

Eastwood host Manly on annual Ladies Day, doubles as Jeans for Genes fundraiser

- MATTHEW CONNELLAN RUGBY
- NORTHERN DISTRICT TIMES
- JUNE 19, 2015 4:00PM



1.Sam Needs, 2.Jai Ayoub, 3.Rob Lagudi, 4.James Neale, 5.John Grant, 6.Michael Kovacic, 7.Pat Sio, 8.Tom Hill, 9.Michael McDougall, 10.Hugh Perrett, 11.Matt Gonzalez, 12.Ben Shorter. Picture: VIRGINIA YOUNG

IF THIS doesn't draw a bumper crowd, nothing will.

Eastwood's annual Ladies Day is at TG Millner Field today, and it will double as a fundraiser for Jeans for Genes day.



Veteran fullback Ben Batger will be keen for a big game. Picture: ANNIKA ENDERBORG

The boys willing stripped down to their denim at training earlier in the week to promote the fundraiser, where all proceeds will go to the Children's Medical Research Institute.

To boot, visiting TG Millner is Manly, who are top of the table in the Shute Shield and who taught Eastwood a lesson in the reverse fixture.

"It's a bit of fun for them, we always get great support at home, with lots of wives, girlfriends, sisters and mothers, so it's nice to pay tribute to them," Eastwood coach John Manenti said.

Tickets for the game are \$15, which include a glass of champagne and food, and the first grade match kicks off at 3pm.

Manly, Eastwood, and Southern Districts have marked themselves out as the competition's three best teams so far.

Manenti is expecting a heavyweight battle between the three, and possibly Randwick or Warringah, come semi finals time.

"This weekend matters, if you are going to win the competition to probably have to beat Manly in the semis or the final," Manenti said.

"We think if we play our best, we will absolutely be in the contest," he said.

"To be the best, you have to beat the best, and at the moment they're the best, so it's up to us to step up.

"There's still a lot of football to be played, but it's starting to ramp up."

Eastwood will be looking to bounce back after a one point loss last time out against southern Districts. It came after the reverse fixture also saw the teams separated by a point, that time in Eastwood's favour.



The boys clowned around before taking their shirts off, but it will be strictly business today.

Then, it was Jai Ayoub's late drop goal, this time it was a late try to Ben Volavola, which decided the game at Forshaw Park.

"It was a good game, I was disappointed we lost but not in how we played," Manenti said.

"We know we are going to have a tight game when we played them. Our effort outweighed our execution though, and we rushed a couple of things."

To donate: jeansforgenes.org.au