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WHEATMEN MATCH REPORTS

The junior Wheatmen travelled to Goondiwindi for the opening carnival of the 2018 Downs Rugby season.

Under 6s

The Under 6 troops and their fearless leader; Mr McLean have begun their season with gusto. After a couple of good training sessions that included a practice game for new recruits they attacked the season head on. The Goondiwindi Carnival saw the Dalby Under 6 Wheatmen play three games and they exhibited skills that will stand them in good stead for the rest of the season.

Their first game against Bears dusted off a few cobwebs for the old hands from last year and got rid of some butterflies for the first time players.

After this match, they took on Souths and this was a try fest for the team. It was good to hear the players calling and talking to each other on the field and we loved the support we received from members of older age groups.

Our final match of the carnival was against the Redbacks. The Wheatmen were obviously dominant and our superior skills really became obvious. A number of tries were scored again and the team enjoyed the match.

Special thanks to our coach for this season Mr Richard McLean. The practice game at training last week was a great idea. Thank you also to the Under 6 parents who made sure we were at Goondiwindi for our 8.30am start.

Team Manager Liz Carter

Under 8s

The start of the season has come around again with this year's instalment of the Goondiwindi carnival kicking the season off. With this being the first season of tackle for the Under 8s there were a lot of nerves and excitement amongst the playing group. With only one training session under our belts it was always going to be interesting to see how the boys transitioned into more physical contact from last year. The nervousness soon turned to great enthusiasm when the boys took the field against TGS, Highfields and TACAPS. The young Wheatmen tackled their hearts out allowing for the ball to be pilfered and turning defence into attack. Once we had ball in hand the Under 8s were able to show off their skills with rampaging runs, brilliant support play and some amazing pick and go's. The boys improved greatly with each match and I was very pleased in the way they played the game in such high spirits, with massive smiles on their faces. In my view I feel we are in for a very exciting and enjoyable year following the development of these great bunch of kids. I would like to thank the USQ Under 8s also who joined us on the field. It was great that we could join forces with both teams a little short of numbers. Look forward to next weekend when we get to do it all again.

Coach Tobin Cherry

Under 9s

The start of the season kicked off for the under 9s Wheatmen side at Goondiwindi with a 3 game carnival. It was held at the beautiful Riddles Oval with the weather conditions near perfect for Rugby. The under 9s side were very keen and eager to take the field and show off some of their skills. Our first 3 games of the season were against the Redbacks, Grammar and the Bears. Each game saw competitive rugby from both sides and a lot of very talented young players. Our 2 second rowers for the carnival were Bailey Lloyd-Jones and Finn Addison who had outstanding games for

the Wheatmen in each game they played in. Their skill, dedication, enthusiasm and sportsmanship was second to none and it really shows what this U9s side is about.

This year with an extra year under their belts the Wheatmen showed a lot more of an understanding of the game. Their ability to work as a team and involve their team mates in the game more was a great thing to see. Our defence this year has gotten a lot stronger with Archie Smart, Austin Sinclair and Mac Stirling leading the way. Each and every player in the U9s should be very happy with their performances at the carnival. Coach Damon Stirling was very impressed with what he saw from his team and was very happy with how the Under 9s performed after only one training session together. We have a very bright future ahead of us. Our next game will be this Saturday in Toowoomba against USQ.

Team Manager Heath Sinclair