - filled with promise but ultimately disappointing and prone to brain snaps. They were impressive on the weekend, however, amassing a lofty 2128, and in the process, tearing the Pavlovas a new one. The win sets up the mouth-watering

prospect of a play-off with the Ballbaggers for the number 1 pick, and perhaps more importantly, a chocolate bar. If the Pavlovas were an ice-cream instead of a freakish West Australian invented dessert, they would be vanilla. Their uninspiring performance on the weekend sees them leap to spoon favouritism.

The BMRWFC saved its best for last - the match between the Stickmen and the Craakers was white knuckle material, but it is the Craakers breathing a huge sigh of relief after snatching the win. Luck is to Jorgo like Kevin Rudd is to MySpace - they just don't go together, but in this case, the lady gave the Craakers the nod. The Stickmen, must be feeling confident, however. Their form revival since round 5 has taken on Mark Thompson like proportions, and having only to beat the Pavlovas next week is a bonus.

ROUND 15

The posturing is over, focus switches to the flag, draft picks and avoiding the spoon.

The final round in the BMRWFC regular season ended with, well, a whimper. Not a single club changed position on the ladder as a result of the weekend's matches. No time for detente, however - hostilities start with a new vigour this week!

The Ruckmen fended off a late challenge for top spot from the Death, by beating a brave Buddha outfit by almost 150 points. The Ruckmen have now claimed the minor premiership 3 times in the last 4 years, and have absolutely nothing to show for it. In fact, that us not quite correct - if memory serves, he has a Zero Rating Trophy to show for it! None the less, Jan will be casting a wistful eye at this years finals, hoping to be less like Geelong and more like Port Adelaide. The Buddhas appear to be slipping into the racy stuff, right on plan. After averaging 1741 for the first 14 games, they racked up and impressive 1996 on the weekend. A win over the Tooty Men this weekend would spark a George Bush style "Mission Accomplished" celebration in the Buddha camp.

The Fwippers show no sign of wavering, as they held off the the Stickmen to retain 3rd spot and a double chance in the finals. Lead by the most midfield looking fullback in the league, Chad Cornes, the Fwipper backline continued its dominance. They will face the second placed Death next week in a match destined to be a classic. After a horror start to the season, Sticks has rallied the troops in a desperate bid to avoid back to back spoons, and like the Buddhas, they appear to by finding form just in time.

The Pavlovas and the Farmers fought out a mundane affair, in which the Pav's almost by default, fell over the line. Fortunately for Frank, the Farmers will get a chance to redeem themselves in a rematch next week - only this time, the stakes are a little higher. Its hard to believe that the Farmers have taken such a hard fall. After charging into the finals in 2006, they were still a chance for the top 8 this year as little as 2 weeks ago. Now they are pinning their hopes on Andrew McDougall at full forward. The Pavlovas suffered a similar but more more dramatic fall from grace. After winning 4 of their first 5, its been longer between drinks than Ben Cousins, only the Pavlovas were not forced onto the wagon by the AFL.

The United are in a state of convulsive ecstasy as they qualify for their first finals series since the heady days of the Serena Williams era, under former Coach Wizza. The United have been a model of consistency all year - falling below 1800 points just once, in round 5. Coach Reimann has remained somewhat hidden in the long shadow of Sticko, as they both joined the competition in 2005. Sticko has brought us a premiership, a spoon and the tsunami skull. What can the United bring? Well, apparently they brought enough to dispense with the Ballbaggers on the weekend, who suffered their 9th loss of the season and settled at 10th on the ladder. Coach Cakey will be hoping to fructify his fertile playing list in the repechage finals - with the aim of garnering yet another high draft pick.

The appearance of coach Garry in Perth appears to be all the goose Dan needed to get serious. After putting Garry back in his place, the Fever geared up for a thrashing over another finals hopeful, the Orgazmos. The Fever are still simmering over last years shock finals exit, and will no doubt be putting in extra effort to prevent a repeat. Despite the loss, the Orgazmos are confident about the prospects. So confident in fact, they have predicted a score 2149 this week! Time will tell, but they do have some serious legs waiting to come back into the side in West, Judd and Hird. Some potentially agonizing dilemmas for Coach Denno come Friday, one might think.

The Gazz got home in a potboiler over the Trucks, winning by just 16 points. Coach Garry stuck with Cameron Bruce, but fortunately for him, Trev was his insipient match and also played Bruce. If nothing else, it made for a fair match and the Gazz prevailed. Garry will face off against the United next week.

The Craakers continue to confound the experts, and undoubtedly Coach Jorgo as well. After sinking to 1588 last week, the Craakers scored 2213 in round 15. Too little too late, but at least they hit the repechage with some momentum. The Tooty Men will have to settle for another season outside the 8, but can take solace in the fact that with a good post-season, Coach Tim may improve his position in the overall standings.

The Death saved their best performance until last, scoring a season best 2372 (the Fever had the highest score of the season - 2430 in Round 5) in a flogging of the Math-o-Mats. Its been an impressive run home by the Death, but come finals, its a case of what have you done for me lately. The Math-o-Mats will be satisfied with their improvement in 2007, and the maiden finals appearance for coach Mark. There must be some concerns, however, over the late season slump. The Math-o-Mats clearly hitched their wagon to the West Coast juggernaut and it paid dividends early in the season. The Problem for Mark is that the West Coast express is looking less like Gordon and more like Lady of late. Can they turn it around?

ROUND 14

United look like they're home, Math-o-mats crash and burn with West Coast.....

