

## Hulkamaniacs Match Review - Mustangs

Line-up: Phil C, Ross, Beau, Murray, Adam, Luke, Phil S (visit [player stats](#))

Round 14, 2004/05 Summer Season

Wednesday, 16th March 2005

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### Hulkamaniacs suffer setback on eve of finals.

BENDIGO (AP).

The Hulkamaniacs have suffered their first loss since October 2004, going down by 10 points to the second placed Mustangs on Wednesday night.

Despite a closely contested first half in which both teams had their moments, the second half belonged to the Mustangs and were far the better team in a physical and fierce contest.

In the opening minutes of the game, the Hulkamaniacs looked determined to continue their sensational 2004/05 form, with Luke opening up the scoring with a 3-point field goal, with Beau, coming off a [career-best performance](#) last week against the Hornets, adding a field goal soon after to give their team an early edge.

However the Mustangs were also out to prove a point, and quickly showed why they finished the season entrenched in second position, and just 1 point and percentage behind the Hulkamaniacs for top spot. The Mustangs fought back, with several baskets in succession to draw the game even.

The Hulkamaniacs soon lapsed and fell back into a trait more renown from seasons past, becoming lacklustre and stagnant on offense, whilst even their usually strong defense showed signs of weakness.

Seeing his side was flailing, Phil C imposed himself on the contest soon after, scoring 3 of the teams next 4 field goals (including a 3-point basket), keeping the scores close heading towards half time.

Phil S added his first basket as the first half drew to a close, as the Mustangs maintained a 5-point edge at the break, leading 21-16.

Desperately wanting to secure a psychological edge over their second placed opponents heading into the finals, the Hulkamaniacs - and Phil C in particular - came out firing at the start of the second half.

Phil C single-handedly brought his team back into the match, with two baskets in quick succession and inspiring his teammates on both ends of the court - the momentum was clearly swinging the Hulkamaniacs way.

When Ross hit on his first basket for the night, the Hulkamaniacs had turned the tables on their opponents, regaining the lead and looking like they finally had the number of the Mustangs. However the final 15 minutes of the match was almost a complete form reversal from the opening 5 minutes of the second half, as the Mustangs hit back strongly.

Things fell apart quickly for the Hulkamaniacs, who after finally seizing the lead in the early stages of the second half, would only score once more for the contest, as their opponent the Mustangs would close out the game full of running.

Upon regaining the lead once more, the Mustangs didn't look back - as the usual array of

Hulkamaniacs firepower was firing seemingly on empty. A late 3-point field goal from Adam was the only further addition to the Hulkamaniacs score line after the 3 early field goals at the start of the second half, with the Mustangs well in control of the game for the most part of the second stanza.

Some late argy-bargy between the two teams only added spice to a possible grand final encounter, presuming both sides get through their respective finals next week.

The final score was 35 to 25.

Leading scorers for the Hulkamaniacs were Phil C with 11, Beau 4, Adam and Luke 3 and Ross and Phil S each with 2.

Depending on which way you look at it, the loss is not the ideal lead-in to a third successive finals campaign for the Hulkamaniacs. However on the positive side, the Hulkamaniacs will be sure to leave everything on the court next week, trying to avoid a third consecutive first round finals exit.

The Hulkamaniacs will face the Dwarfz next week, at 8:00pm on court 1. In their two encounters this season, the Hulkamaniacs recorded a [very impressive victory](#) in round 3 and of course that [memorable draw](#) recently in round 10.

Be sure to check back next week for a full recap of what will hopefully be a positive result for the Hulkamaniacs in their first final.

**MVP Standings:** Phil C (68), Beau (53.5), Murray (36.5), Luke (32.5), Ross (32), Adam (26.0), Jayson (19.5), Phil S (13).

- Luke

### Hulkamaniacs Website Poll

What aspect of tonights game let the Hulkamaniacs down the most?

- Offense
- Defense
- Rebounding
- Hustle
- Attitude
- A bit of everything

Have Your Say!

[View Stats](#)



Last weeks Hulkamaniacs Poll results:

Q: Can Beau catch Phil C in the race for 2004/05 MVP honours?

A: No (5 votes), Yes (0 votes).

**Game notes.**

Tonight was the Hulkamaniacs first loss since a [first round loss](#) to the Throwbacks... This is Phil C's fourth consecutive match scoring 10+ points - the all-time record is 10 games, recorded by Phil C between 2003 and 2003/04... Luke is just 2 points from 500 points all-time for the Hulkamaniacs... Tonights final score of 25 points is the Hulkamaniacs lowest since a 34-20 loss to the Camels in round 13, 2004... Tonights second half tally of 9 points is the Hulkamaniacs lowest total in a half since the same game (vs Camels, round 13, 2004)... See the [Records](#) and [Player Stats](#) sections for more.

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