

Ports vs South Augusta Round 5, 2014.

Probably the most disappointing game we have played in this year - on the other hand it showed what we can do!!

We had a late withdrawal of Mark Balestrin and brought in Brett Middleton for his first game. We had lost Izaac Arbon, Lachie Murphy, Todd Hancock on selection night with Mackenzie Keane, Matt Thomson promoted and Henry Whiting back in.

We thought we were prepared and ready to lead early and make them chase. What ended up was misses in front of goal, lack of effort and energy and desire to work hard. I will display the stats as these will be referred to, to explain our game.

Stats

<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Inside 50's</i>	<i>Tackles</i>	<i>Clearances</i>
1 st	9	3	4
2 nd	4	7	7
3 rd	9	15	5
4 th	9	13	4
Total	31	38	20

One of our key targets was to get 10 inside 50's a quarter. The first quarter we had many chances but did not take these (including myself) which left us behind. The second quarter was by far our worse with only 4 inside 50's. the score reflected our desire and want for the ball with a 7 goal deficit. To not kick any goals in a half of football was disappointing and showed to me that we needed to make changes and look at the way we were playing.

We went back to the basics of winning the ball, kick it long and direct and play your position. We put Ben Luteria to Centre Half Forward and Tim B down back, Terry Hall went to full forward, Keiran Blackwell in the middle on number 8 and Ben Mader down back on number 10. Message was clear but positive that we were to chip away this quarter and give us a chance in the last.

Well the third quarter we found that confidence and ability and started to use the simple things in football. Our midfield were kicking the ball quickly and our forwards were creating more opportunities and kicking goals. Once we got one, the rest flowed and kicking 7 goals in the quarter put us within that chance to the win the game.

The last quarter message was to maintain that work rate and keep the momentum and push ourselves in front. Again a couple of chances in front of goal did not allow us get in front (we drew level on 2 occasions) and a rushed point in the last few minutes gave the lead to South.

If we draw on the stats our inside 50's cost us the game but looking deeper you can see the difference with our tackle rate in the first half (10) to the second half (28).

What we will take away from this game is:

We have the ability - now to find the confidence

Inside 50's are a key to us winning games

We will keep bleeding young players

Next game against Sollies is now a grand final for us.

Players of Note

Henry Whiting - just rebounded and stopped many attacks

Ben Luteria - really turned the game for us

Keiran Blackwell - stepped up when we needed him

Mackenzie Keane - won his position all day

Zac Hutchinson - kept working the ball forward

Cheers,

Coco.