The penultimate round of the BMRWFC's 2007 season saw the final eight all but decided, and now attention turns to the battle for the double chance. The Ruckmen hold on to top spot, still a game clear, with the Death and the Fwippers breathing down their neck.

The United, in a fight to the death for a finals berth, lost in a heartbreaker to the Orgazmos, the margin just 9 points. Coach Denno suffered an injury to his aging star James Hird, and the loss of Winderlich before the bounce, but it was veterans McPhee, Chapman and Kouta that got him over the line. The Orgazmos are safe inside the top 8, but a double chance is nigh on impossible. Despite the loss, the United's white knuckled grasp on 8th spot held secure, with the Tooty Men, their main threat, also coming up short.

The Fwippers did nothing to harm their premiership designs when they treated the Math-o-mats win streak with impudence, thrashing them to the tune of 300 points. Coach Phil has a backline that is redolent of Adam Gilchrist in full flight - this week his six defenders scored 832 points - an average of 139! The Math-o-mats win streak ends at 7, falling victim to the late withdrawal of Nicoski and a woeful West Coast performance. But no-one can deny the accomplishment of Coach Mark, who has traced an arc around the competition and established himself in the finals and a firm favourite for Coach of the Year. And goodness knows the Kiwis could do with some help. A BMRWFC premiership for the Math-o-Mats would evoke a surge of national pride not seen since Chris Lewis made the Wimbledon Final in 1983.

The Pavlovas finally found some form on the weekend, but unfortunately for them, so did the Stickmen. The Pav's have now lost 9 on the trot which is impressive even by federal ALP standards. The Stickmen have been in dazzling form since round 5, having won 6 of their last 9, and incredibly, will likely finish only a game out of the top 8. Heavily criticized for his poor early season effort, Coach Sticko has rebounded like Ben Cousins minus the hamstring injury. Anyone counting on beating the Stickmen in the bottom 8 repechage better come prepared!

Once a finals finish had eluded him, Coach Cakey shifted focus to ensuring the same fate for the Farmers. With a chocolate bar and red bull at stake, the Ballbaggers got over the line by just 11 points. Frank will regret playing the suspended Nathan Eagleton, like Derek regretted not wearing underpants through a German airport security frisk, as it has certainly cost him any chance of playing in the finals.

Nothing will snap the Fever out of their languorous indifference like the prospect of getting one over the Gazz Jazz. After weeks of failing to submit a team, Coach Dan was quick off the mark on Friday, ensuring he gave himself every chance of a victory. And it worked too - the Fever average of 1864 over the past three weeks would have seen them lose to the Gazz, but they improved to score 2038 this weekend and run out comfortable winners. Coach Gazz was typically plaintive after learning the result, more upset with Cameron Bruce and Alwyn Davy than the newly motivated Fever.

The Buddhas have signaled that they are serious about business end of the season with a powerful display over the Trucks, giving them a chance of finishing the regular season in some place other than 16th. Coach Derek was even moved to update his team on Friday, perhaps indicative of his previously stated goals - to win when it counts. The Trucks continue to toil, but the wins, like the West Coast comeback on Saturday night, are just not coming.

The Craakers had their day in the sun, but like any Dane, they came away sun burnt and frightened to do it again. For all their effort, they could only manage 4 wins to

this point in the season, and this week scored a season low 1588. The Ruckmen were the beneficiaries of this poor form, notching up their 10th win of the season in style, and now need only beat the Buddhas next week to secure the minor premierships.

The Tooty Men knew they had to win to keep alive any realistic hopes of a finals appearance, and they fought like a Docker at a nightclub, amassing their second highest tally for the season of 2080.5 points (Their previous high was 2080.6!). But the hard finishing Death had other ideas, motivated by securing a double chance in the finals they racked up 2167.

ROUND 11-13

It's tight at the top, the Stickmen start making waves and the Math-o-mats go supersonic.....

With just two rounds to go in the regular season, the race for a top four finish has become a thriller. The Ruckmen are still a game clear on the top, and saving some heroics from both the Craakers and the Buddhas, are rock for the minor premierships. Five teams will duke it out for the remaining 3 double chance finishing positions - the Death, Fwippers, Math-o-Mats, Gazz and Fever with the Orgazmos an outside chance.

Meatloaf once said he would do anything for love, but that he wouldn't do "that". By "that", he probably meant submit a team in the BMRWFC and apparently Dan agrees with him. The former premier and pre-season favorite has updated his team just once in the last 5 weeks - an effort that has returned just two wins. Fortunately for the Fever, this week was one of them, keeping the club in the hunt for the top 4. They were too good for the Buddhas, getting home by almost 150 points. The Buddhas seemed destined to finish the regular season in 16th position. This is hardly a concern for coach Derek, however, whose pithy objective is to "win one game in the finals", and hence avoid the spoon.

No such humble goals for the Math-o-mats, however, who are flashier than Michael Jackson, notching up their 7th straight win. They climb to 5th spot on the ladder and are certain to play in the finals - the first time for Coach Mark, and in just his second season as at the helm. The win came like aspirin for Mark, who was no doubt smarting after the All Blacks shock loss to Australia on Saturday night, and he will be hoping to avoid a Kiwi style World Cup collapse come the BMRWFC finals. Equally impressive, but 180 degrees out of phase, are the Pavlova's, who have fallen down the ladder so fast it's as if it doesn't have any rungs and the hand holds are greased with pig fat. In 8 straight losses, Pav has averaged just 1634 points, down from 1853 points in the first five games.

