

Bulldogs claim back-to-back with strong second half

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A swan dive in the corner by reserve Simon Craig secured a hat-trick of tries for the teenager and sealed back-to-back victories for the Kurri Kurri Bulldogs.

Craig put the result against Newcastle Rugby League defending premiers Lakes United beyond doubt when he crossed the line and created a 14-point lead with six minutes left on the clock at the HEZ Sportsground on Saturday.

A converted try in the 80th minute by Lakes fullback and skipper Tom Ryan made the final score line more respectable for the visitors at 38-30, but the damage had already been done.

The Bulldogs were almost scoring a point a minute during the middle of the second round fixture, with 28 unanswered points in half an hour (from the 25th minute to the 55th minute).

This included a dynamic eight-minute period before half-time where the Bulldogs piled on 20 points.

The super charge was led by Bulldogs winger Jamie Tetevano, followed by a determined double to fellow winger Michael Fortier and finished by the first of Craig's three tries.

This meant the home team went into the break leading 26-18 after trailing by 12 points midway through the first half.

Lakes made the first point-scoring surge of the match with three tries in 10 minutes, which catapulted the Seagulls to an 18-6 lead in the 18th minute.

Lakes hooker Greg Gibbons caused havoc up the middle of the ruck and took advantage of some poor marker defence, which was the main disappointment for Bulldogs coach Shaun Collingwood in what he otherwise described as a "great effort".

"I can get over the fact that we piggy-backed them off their line (with penalties) but I can not get over lazy defence," Collingwood said.

The Bulldogs had started the day on the right foot with fullback Dan Stuart running 70m from a kick return to score underneath the posts in the third minute.

Stuart was one of four injury concerns for the Bulldogs, who played the second half with the bare 13 players.

Stuart (chin), Mitchell Ison (hamstring), Aiden Burke (calf) and Daniel Palmer (rib cartilage) did not finish the match.