

Beauy Break Collingwood in Battle for Bartlett



The Season of 2010 was barely two weeks old when the call came in for a new mission for the Beauy Vets. The forces of Collingwood had assembled at Kevin Bartlett Reserve and a fight for glory confronted both teams.

Previously, Beauy had captured the fields of Ashburton, before being outflanked by the Imperial Forces of South Yarra on their own turf. The future of the campaign was at risk and another failure could spell disaster, not just for the Beauy boys but for the future of society as we know it and all its freedoms.

Casualties had afflicted the team even before kickoff. General Tel, Major Lynch and Rear Admiral Gibbo were all part of the heart and soul which had been torn from the squad prior to battle. General Mottola tragically fell in the Battle of Alamein and Sergeant Bingo was still reeling from his recent Court Marshall. The body of Sergeant "I Know Nothing!" Schulthies could not be identified among the casualties.

And so it was that a group of brave young boys – barely even men – donned the stripes and crossed the line to fight for the cause.

Acting General Runnalls address the gathered troops, petrified to the last of the massacre that awaited.

"Een meek rarg aye boys!" called Runnalls. "Ginny est ar flader olleran Bingo."

The troops looked at one another, looking for some shared sign of understanding.

"YEAH!" cried someone at the back.

"YEAH YEAH!!" shouted the rest in unified acceptance of the task at hand.

And so the battle began.

The tactical genius of the battleplan was evident early on. Anyone who had ever scored a goal so far this season was thrust further and further back in line. The combination of Manny and Novella, so lethal a strike-force against Ashburton, was recast in midfield to direct traffic and gain control of key enemy positions.

From the outset, Beauy launched raid upon raid against Collingwood in a surprise attack straight out of the WWI textbook. The best form of defence is attack and Beauy caught Collingwood with some fatal hits early on.

Matt broke through the last line of Collingwood defence but could not get around the final obstacle and the goalkeeper made a tidy interception. But Beauy could sense weakness in their opponent and continued to send missiles at Collingwood. Eventually, the toll would tell on their opponents and it was Matt who broke the deadlock with a coolly executed strike from inside the 18 yard box, after the Collingwood goalkeeper had decided to come out, then decided to stay, then decided to come out again, then decided to ... Bang! You're dead.

Soon after, the shell-shocked Collingwood defense was bombarded by another Beauy attack. This time Major Manny fired a missile into the roof of the net after effortlessly evading enemy tackles.

But just when the Boys from Beauy had begun to think victory was on the menu, Collingwood refused to surrender, with a counter-strike of their own closing the margin to 2-1.

The tacticians in Collingwood's command tower had started to wrest control of the battle away from Beauy, but the lads hung on grimly. Captain Marvin was immense, not only stunting opposition raids into his area but launching wave after wave of counter attack. His composure on the ball and ability to play it out of defence instead of hoofing it has quickly become a hallmark of this campaign, and he is certainly in line for individual honours should this form continue.

To Collingwood's dismay, Beauy went further in front against the run of play. This time it was Lauren, proving that Frenchmen are suited to the battlefield after all. Playing on one leg after being shot in the Battle of Versailles in 1919, Lauren hobbled after a loose ball and cannoned it into the net to extend the advantage for the good guys.

Beauy then suffered its first casualty of the match. Amazingly, it was not on the field of battle, but in the trenches, where Dave Richards – a late reinforcement – was hit by a secret sniper and was unable to take his place on the field.

Then another Beauy boy went down. Joe Novella was hit. "Man down, man down!". Shots were being fired across the Beauy bow with Joe Kiss all that stood between the team and a half time deficit. Ising was thrust into the fray, carrying an existing injury from a previous battle.

Troops were falling all over the place. But - bloodied and wearied – the lads kept picking themselves up time and time again.

The second half was a bit of a blur with the scars of battle intermingled with a haze of imminent euphoria as Beauy strove towards victory. More than once Beauy looked like succumbing. Collingwood earned a penalty after Marvin valiantly defended his goal. Collingwood missed the penalty and the chance to shave the deficit to a single kick.

Beauy was relieved at the miss, but soon after their complacency would cost them. A battle broke out inside the Beauy penalty area and the ball resembled a grenade, with no-one wanting to claim possession. Collingwood made them pay in the harshest way by burying the ball in the back of the net. 3-2 was the score with 20 minutes to go.

By this stage, the 11 players on the pitch barely had 17 fit legs between them. Super, Super Matt was dispatched to oversee another battle elsewhere; Novella was in the hands of the medics, Lauren finally succumbed to his amputation and, to make matters worse, Commander Kiss was attacked by the goalpost in a cowardly, unprovoked attack. Blood had been spilled and Kiss was stretchered off by the medics. Dave Richards, much maligned in last week's match report, tried to make amends by deputising between the sticks despite injury.

Ising was sent on again with one leg, and eventually Manny too was struck down with a suspected injured sock. There were not enough places in the casualty ward so Beauy played on with barely 8 fit players.

Just went it looked as though the enemy forces would gain the upper hand, it was Big Nick (no, not Runnalls) who won the day. Beauy's mortally wounded launched yet another, seemingly hopeless, counter attack against the might of Collingwood. The ball fell to Ising who laid it off superbly to an oncoming Nick who launched an exoset missile from 30 yards which instantly ended the conflict as the Hiroshima Bomb did to WWII in 1945.

With barely enough energy remaining to muster the team song, the Boys from Beauy emerged triumphant in one of the bravest and fiercest battles in recent memory. While the likes of Tel, Gibbo, Lynchy, Mottola, Schulthies and Bingo will always be recognised as greats, it will be the feats of the new generation of stars who will be remembered for their weekend efforts for as long as there is history.

Beaumaris Vets, we salute you!

