

Port vs Solomontown Round 2 April 25th

Playing finals footy is what we train for but playing on Anzac Day is something special. I explained this to the boys during the week and showed a couple of clips which would help them understand more about this great day.

We had 4 changes in the A grade side with Ben Luteria, Ethan Connor, Keiran Blackwell (first game for the club) and Jayden Corrieri back into our side. We focussed on 3 aspects from the last time we played at training with all drills focussed on his. Our match ups were decided early so players could prepare who they were on and what they needed to do.

Our first quarter was great with scoring opportunities happening and hardness at the ball. We lost our way in the last 6 minutes but managed to keep the lead. Our rotations were continual with the wings and on ball brigade which kept everyone fresh and ready to go. I was disappointed about some of the decisions the players were using around the ground.

The second quarter we were caught behind and not first at the ball. We maintained pressure in defence but around stoppages we were getting hurt. We made some positional changes with Lachlan Murphy onto Saracino in the middle and Matty Thompson helped relieve the ruckmen and up forward positions. To be only 8 points going into half time was a positive for us with the way we played. Half time was about looking at the aspects we were not doing together and making these changes. Some of these included quick kicks out of contests and playing on quicker.

The third quarter was probably our best quarter of footy. Our attack, run, voice and control and ability to put this onto the scoreboard helped us break away from our opponents. Many of the things we had talked about as a group were working and to see our midfield with Inglis, Hall and Connor working hard was great.

The last quarter was about scoring first and putting pressure back on the opposition. We did this but failed to score another major for the rest of the term. We did manage to defend our lead with the backline holding up well particular Henry Whiting who put on a great smother. We did get tired in the last 10 minutes which is why our fitness program will be kicked up a bit in the next few weeks.

Pleasing aspects were :

- Winning a game of football (belief)
- Focus on key aspects and making these work
- All players lifting with their performance
- Playing as a team
- Our junior players stepping up

	Inside 50	Tackles	Clearances
1 st	10	21	5
2 nd	8	20	5
3 rd	12	30	6
4 th	6	31	4

Looking forward next week against Central and for our team to win 2 in a row,

Cheers

Coco