

Reserve warriors save day for Saints

SAINTS have posted a remarkable 3-3 draw with Trinity Stingers amid a player crisis, with the club again dodging defeat under a band of reserve-grade warriors.

Saints were rattled heading into the round 16 Cairns Hockey Association men's classic league game with Simon Borger, Ben Lynam, Andrew Small, Peter Rowe and Glen Geraghty all unavailable.

Coach Chris Ireland turned to his second-grade stocks and pulled off a spirited draw.

But the coach wasn't all smiles after the match on Saturday, claiming a first-half meltdown in which his men got cluttered in the middle, played into the hands of the Stingers.

"The first half we weren't on our game," he said.

"To come out with a draw with the way we played, I'm fairly happy with that."

But a second-half resurgence saw the Saints play with renewed vigour and even put them in a position to win the game, leading 2-3 with 15 minutes left.

"We just settled down a bit more, played a bit more to our style," he said.

"We got stuck in the middle of the first half, but we opened it up a bit more in the second half."

Nathan Gil put Stingers on the board early with a field goal before Sam Shute squared the score.

One more goal each to both teams left the game deadlocked at 2-2 at half time.

Saints' Darryn Born found the net in the 43rd minute before Rohan Sparkes snared the equaliser a minute later.

In the other Saturday-night men's game, Souths beat Brothers 4-1. Todd Gill bagged two goals for Souths while teammates Dean Butler and Gary Tippet also scored. Nigel Giacomi got