

Port vs Central April 26th at Port Augusta

The first game of the season has come quickly with great anticipation. We have had a long preseason with a good turnout to all trainings. Recruits have been selected and the progression of our juniors has been pleasing.

The game started slowly for our boys with skills very low and not hitting many targets. We managed to get the ball to the likes of Woodards and Inglis which was helping us put pressure on the scoreboard. A disappointing aspect of the first quarter was an injury to Chris Edmonds (fullback) whose shoulder gave way. We wish him all the best and hope to see him back in 8-10 weeks. Jakan Magor a junior who has progressed through the ranks was giving us plenty of drive from the halfback but we could not break clear from our opposition with scoreboard showing us down by 6 points.

The second quarter was restructuring our side to cover the loss of Chris and improve with our skills around the ground. What happened was the lack of tackling and pressure on the opposition and midfield was not giving support to our defence. We were to go into the halftime break 2 goals down but this should have been more. I was to address our poor decision making, asking more of our midfield, increase our running across the ground.

The third quarter this all started to fall to place. Our zone was stopping the opposition from moving the ball out easily of our forward zone and our tackling pressure increased immensely. We kicked 4 goals to their 2 goals and were in front going into the last quarter. Players including Shannon Snook, Zak Hutchinson and Henry Whiting were getting lots of the ball. 5 points in this quarter should have put us further in front.

The last quarter was about running over the opposition with our pace. This was working well until a run by Centrals at the 15 minute mark. They were able to kick 3 goals unanswered which saw our lead disappear.

Things that we took from this game include:

- We need to be able to get in front of teams by 4 or 5 goals and run away with a win
- Our game plan requires tackling to be high and turnovers to be at a minimum.
- We can play very good football when everyone is switched on.

The better players for the day included Shannon Snook (on ball), Brad Inglis (forward, Zak Hutchinson (wing) and Tim Byerlee (down back).

Next week we play Lions and I am looking forward to our playing group getting a win and being 1-1 going into round 3.