The Fwippers are going along nicely thank you, enjoying their 4th win in 5 matches over the Tooty Men. They remain steady at 3rd spot on the ladder and are a real threat to win the flag. The loss of Daniel Cross, which has proved an almost mortal wound to the Farmers, has only caused the Fwippers to miss a step. The Tooty Men received a setback, but they are far from done. Sitting on 6 wins and in 9th spot, Tim will probably need to beat both the Death and then Craakers to sneak into the 8.

After 5 losses in the first 5 rounds, Sticks, in a true Babe Ruth moment, pointed to the fences and claimed he was back. He wasn't wrong either, as the Sticks proceeded to win 5 out of the next 8 and rise to 12th spot on the ladder. It is all a little late however, as only a biblical style miracle could see them make the finals. They certainly made life difficult for the Ballbaggers - the loss the Sticks was their 2nd in a row and virtually eliminated them from contention. Coach Cakes will now switch focus to further stacking his team with high draft picks. It's been a disappointing two years for the Ballbaggers, who seemed on the cusp of greatness in 2005, when they lost in the Grand Final to the Fever.

The Orgazmo's overcame their month long malaise and threw a damp cloth over the Farmer's fire. Another loss by the O's would have left the door open a little wider for the final 8 hopefuls - but it was not to be. Coach Denno romped home, scoring over 2100 points and winning by close to 300 points. Ironically, the Farmers have not won a game since the rains started. You can't win them all. All is not lost, however - Frank is still a mathematical chance to make the 8, but they would require a dream run, the likes of which has not been seen since the one Matthew Lloyd, James Hird and Scott Lucas got from the umpires last Friday night.

Like Garry at a Karaoke night, the Jazz grabbed the mike and wouldn't let go, announcing they are still in the race with an emphatic win over the United. Also like Garry at a Karaoke night, they did it in style, top scoring for the round with 2228 points. The win sees Garry complete a trifecta of wins. For their part, the United have been glued to 8th spot for a seeming eternity and face a nervous couple of weeks as the season wraps up.

The hard luck story of the Craakers has been played more than the Best of Billy Joel in the Fry household. Still, there is no disputing that Jorgo should probably be fighting it out for a spot in the 8 over the next two weeks, instead of consigned to a battle with the also rans. Perhaps the enthusiasm is gone, as the Trucks only needed 19 fit players to beat the Craakers. Jorgo will be left to ponder the cruelty of relativism over absolutism during the long off season.

The Sunday twilight game was a white knuckled affair between the first and second placed teams, which saw the Death get home over the Ruckmen by just 2 points. Things were close throughout the weekend, and when Nathan Bassett went down in the first quarter of Sunday's game, the balance tipped in the Ruckmen's favour. The Death's Kerr and Cox had other ideas, amassing almost 300 points between them and giving Davo the win. The Ruckmen won the corresponding game in 2006, and then went on to lose to the Death in the preliminary final - Jan will certainly be hoping for the opposite in 2007. The Death now move to within a win of top spot - but find an indication of the tightness of the race - are just one loss from 6th!

ROUND 10

The Fwippers are flying as the Craakers descend into despair.....

The season has now now entered the home stretch with only five games remaining to determine who will have a chance at glory in 2007. It's been a while since the BMRWFC has endured a scandal, but round 10 has delivered. The Craakers poor run

with luck has been well documented, but after winning 3 of their last 5 they finally appeared to be back in the hunt. But in the space of a single week, they have gone from the unluckiest to the silliest. Andrew Raines may have been good enough to be runner-up Rising Star in 2006, but he is not good enough to play both half back and on the bench for the Craakers - but that is exactly what Jorgo asked him to do on the weekend. After being alerted via a formal protest by the Farmers on Monday morning, the Executive Committee has had no choice but to impose the standard penalty of removing the Craakers highest scoring player, who happened to be Jimmy Bartel on 175. Perhaps unluckily for Jorgo, this has also cost him the win.

But that is not where the story ends. Frank, after successfully playing hijinx with the Death last week over the selection of Brent Reilly, attempted similar tactics with Jorgo on Friday. This prompted Jorgo to promise he would submit his team at the last possible minute to avoid Frank gaining any advantage - a move which blew up in his face. Derek - if you see the number 0429 631 045 on your caller ID this week don't answer - the Modus Operandi of the Farmers is straight out of the Kevin Sheedy handbook!

It couldn't possibly have come at a worse time for the Craakers. With a win they would have been just a game from the top 8 - the loss sees them stuck on just three wins, in 13th spot on the ladder and seemingly with little chance of making the 8. Its sweeter than rain in May for Frank though, as he stays level with the 8th placed United on 5 wins.

With much talk about unseating emperors during the week, the Fwippers staged a little coup of their own by knocking off the Fever. Of course, Coach Phil didn't expect Dan to leave the drawbridge down and send the archers away for R&R - The Fever failed to submit a team for the second consecutive week and went in two players short, going down by just 108 points. There is a joie de vivre in the Fwippers camp as they continue on their happy ways - cementing second place on the ladder and now own the highest points tally overall! The Fever need Panadol, but remain in 3rd.

The Trucks appear to have finally turned the corner, needing just 19 players to amass 1930 points and defeat the Pavlovas. It is still only Trev's 2nd win in 5 games, but it sees him move up the ladder to 14th, thanks to the welcome return to form of veterans Lappin, Hasleby, Burns and Bruce. 2011 Captain Adam Selwood has also been a handy contributor for the Trucks. Its almost as if someone threw rotten egg whites into the mix down at the Pavlovas, as they fall to their 5th straight loss. Now perched precariously at 12th spot on 4 wins, Pav will need some of his gun recruits, like Deledio, Murphy or Salopek step up and follow the lead of Jordan Lewis if he is turn the clubs fortunes around.

