

Hulkamaniacs Match Review - Mustangs

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

Grand Final, 2004/05 Summer Season

Wednesday, 30th March 2005

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Hulkamaniacs suffer Grand Final disappointment, go down by 22 points.

BENDIGO (AP).

It took 90 matches, but the Hulkamaniacs finally reached the Division 2 Men's Grand Final. Unfortunately however, it was not the result that the Hulkamaniacs wanted, going down to newfound rivals the Mustangs by a margin of 22 points.

It was another sluggish start for the top placed Hulkamaniacs, who appeared tentative and slow out of the blocks. The Mustangs came out strong, putting scores on the board, building an early and decisive advantage before the Hulkamaniacs knew what had hit them.

By the 10-minute mark of the opening half, it was fastly becoming a dire situation for the Hulkamaniacs - their only contribution to the scoreboard being a bunch of questionable foul calls against them. Meanwhile, the Mustangs were feeling confident and taking their chances, with a lead of almost 10 points and a grip on the contest.

Finally, more than 10 minutes into the grand final - Phil S, coming off a brilliant first final against the Dwarfz, got the Hulkamaniacs first score on the board - as the handful of Hulkamaniacs supporters urged the team on from the sidelines, hoping for bigger and better things in the remaining 30 minutes of the match.

The Hulkamaniacs were able to slow down the momentum of the Mustangs, but failed to take their opportunities on the offensive end - as the shots were just not dropping as regularly as they were throughout their extraordinary regular season, and last weeks first final.

Luke scored on a 3-point field goal to keep the Hulkamaniacs within striking distance of their opponents approaching the half - but still lagged behind by a margin in excess of 10 points. The first half scoring was capped off by 2004-05 leading scorer Phil C, hitting his first basket of the match to close out the scoring for the half - with a score line of 20-7 in the Mustangs favour.

The Hulkamaniacs could not have been overly disappointed with the half-time score line, taking into account the first 10 minutes which was well below par compared to their lofty 2004-05 standards. An issue to arise from the match was the standard of officiating throughout - which seemed to be consistently in the Mustangs favour, causing a great amount of anguish for Hulkamaniacs players and supporters alike.

Phil C started the second half in fine style, scoring 3 points in the opening minutes, and suddenly the Hulkamaniacs looked fluent and a chance to revive the much-anticipated grand final match-up. Beau also got into the action with a field goal of his own shortly after, keeping their chances alive.

However it didn't get better from this point on - with the Mustangs again able to seize control of the contest, courtesy of some more curious decisions from the officials. As anticipated, it was a heated match throughout - with Adam amongst the thick of it and also on the receiving end from the officials, racking up 5 fouls in quick succession in limited minutes - a clear result of some very poor decisions made in both the first and second half.

In fact, the Hulkamaniacs finished the game with in excess of 25 fouls called against them - twice

as many as their opponents (13) on the night. This alone was one of the talking points to emerge from the grand final.

Despite the afore-mentioned solid start to the second half, once the Mustangs regained control the game was well within their keeping. Of much concern, was that there were some spiteful incidents that were (not surprisingly) missed by the officials.

Some further second half field goals were scored by Murray, Beau and Phil S - but the contribution was down across the board, and simply not enough firepower turned up to play on the night. For the first time in a long time, the Hulkamaniacs seemed content to launch from the outside, instead of looking inside first, with Phil C being isolated and double teamed out of the contest. When the Hulkamaniacs did venture inside, their shots simply did not fall.

The final score in an overall disappointing grand final result for the Hulkamaniacs was 43 to 21.

Leading scorers for the Hulkamaniacs were Phil C with 7, Beau, Luke and Phil S each with 4 and Murray with 2 points.

The Hulkamaniacs will have learnt the necessary lessons from the match, and will be better prepared next time around. Season 2004-05 will go down in the books as the Hulkamaniacs most successful ever, with the team only letting itself down at the very last hurdle.

A record 12 wins and an emphatic finals victory against the Dwarfz are positive steps towards where the Hulkamaniacs want to travel. One feels that the Hulkamaniacs will be hell-bent on going the next step in the Winter Season 2005 - which commences April 20th, 2005.

Congratulations to Phil C for taking out both of the main Hulkamaniacs awards for the Summer Season 2004/05. Phil C won his third consecutive MVP award convincingly in the end ahead of Beau (75.0 MVP points compared to Beau's 56.0), whilst also for the third consecutive season, Phil C has finished the season the leading scorer.

All the usual suspects are expected back in action for '05, and as usual, the Hulkamaniacs website is the only place to find out all the "must-have" Hulkamaniacs information - match summaries, player statistics as well as team and individual records - and it'll all be back in 2005.

Thanks for reading once again - see you next season!

Final 2004-05 MVP Standings: Phil C (75.0), Beau (56.0), Murray (40.0), Luke (35.5), Ross (35.0), Adam (28.0), Jayson (19.5), Phil S (14.0).

- Luke

Hulkamaniacs Website Poll

How do you rate the Hulkamaniacs 2004/05 Summer Season out of 10?

- 10
- 9
- 8
- 7
- 6



5 or below

Have Your Say!

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Last weeks Hulkamaniacs Poll results:

Q: Will the Hulkamaniacs win the 2004-05 Division 2 title?

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

Game notes.

After an initial first-up win against the Mustangs in round 7, 2004/05, the Hulkamaniacs have lost two straight to their new rivals, falling in round 14 by 10 points and of course the grand final by 22 points... Phil C's streak of consecutive games scoring 10+ points ended in the grand final after 5 matches... Beau has surpassed the 150-point milestone for the season, becoming just the 8th player to do so in Hulkamaniacs colours... The Hulkamaniacs first half tally of 7 points is the lowest total for a half against the Mustangs in their 3 matches, and their lowest score in a half for the season... The Hulkamaniacs total of 12 wins in a season is their highest amount of wins in a season... Phil C has taken out the 2004/05 MVP, his third consecutive MVP award, as well as winning the Hulkamaniacs leading scorer award also for a third straight season... Congratulations Phil C... See the [Records](#) and [Player Stats](#) sections for more.

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