

Port vs South Augusta Round 1, 2014.

The start of the season had arrived and our build up had been focused on establishing our game plan, fitness and helping the squad of players to bind.

We had the presentation of jumpers to 6 of our players who had not played an A grade game for Port before the first bounce. We set the structures and sorted out rotations.

The first quarter was fumbly with South kicking with about a 4 goal breeze. We managed to attack the ball well but were struggling to get the ball inside 50, which started to be a trend for the rest of the day. South ended up with 3 goals, better clearances from the centre and around the ground stoppages.

The second quarter we were on the focus of using the ball properly and not blazing away with the wind. South were starting to use the switch and loose players were hurting us defensively. Mark B took a great grab and goaled, but it was the 4 goals South got that hurt even more. Mark had another opportunity before the siren straight in front which would only put us 5 goals down but missed.

Half time we lost Chad Tobin with an ankle, so we swapped Tim Byerlee to centre half back, and brought Sam Rutgens up forward. Greg Phillips went to the middle and rotated our midfielders to be able to be competitive and get some more of the ball.

The third quarter was our worst with South kicking 7 goals to zero. They ran the ball hard, showed more aggression and switched the ball to the other side of the ground and down to their forwards without us touching the ball. This is something we will be working on at training.

The 4th quarter we actually won 4 goals to 3 goals but showed us how much work we have to do to become a competitive team which kicks goals to win games.

3 things we need to work on include:

- Play on - we were too slow (let the opposition set up)
- Want the ball - lacked aggression and need for ball
- Defensive - could not stop switch, and did not know how to play a defensive role.

Stats

<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Inside 50's</i>	<i>Tackles</i>	<i>Clearances</i>
1 st	3	15	10
2 nd	14	21	13
3 rd	6	19	6
4 th	19	25	5
Total	42	80	34

With the stats it is easy to see where we fell down. Only 3 inside 50's in first quarter, too many tackles (means we were chasing) and lack of clearances means lack of ball.

Training will have the focus of the 3 points stated and with the addition of such players as Aaron Feathers, Keiran Blackwell and Ben Luteria, that will give us a bit more grunt.

Players of Note

Brad Inglis - tried hard all day

Tyler Solomon - great job for young lad at full back

Mark Balestrin - good effort from ruckman.

Cheers

Coco.