The Ruckmen probably felt the sting of Heath Shaw's first quarter "corky" as much as Shaw himself, as it probably cost him a win over the competition's newest masters of luck, the Ballbaggers. Both teams posted respectable scores in the 1900's, but it was Cakey who triumphed by 29 points, winning his second straight and rising two spots to 12th. The Ruckmen succumb for just the second time in the year and still look likely to finish in the top 2.

After stringing together an impressive 6 game wins streak, the Orgazmos have proceeded to lose their last 2 - perhaps a little less comfortable in the greener pastures of Wimbledon than first thought? Whatever the case, they were cruelled by three late withdrawals on the weekend in Ladson, Power and Hunt and went down to a superior Tooty Men outfit. Despite the result, both teams remain steady on the ladder - Denno at 5th and Tim still well and truly alive in 9th.

There is only one team hotter than the Fwippers at the moment, and that is the sizzling Math-o-Mats who thrashed the Gazz for their 4th straight win. They did it in style too, scoring 2134 points, thanks mainly to some staggering performances by Priddis (190), Green (190) and Rosa (150). There is a bit of the blue and gold to the Math-O-Mats - their West Coast contingent accounted for 660 points on the weekend - over 30% of the team's total. Expect them struggle a little bit as the Eagles travel to the Telstra dome next week to take on the Bombers! The Gazz are in a spot of bother, having lost 3 of their last 4 and slide 3 places to 7th on the ladder. Of the three early season powerhouses currently struggling, the Gazz appear to have fared the worst.

Even a cliffhanger could not make the battle for last place exciting for anyone not directly involved with the two clubs. It was the Stickmen who triumphed by just 8 points, and the win was enough to keep that revolving door at the ladder's nether region spinning - Sticks moves up to 15th while the Buddhas fall two whole places to 16th.

The Death were too strong for the United, as they scored a league leading 2212 for the round, thanks mostly to the efforts of Brad green (190) and Dean Cox (188). The United had to do without the services of Josh Hunt who was a late withdrawal. The Death move up two places to 4th while the United remain steady at 8th.

ROUND 9

Things tighten up as the Ruckmen keep on charging....

You would think by this time in the season, the men would be sorted from the boys - but with 7 games remaining in the regular season, only the Stickmen, Trucks and Buddhas appear to be still sleeping with the light on. Jan could make a legitimate claim to manhood status, but the fact that his girlfriend is teaching him how to fight automatically disqualifies him. Nonetheless, while the overall competition is relatively close (only 3 wins separates 3rd from 13th), the disparity within the original "leagues is somewhat alarming. While League 1 shows all the characteristics of a burgeoning middle class, League 2 is akin to an African dictatorship - the Elite class (Ruckmen and Fever) occupying the top two spots on the ladder, taking advantage of the peasants (Trucks and Stickmen) in 15th and 16th place respectively.

The Fwippers were too strong the the United and continue their impressive form - one of only two teams to crest 2000 points in this low scoring round. They consolidate their position by moving up a spot to 3rd, at the head of all the teams with 6 wins. Perhaps more notably, they also surpassed the Fever as the second highest points scorers overall! The Secret to Phil's success was big scores from (former Ballbagger) Scott Lucas, Simon Black and Peter Bell - veterans who have served the club well. Despite the loss, the United cling to 8th spot.

The Fever have turned colder than a five dog night - failing to score over 2000 for four consecutive weeks. Of course, neglecting to submit a team does not help, but help was not required for the Fever to get over the Pavlovas, whose early season luck seems to have deserted them. Coach Pav has now lost 4 in a row and slides to 11th.

The Ballbaggers were fortunate to eek out a win over the Trucks - triumphing by just 15 points. Trev will be cursing the fact that he had two non-starters in Yze and Murphy - if both had played he would most certainly have won, and probably exceeded 2000 points for the first time in 2007. Perhaps fittingly, the Trucks loss saw them move off the bottom of the ladder, while the Ballbaggers stay steady at 13th.

The Orgazmos and the Ruckmen fought out a titanic struggle, but it was the Ruckmen who got over the line, ending Denno's win streak of 6 games. Jan, like Cakey, was very eager to accept the unofficial statistics that gave them both close wins. It was a costly loss for the Orgazmos, who dropped two spots to 5th.

Just when you think the Gazz are struggling, they come out with ballburster like this week. Led by their inspirational skipper Rowan Jones, the Gazz handballed their way to 2110 points - the highest score of the round. Seriously, if Rowan Jones could learn to walk on his hands he would not need his feet to play footy, and his unselfishness makes Scott Lucas look like Saddam Hussein. The Gazz move up 2 spots to 4th while the Tooly Men remain steady in 8th.

The Math-o-Mats were too strong for the Buddhas, as they win their 3rd straight and move up to 7th. Apparently, a diabolical performance by the kiwis in the Cricket World Cup has served to fire up Coach Mark. The unfortunate Buddhas were the victim of two late withdrawals in Yze and Johnson, but there is only one person to blame for the selection of Josh Carr.....

The Craakers finally seem to be back on track with a win over the hapless Stickmen. A loss would surely have seen Jorgo lose any hope of a top 8 finish, but they remain a chance on three wins. The Stickmen wouldn't even have noticed the bump as they landed in last place. The Craakers are the proverbial diamond in the bottom 8 rough - they are 550 points clear of their nearest rival, but still only good enough for 12th.

