

Port Football Club - Season 2015

I have missed a few game reports over the last few weeks so I have detailed an analysis of the year in this report. The season was played in two halves and the latter half of the year being very disappointing.

The season was on track early and under 18 players from 2014 training well, giving us some depth and recruits of Brad Inglis and Shannon Snook staying on. The squad was a mix of recruits, locals and young brigade but another 3 or 4 more players never goes astray.

The first part of the season started very well with a new game plan introduced including :

- Zone defence coming out of our forward line
- On ball changes
- Outside/Inside when using the ball from defence
- Switch kicking

to name a few. We worked very hard and could see the benefits with opposition teams finding it hard to run the ball out of our forward zone and our ability to kick winning scores up to 13 goals a game. Training sessions were very good with some reaching 40 players with a mixture of under 18's, B grade and A grade players. Social events were organised early in the year and the feel around the club was something that we had worked hard to get to. After round 11 we were 7 wins and 4 losses.

The second half of the year is something which I am still analysing including talking with senior players and assistant coaches. We lost our next 6 games in a row with margins over 5 goals or more in favour of the opposition. We were never out of the final four until the last game at 5:00pm.

Explanations of this happening during this time include:

- The squad has an average age of approximately 21 years old. We have presented up to 7 players with their jumper for the first time and many of these were just out of under 18's including James Ganley, Fraser Collins and Cain Pisani to name a few. These youngsters were very

accountable but not sustainable for the full year. I cannot discount the value that they added and will for the coming years.

- Losing players from our midfield. Our injury toll did not really hit until the last couple of weeks with Henry Whiting suffering a broken leg and Nelson Magor succumbing to a hamstring. What immediately hit us was the loss of Terry Hall and Shannon Snook – two quality and experienced midfielders who were changing with young players. Their departure left us with less rotations and this was evident in nearly all games as we had to sacrifice other areas eg half back flanks Greg Phillips and Henry Whiting playing midfield roles.
- Having depth in our B grade. Unable to drop players for poor performance or culture reasons impacted on team balance and harmony. The off season we need players that play b grade but can also play a grade when needed. The colts have done very well as we used many of their players throughout the year.
- Culture of the club – one of the things that the senior players and coaches had been working hard was to change some culture issues. These included and still need more development include :
 - Younger player attitudes towards senior players eg listening and not knowing everything
 - Attitude to training and being present. The young players that have graduated up have been very good as well many locals but the fringe players of B grade to A grade need huge improvement
 - Commitment to events eg playing the game and then heading to Adelaide. This is something that has evolved over time but a respect back to your own club is what needed first to succeed
- Pressure of the game. When under pressure we fell quickly. This was very evident when leading Central Augusta late in the last quarter and quickly fell away and lost by 5 goals in 20 minutes of football.

This is a glimpse of my thoughts on the season and where we have ended. Again it has led to the Port Football Club not playing finals football in September.

Where to Now?

We need to build on the platform that has been established. The club has already started with retaining players. Brad Inglis has signed on for 2016 and the process will start immediately with all other players. The depth is one feature that we will have to impact to give us support if injury or players leave our club. I have confidence that the future is very bright but a tough preseason, a change of culture and attitude and an ability for a group of players to believe in themselves will help support the Port Football Club playing finals football in September 2016.

Cheers,

Coco.