

**JUNE
2024**



Pilbara Spotlight

PILBARA CUP

The annual Pilbara Cup was held in Hedland on 18th May, with a slight difference this year. The 2024 Pilbara Cup saw the talent identification concentrate on boys in the under 15s age group. This allowed over 100 players to attend South Hedland from Karratha (including Dampier and Wickham), Hedland, Tom Price, Paraburdoo, Newman and Western Desert Communities.

The Cup was once again hosted by Craig and his amazing team at the Hedland Reds Junior Football Association. Hedland turned on the weather, a perfect Pilbara day for football. Swan District Football Club, West Coast Eagles and Country Football WA all supported the day.

As expected there was a fantastic display of skill, grit and determination from all the boys selected to represent their league / area. All boys were trying for selection by Hayden Cobley (Swan Districts Football Club) for the Pilbara Regional 15s team to play in Perth during the July School holiday.

Hayden stated " there was a great display of talent, some really great games and passages of play. The day once again had been a fantastic opportunity for me to witness the boys playing at a good level and enable him to made the necessary selections.

We wish all the boys selected well at the Regional 15s Comp



EVENTS

- 2** NPFL Pride Round
- 14** Think Mental Health Round
- 14** Country WA v Perth - Womens State Game
- 20** Clontarf Carnival - Newman
- 25** Good Sports Forum - Karratha
- 26** Bulgara Auskick Season commences
- 27** Port Hedland All Girls Superkick Season Commences



Keep up to date

The 2024 season for all league to date is being tightly contested with some nail biting and thrilling games occurring every week.

No ones position is locked in, so make sure you keep up to date with how your team and your favourites are going.

To view the fixtures and ladders please use the below links:

[North Pilbara Football League](#)

[West Pilbara Junior Football Association](#)

[Newman National Football League](#)

[Newman Junior Football Council](#)

[Fortescue National Football League](#)

LEGENDARY LEAGUES

League name: North Pilbara Football League
Nickname: NPFL
Number of clubs: 6
Club Names: Rover, Swans, Wolves, Falcons, Kats and Sharks
Established: 1983
Grades: Mens (League and Reserves) and Womens
About us:

We started with the amalgamation of Degrey Football Association & West Pilbara Football League in 1983. We have a strong and passionate competition in all grades with alot of strong off field friendships.

2023 we returned to participate in Country Champs, bringing home the C Disision title.... bring on 2024



PINK ROUNDS THROUGHOUT THE PILBARA



Late March saw both North Pilbara Football League and Fortescue National Football League hold Pink Rounds, to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer research.

Cancer in all form, hits so many very hard and being in regional communities you're more likely to know someone, work with someone or be good friends with someone who is travelling on their own cancer journey. Regardless of the type of cancer these journeys can very often be devastating for all. It's great to see our football communities getting behind these types of initiatives that affect them so close to home.



North Pilbara Football League hold their annual Pink Game

between Karratha Kats and Port Hedland Rovers, each taking turns each year to be the hosting club. This tradition has been happening for over 6 years. The Pink Round is celebrated across all divisions and is associated with off field celebrations and fundraising. As you can see by the photos of this year's events the clubs get behind the cause with pink uniforms and merchandise for the community.

It is so refreshing and inviting to attend the games with a sea of Pink. This year's games were no different with Kats Pink playing jumpers and club polos. This is one of those annual events that once it has been completed you are automatically looking forward to the following year to see what is new with the clubs? What are this year's off field function? What will be new?

Every year these two clubs manage to raise substantial amount of funds that are donated to cancer research.

Fortescue National Football League began its tradition of a Pink Round when cancer hit the league close to home with the wife of a previous president beginning her own breast cancer journey. This also became a league annual round in the fixtures.



Fast forward a few years and the league has been hit hard close to home again with breast cancer, with a long-term women's committee member and a long-term Tigers Football Club (over 15 years) member both unfortunately having to start their own breast cancer journeys, both on very different paths, so in 2024 it was time to revitalise the round.

The search for inspiration, did not take long, as here comes the Tom Price Auskick center to the rescue, with Coordinator Carly rallying the Auskick Mums and putting on a Mum and Auskicker games prior to the senior games.

Mum and Auskickers had an amazing game, full of tutu's, fancy dress, a sea of pink and more importantly a great deal of laughs. Dads were not excluded for those families that Mum was not available.

