

# Saints step up to down Crocs

By GREY MORRIS

ST MARYS did what all good football sides are supposed to do at TIO Stadium last night.

In command for most of the first half against Southern Districts, Saints were made to scrap and fight before scrambling home 15.20 (110) to 13.10 (88).

It took another vintage performance from Darryl White and some strong work by Justin Wilson and Peter MacFarlane to prise the four points away from Districts.

White rolled back the years with his overhead marking. A classic one-hander on the members' wing brought applause even from the Districts faithful.

Wilson's willingness to put his body on the line and clear a path for smaller teammates such as Justin Cooper and Dermott Tipungwuti worked a treat.

And MacFarlane was his normal self, taking important marks and booting goals with Cooper and Tipungwuti busy around his feet.

Saints officials would have been pleased with Robert Hale's workrate and signs that talented Tiwi Jason Puruntatameri is getting back to his best form.

Districts showed the effects of last week's rain-soaked win over Waratahs by stumbling out of the blocks half-asleep and unprepared to chase their opponents.

But when experienced forwards James Lawton, Relton Roberts and Chris Smith found another gear in the last half, the game was turned on its ear.

Districts kicked five goals to two in the third term and four of the first five goals in the last to then snatch an unlikely lead.

But the strong will of St Marys and tired legs told against the Crocs in the frantic final minutes.



Saints skipper Peter MacFarlane celebrates a goal against Districts

Picture: BRAD FLEET

## Bombers sink Pies

IT was a contest between the full-forwards at Marrara last night as the Tiwi Bombers ran over Palmerston by 65 points in wet conditions.

Bomber Ephrem Tipungwuti bagged nine goals and Palmerston forward Darren Ewing seven as Tiwi extended their lead at every change in the 22.11 (143) to 11.12 (78) win.

Palmerston got off to a good start with Ewing bagging the first goal and they stuck with the Bombers until goals from Tipungwuti, Tim Bongetti and Roy Kantilla gave the Tiwis a three-goal lead at the first break.

The rain started to fall in the second term and made for a tighter contest but a few errors from the Magpies allowed Tiwi to extend their lead to 28 points at half-time.

Failure to stand the mark resulted in an easy goal to Ross Tungatalum, and two 50m penalties in a row gifted

Dion Munkara another goal. Palmerston was competitive with Cameron Cloke on top in the ruck early and Jake Dignan and John Pratt handy around the stoppages, but they badly needed other avenues in attack with Ewing booting all five of his side's first-half goals.

The quality roving of Tiwi pair Bradley Palipuaminni and Paul Scanlon in the third term, and four goals to Tipungwuti made it a 55-point buffer at the last change.

Ewing kicked his sixth goal midway through the third and new recruit James Kavanagh became Palmerston's second goalscorer with a snap from the pocket.

Tiwi piled on six goals to four in the last quarter to cap off a dominant win.

Tipungwuti could have had more goals if not for a couple of rare misses and a dropped chest mark.

— JESS WEBSTER

### NTFL SCOREBOARD

#### ROUND 8

WANDERERS	3.2	7.3	12.4	22.7	(139)
WARATAHS	2.3	5.5	15.5	16.5	(101)

**GOALS — Wanderers:** A Cook 9 C Dunne 3 R Prendergast 3 O Henry A McKenzie P Grant A Bond J Erlanson H Calma B Campbell.  
**Waratahs:** S Cooper 3 T Mosquito 3 G Campbell 2 T Parker H Culpitt B Runnalls G Connolly J McEwin B Kroger M Sandery J Wray.  
**BEST — Wanderers:** A Cook B Vassall B Campbell C Dunne A Bond.  
**Waratahs:** G Campbell T Mosquito H Culpitt T Parker M Sandery.  
**Umpires:** Geoff Mann, Giles Lewis, Liam Bentley

ST MARYS	5.7	8.11	10.16	15.20	(110)
S'DISTRICTS	1.2	4.6	9.8	13.10	(88)

**GOALS — St Marys:** D White 4 P MacFarlane 4 J Cooper 2 J Puruntatameri 2 J Wilson D Tipungwuti. **Southern Districts:** R Roberts 5 C Smith 3 B AhMat M Cannard R Hood M McMillan J Lawton.  
**BEST — St Marys:** D White J Wilson J Cooper P MacFarlane J Puruntatameri. **Southern Districts:** H Labastida C Smith J Lawton R Roberts R Hood.  
**Umpires:** Simon Walker, Ashley Manicaros, Jared Collins