Finally, a side bet with the Ballbaggers appears to be the only motivation Frank needs to get into gear, as the Farmers win their second consecutive game and keep in touch with the top 8. The win was obviously important to the Farmers, as they engaged in very early selection mind games in attempt to psych the Death out. It worked pretty well too, as Coach Davo chose not to play Reilly (98) while Frank did - probably the difference in the end. The Death will also regret dropping their heroic captain Richo - who rallied from a fractured eye socket the week before to score 113 this week. Tredrea, his replacement, and with a perfectly intact eye socket, could manage only 51.

ROUND 8

Here come the Orgazmos - but will they peak too soon?

Round 8 is the first time teams from the former Leagues 1 and 2 meet - and by all accounts it was a poor spectacle. For whatever reason, scores were down from their recent lofty highs - the highest tally being just 2040 - a return to the low scoring, gritty, contested possession games of circa 2003 perhaps?

Nonetheless, it was another rousing performance by the Orgazmos, as they appear to be fully settled back in sunny Wimbledon and consolidate recent good form with a victory over the Trucks. The win sees them climb one more spot on the ladder to 3rd - quite possibly the highest they have been in recent memory - certainly this "late" in the season. They were well served by productive veterans West and Hird, which was probable the difference in the end, and after losing their first two, Coach Denno has thrust his team to 6 straight wins. The Trucks have lifted in recent weeks, but not enough to improve on their win tally of 2 - they remain mired in the morasses of 16th spot.

The Ruckmen continue to dominate like a giant amongst mere men, but unlike Aaron Sandilands, they appear to be able to tap the ball to their own advantage. They rebounded after a stunning upset last week to take care of a disappointing Gazz Jazz outfit. There are some warning signs for Coach Jan, however - they dropped below 2000 points for just the second time this season. And what has happened to the Gazz? After winning their first first four, they have managed just one more victory in the next four matches! Needless to say, Rowan Jones, the Gazz Jazz barometer had a season low 45. The Ruckmen remain a game clear on top while the Gazz slip one more spot to 6th.

The sleek Fwippers were left high and dry after they got on the wrong end of the resurgent Farmers. Both coaches were left short when Jason Gram was a late exclusion, but Frank adjusted better scoring a season high 2006 - and not a moment too soon. Another loss would have left the Farmers in the 2 win bottleneck at the bottom of the ladder. The Fwippers still look strong, and will be happy to sitting at 4th just past the midpoint of the regular season.

The United are looking solid as their victory over the Pavlovas keeps them steady at 7th spot on the ladder. Outstanding form by their spearhead Quinten Lynch wrapped up the win over the freefalling Pavlovas. The United have slowly developed their own identity over the past 3 seasons, since parting ways with former Coach Wizza, and this year they are stepping out of the shadow of their fellow Melbourne based Stickmen. Perhaps a name change is in order? The Pavlovas have been deserted of their luck and have lost three straight as a result. They drop to 10th and should probably be as low as 13th.

The Ballbaggers could almost taste an upset win over the mighty Fever - right up until the Sunday twilight game between West Coast and Melbourne. The Match Committee at the Ballbaggers has long criticized their Personnel department for questionable decisions in the past, but this week they are the ones feeling the cold eyes of scrutiny. As if naming Brock McLean to play his first game in almost two months (to travel to Subiaco no less) was not bad enough, Leigh Fischer (172), Richard Hadley (144), Grant Birchall (139) and James Kelly (137) were not considered good enough for the top 22. The Fever's lowest score of the season was

enough to see them notch up win number 6 and hold on to 2nd position on the ladder. Cakey finds his team on just two wins - equal bottom!

The Buddhas were were too good for the Toolymen, allowing Coach Derek to keep up with the cracking pace set by the other 4 teams on 2 wins. Their superior points for sees them jump two spots from bottom position to a lofty 14th, while the loss is a costly one for Tim - he drops out of the 8 to 9th.

Only Shakespeare could describe a greater tragedy than that of the Craakers 2007 season. They have done everything but win games this year, and at 12th place on the ladder are a full 6 places lower than they ought to be. Perhaps, like MacBeth, it is a fatal flaw within Coach Jorgo that is the problem, because he has no-one to blame but himself this week - 1872 was never going to be enough to guarantee victory. The Math-o-Mats appear to have winning down to a science, as cap off a big fortnight with another impressive performance, and secure 8th spot on the ladder. Consistency is the name of the Math-o-Mats game - only 5 player scored over 100 points but 78 was the lowest! Coach Mark exudes confidence, and yesterday, while sitting watching his star recruits of Waters and Rosa run amok at Subiaco, denounced Trev's claim on the 2011 premiership, as he was heard to say "2011 will be the middle year of my three-peat".

The Death were too strong for the struggling Stickmen, as they won their second straight and move up a spot to 5th on the ladder. Coach Davo's season flashed before his eyes, as his captain Matthew Richardson saw Andy Krakouers boot in his. The Stickmen are in 15th and after posting just 1599 this week, it could be getting worse.

Perhaps an indication of the leveling effect effects of the draft, the competition is closer than ever. The 5 teams on 2 wins, occupying positions 12th through 16th are just 2 wins off the team in 8th! With 7 games remaining, everyone is still in it!

ROUND 7

The Fwippers believe....do you?

The success of the Fwippers in 2007 has gone largely unnoticed (or ignored) by the BMRWFC up until now, but coaches do so at their peril The Fwippers rolled to their 5th win of the season, securing 3rd spot on the ladder, as they crushed the resurgent Ballbaggers by over 200 points. Cakey would have been ecstatic to see he Scott Lucas (who he traded to Phil in 2005) rack up 125 points, while Hadley (who he received in return) could only manage 55. When Phil picked up Shaun McManus in the recent draft, it could have been seen as just more blatant Docker homerism (he has 6 Dockers on his list - all acquired by Phil except Des "hard ball get" Headland) - but it was really a clear signal of the Fwippers designs on season 2007 - this is their year!

