Roosters on back foot

Katherine Kokkonen

ATHERTON Roosters were hit with half a tone of bricks when Mareeba Gladiators defeated them on Saturday night.

The A grade side were kept scoreless in their final trial game, going down to the Gladiators 50-0.

Coach Jamie Blain said the loss was due to the high turnover of the ball.

“There was a lack of control of the ball and they used up too much juice,” he said.

“When you give away so much ball you are on the back foot all the time.”

“When you’re buggered, you’re buggered.”

Blain said half the squad did not play in the trial game, which cost the team continuity.

He praised Brian Pickering, Joe Barton and Iskeli Sitapa for their efforts during the tough match.

Gladiators coach David Grainer said his team put in a gallant effort to earn the astounding win.

He said the team went into the game with a clear aim to concentrate on basics, focusing on their completions and defence around the ruck area.

“We made up from last week,” Grainer said.

“We wanted to come out and work on the little things and concentrate on our defence and slowing them right down.”

The Roosters had more success in the under 18s game, beating Mareeba Gladiators 26-22 while the A reserves went down 22-6.

Atherton Roosters take on Southern Suburbs at Roosters Stadium, this Saturday.

Eels fight back too late

Katherine Kokkonen

THE Tablelander Eels have proven themselves to be rugby league stayers, despite losing against the Mareeba Kingfishers on Saturday.

The Eels went down to the Kingfishers 24-16, after staging a valiant comeback in the second half of the Under 17 girls game.

The Eels were down 16-4 at the end of the first half and managed to score three tries in the last 10 minutes of the game.

Eels coach Des Pascoe said the team was a bit overwhemled, but fought back once they found their rhythm.

“They (Kingfishers) have a great young nucleus around,” Pascoe said.

Some of them haven’t played in front of a big crowd before,” he said.

They were on a Mareeba ground, against Mareeba players and they took a bit to warm up but they were coming back towards the end.”

Ed Shakra Sagigi said the team went well, considering it was the first game Herberton and Malanda players took to the field together.

“We went well tonight and we communicated well,” she said.

“They (Kingfishers) were more comfortable being on the home-ground. They knew what they were doing and they tallored and communicated really well.”

Sagigi said the team will be hard at training, focusing on spreading out and running up together.

“We all bunch up in one area,” she said. “We need to spread out more to the wing.”

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