TIWI BOMBERS	6.3	10.5	16.9	22.11	(143)
PALMERSTON	3.3	5.8	7.8	11.12	(78)

**GOALS — Tiwi Bombers:** E Tipungwuti 9 R Tungatalum 3 G Cunningham 3 T Bongetti R Kantilla D Munkara B Palipuaminni P Heenan C Kerinauia R Pupangamirri. **Palmerston:** D Ewing 7 S Nelly 2 J Kavanagh J Dignan.  
**BEST — Tiwi Bombers:** B Palipuaminni E Tipungwuti P Scanlon S Mungatopi P Heenan. **Palmerston:** D Ewing J Pratt J Dignan K Hunter S Nelly.  
**Umpires:** Mark Noonan, Tyler Higson, Cameron Johnson-Pfeiffer

#### LADDER

TEAM	P	W	L	D	F	A	%	Pts
■ NIGHTCLIFF	7	7	0	0	905	567	159.6	28
WARATAHS	8	6	2	0	1080	651	165.9	24
TIWI BOMBERS	8	5	3	0	1078	800	134.7	20
ST MARYS	8	5	3	0	832	662	125.7	20
STHN DISTRICTS	8	5	3	0	793	671	118.2	20
WANDERERS	8	2	6	0	671	1042	64.4	8
PALMERSTON	8	1	7	0	642	1128	56.9	4
■ DARWIN	7	0	7	0	396	1193	33.2	0

■ To play today

#### NEXT WEEK

**Round 9 — Saturday, December 3:** Nightcliff v Sthn Districts, 2.30pm; Darwin v Palmerston, 5pm; Wanderers v St Marys, 7.30pm at TIO Stadium; Waratahs v Tiwi Bombers, 4pm at Gardens Oval.

**Division 1:** St Marys 10.6 (66) d Southern Districts 7.10 (52); Banks 16.14 (110) d PINT 5.4 (34); Waratahs 18.14 (122) d Wanderers 5.6 (36).

## Darwin bolsters stocks but still underdogs

DARWIN welcomes back some experienced players but Nightcliff's undefeated start the NTFL season is expected to continue when the sides clash at Nightcliff Oval today.

The winless Buffaloes have brought in Lee Cranswick, Kevin Collard, Corey Buckle, Dylan Mitchell and Thomas Ambrose to bolster their stocks for the 4pm match.

Alan Graham, Francis Vigona-Daniel and Aaron Thomas come out of the squad, while skipper Liam Philpott will spend another week on the sidelines suspended.

The high-flying Tigers only made the two changes with Michael Gugliotta and Thomas Hams out, and Chris Andreous and Kirk Gallagher their replacements in the squad.

## Bulldogs: No issue with indigenous players

By GREY MORRIS

WESTERN Bulldogs football manager James Fantasia last night scuttled suggestions AFL clubs were putting up "handle with care" signs before recruiting indigenous footballers.

The Territory's poor record at Thursday's national draft has been blamed in part by Troy Taylor and Relton Roberts' messy exits at Richmond. But Fantasia said AFL clubs

employed development officers to assist young men relocating to Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney and Perth.

"Clubs are prepared to work with indigenous boys on the basis they've got some extra issues like homesickness," he said. "We've got four (development officers) at our club and one of them we got from Thunder, Brett Goodes, is outstanding in his dealings with players from remote areas. And most

other clubs have got two or three, so they're pretty well set up to support them.

"We've picked up a couple of players from Thunder in Zephi Skinner and Shane (Thorne), and though it didn't quite work for Shane with his knee problem, their moves have gone well. There's definitely no conscious thinking around telling clubs to take care when bringing indigenous boys to AFL footy clubs."

Fantasia said the 2011 draft presented more reasons for clubs to take a chance with players from remote areas.

"The last two drafts have been pretty well compromised to do that with the Gold Coast and GWS," he said.

"So if clubs are looking for the risk factor this is the time to be doing it.

"But if they are not there, they're not there, you can't manufacture them."



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WEEK 1