Round 7 will be remembered for its boilovers. Geelong tearing West Coast a new one might have been a surprise to some, but no-one would have predicted the Stickmen to create one of the biggest upsets in BMRWFC history. Administrators over at the Fever could have been excused for thinking this was just a formality - but the Stickmen had other ideas. After the Round 5 draft, Sticko, in a Gazz Jazz moment of

hubris, declared that he was back, and he wasn't joking. Since this proclamation, his side has improved from 1560 in Round 5, to 1877 in Round 6 and 2040 in Round 7 - and jumped two spots on the ladder to 14th! The Fever will no doubt be lamenting the injury to Brendan Goddard, which limited his output to just 19! Had he seen the game out, it might have been enough to see the Fever over the line. Dan though, is not likely to dwell on the loss - he has the promising form of his beloved kangas to cheer him up. If you were to look closely enough, I'm sure you would see the glint of September action for the 'roos in his eyes!

Upset number two saw the last remaining undefeated side, the Ruckmen, succumb to the Math-o-mats in a thriller. The efforts of several of Mark's West Coast recruits were enough to see him home - Beau Waters scoring 153 and Matt Rosa on 146. The Ruckmen were let down sorely by Whitnall, Jolly, Brown and Pavlich. Despite the result, both teams remain steady on the ladder - Jan at number 1 and Mark at 10.

The Orgazmos continue to excite everyone, including coach Denno, as they continue their winning ways by beating the Gazz Jazz. They only needed 20 players on the park to negotiate the Jazz and improve to 5 wins - (equal with the Fever, Jazz, Fwippers) - good enough for 4th spot on the ladder. As goes Rowan Jones goes the Jazz, and this week Rowan Jones went poorly. Even sensational recruits Cleve Hughes was ordinary.

The Pavlovas manufactured a stunning form reversal to improve by almost 500 points, but it was not enough to get them past the Death. Their improvement came in the form of Heath Black (166), Brett Deledio (163) and 250 gamer Tyson Edwards (167) but an injury to Daniel Wells was a setback. The Death return to the winners list after consecutive losses, and improve one spot on the ladder to 6th - on top of the group of teams with 4 wins. Maybe the Pav's luck is running out - they fall three spaces to 9th with the loss.

Here come the Craakers! Finally getting some reward for effort, the Craakers were too good for the now Melbourne based Buddhas. They win their second game of the season and jump three places on the ladder to 11th. Chris Tarrant has finally stepped up for Coach Jorgo, scoring 153 points, enhancing a potent forward line that already boasts Fevola and Riewoldt. The Buddhas were solid but, mediocre - and mediocre does not equate to wins in the BMRWFC (unless you were Pav in the first 6 rounds!). Surprising no-one, the Buddhas are on plan and on the bottom.

Perhaps inspired by their namesake in the English Premier League, the United continue to strut their stuff, as they get win number 4 over the Farmers. Their score of 2089 is evidence that they deserve their 7th spot on the ladder. The drought continues for the Farmers, as they remain on just 2 wins and fall one spot to 13th. One wonders what Matthew Lloyd was doing in the line-up - mind you, he does sound like a country lad, so perhaps he was helping Frank with the cropping.

The Tooly Men were more than a little fortunate in their win over the upstart Trucks. Their score of 1863 was enough to beat only 4 other teams in the league, and thankfully for him, one of them was the Trucks. Tim's win sees his team replace the Pavlovas in the 8, while Trev's moment in the sun was shorter than an afternoon session with Rudi Koertzen holding the light meter.

ROUND 6

Like England in 1940, it is now Jan alone.

In a battle of the heavyweights - a probable premiership preview (say that three times fast), the Ruckmen stood tall and the Fever were left shaking in their boots. For Coach Jan and his team, it was simply business as usual - posting a ho-hum 2200+ points like they seem to do with regular monotony. Led by Dal Santo, White, Lockyer, Franklin and Shaw, they were simply too strong for the Fever. Dan must be left scratching his head - how his team could slump 600 odd points - from a world record 2400+ last week to just 1820 for this key matchup. Could it be, that for all the Fevers form, they do not like the big stage? Not time to hit the panic button just yet, as the Fever are sitting pretty in 2nd place and are still have the highest overall points tally in the BMRWFC.

While the Fever/Ruckmen matchup was notable for its wide margin, there rest of the games were anything but. The Buddhas were on the right side of a 4 point victory over the in form Fwippers - a win that prompted allegations by Phil of drug use by Derek. It was a fine way for the Buddhas to steal their first win of the season, and they did it with just 21 players on the track. The Fwippers have their fast start to the season receive an unexpected setback, but still hold on to 4th place.

The Margin was even lower in the grudge match between the Ballbaggers and the Craakers - just 3 points, proving once more that Jorgo and luck are like Jeff Farmer and night clubs. Cakey has been the subject of much criticism over his trading moves, but this week his swap with Jorgo of Shannon Cox for Jared Brennan made the difference in the match. The Craakers are an incredible -7 on the luck rating, falling to 14th on the ladder, while the Ballbaggers must feel like they are swimming in cold water - rising to 11th.

The Pavlovas offered little to counter Captain America - the mighty Gazz Jazz. They were always going to struggle, but with the 3 players missing from their first 22, it was a hopeless cause. The Gazz hold on to 3rd spot, while the astoundingly lucky Pavlovas are in 6th.

