

Port vs West May 9th at Port Pirie (Round 3)

Port – 10.7 =67

West – 9.7=61

The emphasis on this game was to push hard and be 2-1 by the end of the day. If we were to establish our style of play and put ourselves in the mix to be competitive and show resilience in our game the playing group needed to do this today.

We had made two changes to the team with Connie Koutmitzis and Brett Middleton coming back in for Sam Clarke (injury) and Will McCourt who was unlucky not to hold his spot.

The playing group was switched on from the start and were clearing out the middle, tackling extremely well and putting the score on the board early. Targets up forward including Henry Spurling and Brett Woodards gave our midfield the chance to hit targets.

The second quarter was very different with West responding in the middle, knocking the ball forward and their runners getting in quick which made it hard for our backline to defend. The aspect of our team not being ready for their comeback but our inability to hold them up is something we will work on in the coming weeks. Greg Phillips was doing lots of work in the backline and helping set up attacks which were rare in this quarter.

Half time was changing our focus and getting back to our style and West having to play our way. We were to focus on hard work, tackling and hitting targets but spreading at every opportunity. Injury was hitting us hard with no bench after half time which made the effort in the end more rewarding. Henry Whiting and Tim Bylerree were tremendous in defence and our young brigade of Izzy Connor, Mackenzie Keane and Jayden Tilbrook were getting lots of the ball.

The last quarter was very intense but we needed to keep attacking. Terry Hall, Brad Inglis and Shannon Snook were going to do most of the midfield work and with minimal changes due to no bench we had to be very good at all stoppages and make the most of our chances. This is where we stood up as a team working together and managed to get the ball in our forward 50 in the last 5 minutes. Our zone was really stopping West from getting out easy and Terry managed to kick a goal. The last 2 minutes was about stopping them so we flooded and held off until the end.

Things that we took from this game include :

- Cannot relax when we have a lead. Slow down play and the opposition until we can take back control
- We have the ability to win the close games
- Season 2015 is coming together with good attitude but winning games in a row is so important for future success.
- The better players for the day included Greg Phillips (down back), Henry Whiting (half back), Shannon Snook (on ball), Matt Thomson (on ball) and Izzy Connor (on ball)

Next week we play Sollies and cannot wait to see what our team can deliver!!