

Rugby Union



CPL Damon, being supported by LT Coghlan and PTE Horni Davis.

The 1986 season was a good one for Rugby in the Battalion with two teams entered in the Army competition and over fifty players participating over the course of the season.

The 2/4RAR "1" team finished Minor Premiers and runners-up while the "11" team, although not quite so successful, were instrumental in the success of the "T's" by continually providing highly talented replacements to cover the inevitable injuries and absences.

Under the captaincy of LCpl Kent the 2/4RAR "1" team suffered only one defeat before the final series. In the first semi-final, however, 2/4RAR went down to 1RAR by 17 points, principally due to some silly early penalties and because the disruption of the front row was allowed to unsettle the whole team. The preliminary final was an epic struggle with Western Barracks. The first match ended in a thrilling 17 all draw before 2/4RAR eventually emerged victorious from the replay, 14 points to 4.

The Grand Final against 1RAR was another close and hard fought match. 2/4RAR started well and jumped to an early lead of 6 points to nil. 1RAR, however, quickly reduced this deficit and then snatched the lead on the stroke of half time. In the second half 2/4RAR was kept under intense pressure by judicious kicking from 1RAR. With just 10 minutes play remaining 1RAR scored a controversial try from a five yard scrum which sealed the game, and saw them run out winners by 13 points to 6. Although defeated the 2/4RAR team was certainly not downhearted - as evident by their superb choral performance in the 1RAR ORs canteen on Grand Final night.

During the season many players achieved representative honours at various levels. Lt Russell Lowes and Pte Paulo Lam played for the Australian Army team; LCpl Graham Kent, Cpl Bob McPherson and Pte Tom Wall represented Queensland Army; while Maj Mick Wheatley and Cpl Dick Damen were selected in the Brigade side for the annual match against the Townsville District Rugby Union.

Despite the loss of several key players from the 1986 side (Pte Paulo Lam, Pte "Horse" Davis, Pte Tom Wall, and Lt Bill Coghlan), 2/4RAR looks to have the nucleus of a very good side for 1987. Watch out 1RAR!

The winner of the Best and Fairest Award for 1986 was Pte Tom Wall with the Runner-up Pte Allan Thomas.



ADJT — Coach of the Firsts.