The Orgazmos stay on their early season roll - defeating the Death in relative comfort. Of course, everyone knows April is Denno's best time of the year - does a victory in May mean the Orgazmos are here to stay? The Death lose their second straight and slip to an overall record of 3 and 3. Worrying times ahead for Coach Davo as he tries to get the reigning premiers up for another season.

Not to be outdone by the Buddhas, the hapless Stickmen won their first game for season over the Math-o-mats. It wasn't enough to climb the ladder but it does keep their head above water. For all the criticism leveled at Trev and his youth policy, he has still managed to outscore the StickMen, who appear to have no policy at all. Bolstered by trades and drafting, Coach Trev was able to plug a few holes in the dyke, enough to beat the Farmers.

The Tooty Men managed to pick up their 3rd win of the season over the United. This was a match decided by the selection committee of both clubs - ultimately it was the Tooty Men with only a single omission that won the day. Both teams join the Death on 3 wins, forming a log jam at spots 7,8 and 9 of the ladder.

ROUND 5

Who can stop the Fever?

With 5 weeks now complete, the Fever have stamped their authority on the BMRWFC with a dominating performance over the Tooty Men. Not content with simply exceeding the paltry Tooty Men total of 1648, they crushed it to the tune of almost 800 points, scoring the highest BMRWFC total in history under this format. Dan had 13 players scoring over 100 points this week, including Scott West who managed 208! Its an embarrassment of riches for the Fever, and the stark difference between the haves and the have nots may spark unrest in the proletariat.

The other dominant force in the competition, the Ruckmen, were only slightly less impressive in their 500 point walloping of the Trucks. Jan had only 9 players over 100 points this week, but remarkably 3 of them scored over 150. The Trucks were just, well, ordinary. Guest Coach Davo (sitting in while Trev was swanning it in Coral Bay) could find only 18 fit players to fill the 22 required spots. Hopefully Trev can plug some gaps with his 2 picks in this weeks draft, but . Noticeably, he departed from his extreme youth policy in selecting Brian Harris with his first pick, so naturally the question remains - will he still be around for the 2011 premiership Trev?

The logjam at the top of the table will be broken next week, however, as the Fever face off against the Ruckmen - after which only a single team will remain undefeated for the 2007. It will be match worth staying home for.

The Fwippers continued their strong start to the season, winning their 4th game against the Death and claiming 3rd spot on the ladder. The Death were disappointing after a big score last week, made worse by injuries to key players Lenny Hayes, Brent Reilly and Brett Burton - but the Fwippers tally of 2151 was always going to be too good. Perhaps the difference between these two sides is best characterized by Dom Cassisi - a player that Fwipper stole from the Death in the 2004 draft. Cassisi scored 104 while Cooney (the player Davo had to choose instead) could only manage 44.

The Pavlovas consolidate their lucky start to the season, triumphing over the gallant Buddhas. Despite all the bltching to the contrary, Coach Pav must be delighted with this early season form. The Buddhas remain winless and only the insipid Stickman are between them and the little rubber stoppers that hold up the ladder. The Pavs, with a +5 luck rating, climb to 5th..

The Ballbaggers just can't seem to win a trick - or a game. They compiled an impressive score of 2028 only to get rolled by the Orgazmos. Perhaps the anticipation of soon swapping the barren landscape of Dubai for the tranquil greenery of Wimbledon has inspired Coach Denno to greater things. Or maybe it was the ludicrously good form of Scott West (208), Brett Kirk (153) and Paul Chapman (156) that did it. The Ballbaggers remain on just a single W while the O's have 3.

The desperately unlucky Craakers finally broke the duck this week, and they did it in style against the in form Gazz Jazz. Despite a strong early start to the weekend, Coach Jorgo was keen to avoid any talk of a victory until after the last siren had sounded. In the end, he had little to worry about, as the Jazz had an off week and barely mounted a challenge. Jorgo's win, however, still sees him mired in the much at 12th position, while Gazz remains in 3rd.

You wouldn't have thought things could get worse for the Stickmen, but they have. The once mighty premiers could only convince 18 players to suit up for their weekend match, and they were comfortably beaten by the United. The beleaguered club has averaged just 1604 points for the season, and rumours abound that they, along with the Trucks, will be called to BMRWFC House to answer charges of bringing the game into disrepute. With the win, United sneak into the top 8.

The Math-o-Mats, unfazed by their Cricket WorldCup naming fiasco, were too good for the Farmers, scoring an easy victory. One wonders befell the Farmers, who sunk to new lows in scoring under 1600 points. After winning their first two, they have now lost 3 straight and slumped to 11th on the ladder. The Math-o-Mats rally to take 9th spot, a little unfortunate not to be in the 8.

ROUND 4

Round 4 got underway with a clash of the titans - the hitherto-undefeated Fwippers and the relentless Gazz. It was the Gazz who emerged with their perfect record intact, behind some impressive work by their Docker members Pavlich (156) and Haselby (153). In all, the Gazz had 10 players scoring over 100 points in round 4, including captain Rowan Jones. Next week will be a real test of their mettle, with the aforementioned Jones, the heart and soul of the Gazz outfit, limping from Subiaco Oval on Sunday and a possibility to miss. For their part, the Fwippers battled bravely despite the loss of two players before the bounce, perhaps falling prey to the intimidating talking game that coach Garry brings. 2006 recruit Brent Stanton was the shining light for Coach Phil, who now finds his team slipping 2 spots to 5th on the ladder.

