

Port vs Sollies June 28th at Port Pirie (Round 9)

Port – 8.7=55

Sollies – 9.9=63

With other games for this round already been played we knew we were playing for a second spot on the table. Our team was slightly unsettled but we had included some youngsters like Cain Pisani and Tyler Athanasos to fill in these spots.

The first quarter we were slow at the ball and the opposition had first hands and were continually pushing it into their forward line. We managed a late goal and to be only down by 13 points was very lucky, but we had not started well. Inside 50 count was 13 to 6.

The second quarter there was too many followers and we again were not first at the ball and were chasing jumpers. One factor that was in our game was 2 or 3 players were chasing the ball carrier. Through trainings the players had constantly been told to back your teammate and let them do the work so the opposition do not get the overlap. Half time I put it to the boys that they did not trust each other and had to play as a team. It was not all over we just needed to put together a good quarter. Our senior players like Brad Inglis and Tim Bylerree needed to lift.

The third we did see improvement and managed to narrow the scoring gap. Our run started to come back and we were not overturing the ball as often. Players like McKenzie Keane and Sam Clarke were coming into the game and Mitchell Collins and Henry Whiting were rebounding well.

The last quarter we had to attack to give us a chance of winning. The first 15 minutes saw this happen and after a snap from McKenzie we had hit the front for the first time in the game. At this point it should have given us belief to finish off the opposition and run away. There was limited response from the players and we let the opposition run down and kick 2 goals without reply which questioned our work ethic and desire to win an important game.

Things that we took from this game include :

- We are not a good side yet until we can start winning 3 or 4 games in a row
- We need guys who want to kick goals as 8 goals is not going to win you a game
- We still are not settled on our A grade line up and there are spots available.
- The better players for the day included Jakan Magor (full back), Mitchell Collins (down back) and Matt Thomson (centre).

We have the bye which is needed and then have South. To say this is a must win game, well I will let the boys decide that by 5:00pm next Saturday.

Cheers

Coco.