

Port vs West June 21st at Port Augusta (Round 8)

Port – 11.7 =73

West – 8.8=56

This game like all the others this year was to consolidate our position on the table but to keep developing our game plan. We arrived at ETSA oval to a strong wind blowing to one end worth about 5 or 6 goals.

The toss was won by West but they decided to kick into the breeze. We needed to take advantage of this and attack the scoreboard. We made some positional changes with Greg Phillips to move up forward and Brett Middleton to play more time in the ruck. The first quarter was slow and the wind was becoming a strong factor. The opposition played one back which resulted in our kicking efficiency to be low. We continued to bomb away and this allowed an even first quarter.

The second quarter was going to be about shutting down the goal kickers and our side still attacking. We played one lose in the backline (Henry Whiting) which saved many goals. Our small runners in Ethan Finlay, Connor twins were making good impact with their run. We had managed to kick a couple of goals into it and it was an even first half.

The third quarter was going to be the quarter we had to make our move. Greg Phillips started to find lots of the ball and with support from Shannon Snook and Brad Inglis the ball was finding its way into our forward line. We managed to outscore the opposition 4 goals to 2 but the coaching staff were wondering if this was enough.

The last quarter we planned a tight defence, play 7 deep and have a focus and all players playing up the ground and play attacking footy. This was our best quarter for the year and we were finding run, kicking to space and putting more scoreboard pressure on the opposition. We managed to score 3 goals to their 2 and win the game.

Things that we took from this game include :

- Our belief to keep persisting is a key in us winning games
- Our older players needed to take more responsibility and lift the team.
- Conditions do not matter if you stick to a game plan.

- The better players for the day included Greg Phillips (5 goals), Henry Whiting (half back), Shannon Snook (on ball), Matt Thomson (on ball) and Jayden Corrieri (down back)

Next week we play Sollies for a possible top two spot.

Cheers

Coco.