

2010 Season by Matt Ganley

The coming 2010 will be a very challenging year for the Port Football Club and will certainly be a year of change. We are excited at the prospect of blooded plenty of new players and the feel of the group on the track has been very upbeat and positive.

We are coming off a huge Centenary year in which there were many events and much fanfare. It was certainly disappointing to lose last year's league grand final which is the first for many, many years for our club. We have had significant losses with last year's run away Magill Medallist Tom Clarke having a crack in Adelaide, State ruckman Michael Burford returning home, Jordy Coombe remaining in Adelaide, young Sam Mayes pursuing his career with North Adelaide plus the retirement of past captain and club champion Jamie McNamara among them.

That said the Port Club has developed great depth over the past few seasons with the senior colts playing off in the past 4 Grand Finals and the reserves playing in the last 3, having back to back success in the last 2. We will need to call on all of that depth to remain successful this year.

After 4 years assisting the successful Don Depalma my first year as senior coach will be a challenge. I accept there has been a very good formula for success laid down at our club over time and I will not be trying to reinvent the wheel. Our backline has been a cornerstone of our game but some of these players will need to move further up the ground and take on new roles and this challenge in turn has given these lads a new enthusiasm on the track and we believe this will translate on the ground. We have done much work on creating and using space, tackling and pressure and our basic skills including goal kicking. With many younger players the challenge will be maintaining consistency.

Players to watch for us this year will be Simon Treloar and Campbell Smith who have not put a foot wrong in pre season and we will look to them for big seasons. Chad Tobin returning to the club after a year off looking for a key defensive post, new player Chris Carey is keen to make an impact in the midfield, Nelson Magor will be a huge asset for our club, plus Aaron Casey in a new role and Kieran Johanson continuing his growth as a footballer.

The pre season is over and the Port Football Club is looking forward to getting started.

Matt Ganley