It is believed that there was possibly a mum and daughter who even got to provide some constructive feedback to the umpire after the game - Thank you Dad.... What a great family experience.

We look forward to the 2025 game.

RECOGNISE OUR HARD WORKING VOLUNTEERS

Nominations for the Volunteer of the Year are open. I encourage you to nominate just one person who does an amazing job around the club and in the football community.



There are multiple volunteer categories for nominations. Please follow the link to place your nomination.

[Volunteer of the Year Nomination](#)

THE SCHOOL YARD

Name: Iain Maclennan
Nickname: Macca
School: Hedland Senior High School
Speciality: Heath & Physical Education

Favourite Player: Jack Steele

AFL Team: St Kilda



Why do you think it's important to have football programs in the school: I believe it is important as it brings a more knowledgeable view into schools where they can learn the ins and outs of AFL. Not just playing, but the coaching and umpiring side of it too.

What is the best thing about your schools programs: I believe the best thing about having the program in our school is the interaction with the Follow the Dream program. The AFL schools program has shown to develop these students into leaders and they have taken on roles in our local footy games which they may not have done without the program.



UMPIRES RED CARD

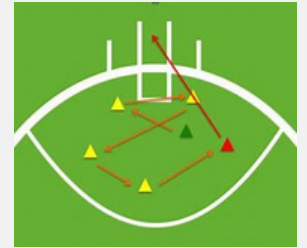
Name: Bradley Davy
Nickname: -
League: North Pilbara Football League
Club: West Coast Eagles. Grew up playing for Falcons
Years umpiring: Nearly 3 years this time around, and I did some 3 or 4 years the last time I had a go.
Grade and Type: I enjoy them all, Juniors, Womens, Reserves and League (Seniors)

Why did you start umpiring: When I was younger it was to make some extra money, this time around it was because I thought I could do a better job than those that were out there. Being one of those armchair critics I attended an annual general meeting and somehow found myself one of the new umpire coordinators for the league. I've thoroughly enjoyed it ever since and encourage anyone that thinks they can do better to also give it a go.

Best umpire moment: Being involved in close Grand finals, 1-point finishes, or the in-season game after the siren kick from Dampier Sharks to draw with the Karratha Kats from about 55 mtrs on the boundary.

Worst umpire moment: Having a League player drop their pants and turn backwards towards a person while they were kicking for goal, completely caught me off guard and was unsure on what to do. Resulted in a yellow card.

Favourite Rule: Dissent rule, I'm all for open dialogue and banter on the field. Though any abuse will result in us moving further down the field.



COACHES BENCH

Name: Coree Thomson
Nickname: -
League: Newman National Football League
Club: Saints Football & Sporting Club

Coaching for how long: This is my first season as a Senior Coach, but I was Assistant Coach for the second half of the 2023 season.

Grade: Senior Men's

Why did you start coaching: After I broke my back in Round 8 of 2023, I wasn't able to play for the rest of the year but wanted to be involved as much as I possibly could. I was by Peter Walker's (Our Coach at the time) side learning and taking in everything he was saying and doing as a coach, knowing I wanted to be Senior Coach in 2024 as we knew Peter was leaving town.

Most memorable coaching moment: Probably the best and most memorable coaching moment so far would have to be getting a full team of 20 players for Round 1 this year. The Saints have struggled most weeks since the start of 2022 to get enough numbers to field a side so to be able to fill the ground and have a full bench is an achievement in itself through this tough rebuilding stage.

Worst or funniest coaching moment: It's been a short run of coaching for me so far, so the bad and funny moments are few and far between but one that sticks out is a training we had, only about a month out from the first game, where only 2 people showed up, our Vice Captain Thomas and Myself. There were 2 or 3 boys that let me know they weren't coming but that's all, it was just so disappointing and disheartening. Those are the types of things that as a first-time coach, got me thinking if I'm respected as a coach and if they even want me as a coach.

My Favourite drill: would have to be what I call the "Crossbow" drill. It's very simple and easy to understand, it brings in different fundamental aspects of basic footy so anyone from an experienced player to a brand-new player can do it. It involves some running through to the cones, kicking to leading and stationary targets, marking and handballing and then finishing with a running shot on goal. You can also flip the drill to make it easier or harder for left and right footers.