The Pavlovas continue their strong start to the season, racking up win number 3 over the sagging Ballbaggers. It was a narrow victory in the end, with the brilliance of Daniel Wells making the difference. Coach Cake continues to get good support from his bench - all 4 players would have scored close to 100 or over had they played in the first 18. Nonetheless, they now find themselves in in 12th spot. Someone at the Pavlovas must have opened a fortune cookie with a message that reads "W", as they climb 2 spots to 6th - a full 6 places higher than their season points tally warrants.

Or perhaps, coach Pav, instead of walking under a ladder, pushed Jorgo under it instead. The Craakers haven't exactly set the world on fire this season, but they certainly deserve to be doing better than being winless and in 14th position on the ladder. Coach Jorgo had counted his chickens and literally choked on the eggs when he read the results on Sunday night - amassing 2130 points, only to get beaten to the tune of almost 200 points by the impressive Death. In scoring a season high 2316

points, the Death had 14 players over 100 points, achieving almost Jan-like nirvana. Davo's win sees him jump a spot to 4th on the ladder.

The Orgazmos were impressive in their weekend outing - if only because they scored 1916 with 3 players missing. Titanic performances by McPhee and West saw them manage the Buddhas, who's season high 1813 was not enough. They had selection problems of their own, and only Derek can tell us why he named Matthew Bode on the half forward flank for the second week in a row. The Orgazmos rally 2 spots to claim 7th spot in the ladder, while the Buddhas find themselves in familiar territory - 15th.

In the existence of the BMRWFC, there have been many games of futility, but round 4 2007 has set a new standard. Many pundits had the Trucks going winless this year, but they failed to consider how far the once mighty Stickmen could have fallen. In the Who Cares Bowl to end all Who Cares Bowls, Coach Sticko could only string together a feeble 1603 points, going down in a nail biter to the Trucks with 1612. The Trucks, are so committed to their youth policy, they are naming players in their lineup (O'Hailpin, Hansen) to get BMRWFC experience despite having no chance of actually playing on the real paddock.

It was just another day in the office for the Fever, however, as they easily took care of the Farmers. Coach Dan won his 4th straight, and has his sights set on avenging a shock preliminary final exit last year. The signs are certainly good and the powerful Fever lineup is averaging 2060 for the season, finding themselves perched happily in first place. The Farmers were mediocre, and are located in a mediocre 10th spot.

The Ruckman also showed no signs of relenting, notching up their 4th straight win by beating the United. Coach Steve can take solace from consecutive losses - that they were against the two teams occupying 1 and 2 on the ladder and the standard bearers for League 2, and still remains in 8th place on the ladder. He can also look forward to upcoming matches with the Stickmen and the Trucks to consolidate.

The Sunday twilight game was hard fought encounter between the Tooty Men and the Math-o-Mats, with the Tooty Men emerging victorious. Last season's darling, Coach Tim now has his season back on track - winning his last 2 to even the ledger and climb to 9th spot. The Math-o-Mats, have won just a single game in 2007, and now have even bigger problems - what will happen to their name?

ROUNDS 1 - 3

After a preseason marred by the typical controversy, the BMRWFC has got off to a flying start - already 3 games old. It seems a case same-old, same-old, however, with the top spots occupied by the usual contenders - Ruckmen, Fever and Gazz all undefeated. Not too much variation at the other end of the table either, with the reigning spooners Stickmen, Trucks and Buddhas all winless. There are a couple of surprise packets.

The Fwippers continued their impressive start to the season, posting a massive score to towel up arch rival Pavlovas, spearheaded by Sam Mitchell and Scott Lucas. They jump up to 3rd spot on the ladder, while the Pavs drop 4 spots and hold on to 8th spot

suffering their first loss. The Fwipper's fighting attitude was personified by their spiritual captain Des Headland - but lets hope they will be playing next week, unlike Des.

The Balbaggers continue their indifferent form, and fell victim to last years bridesmaid, the Gazz. The Ballbaggers have manages some impressive recruiting in recent times, but have yet to see any reward for it on the scoreboard. The Gazz, however, roundly panned for their recruiting policy continue to defy the critics. Another solid performance by skipper Rowan Jones saw them home.

The Orgazmos notched up their first win of the season, and made the Craakers miserable start to the season worse. A couple of Denno's dinosaurs paved the way - Scott West on 129 and James Hird on 137. Not even a massive effort by Jimmy Bartel could save the Craakers, and the slump to 13th place on the ladder.

The Death were too strong for the Buddhas, racking up a 350+ point win. Coach Derek was undoubtedly hurt by two last minute withdrawals - Bode and Ablett, but even they would not have saved him. The Death rebound with two straight wins after an opening round Grand Final rematch. Coach Davo will look forward to getting veterans Cox, Lappin, Burton and Jason Johnson back in the next few weeks.

Last year's Cinderella, the Tooty Men finally got off the shneid with a win over the hapless Stickmen. Sticko has endured a horrifying run since shocking the football world with a flag in 2005. Perhaps former coach Berro really did lay the foundation for Sticko's early success, much like Robert Walls did for Leigh Mathews?

The Farmers put up a good fight, but they were no match for the hard charging ruckmen. Coach Jan appears to be following the same formula as previous years, but will no doubt be hoping for a different result come finals time. In the words of his star onballer Michael Braun, Jan is looking for a F@#cken good year.

The United barely raised their voice against the Fever, succumbing by a massive margin. The Fever appear to be effortless while they rack up wins. Coach Dan will surely be disappointed by anything less than a premiership.

Finally, the Math-o-Mats, fired up by the Kiwis victory of South Africa and the World Cup, and excited by a possible name change, scored their first win of the season over the Trucks. Coach Mark put together an impressive score, but they might as well have played their seconds, as Coach Trev could only muster 1549. Star recruits O'Hailpin and Hansen did not make it onto the track.