

Port vs West Round 2, 2016.

Port – 12.4 =76

West– 14.11-95

After coming off last weeks win as a group there were limited changes to the team and variations of the way we delivered the ball into our forward line were practised at training.

Josh Byerlee was presented his jumper from Terry Conder before the start of the game and a moment that was great to witness was the final speech from Graham Hoile to the group. It was spoken from the heart and spoken from a great club man who played his 400th game for Ports. Well Done Graham!!

Our first quarter again was exactly what was talked about before the game with high tackle count causing error from the opposition and kicking to space giving our forwards time to mark inside 50. We managed to stop their attack and have a 3 goal lead going into the first change.

The second quarter started well but we quickly let them switch the ball wide and use the corridor more than they should. This enabled them to kick easy goals with our defence under pressure from these quick attacks. We had let a team come back at us and made it even at half time.

The third quarter was one where we could strengthen our midfield and get our delivery in quick the team would see the benefits on the scoreboard. Our two way running was not there (getting down to help our defence and running back to attack) which enabled West to score goals into a 3 or 4 goal breeze leaving us behind going into the last change.

The last quarter was going to give us an insight into our fight and our ability to come to fight as we had done in our previous game. We started winning more ball out of the middle through Shannon Snook and Brett Woodards and Sam Clarke were being effective targets up forward. We managed to work our way close to West (9 points) but did not respond to get any closer throughout the last half the quarter. Mistakes including short kicking, kicking to their ruckman and easy turnovers did not help our cause.

Any loss is disappointing but I believe that a loss is greater when the potential is there to win. Our team is learning to play as a team and not as individuals but this process needs to happen now. Time has been given for players to develop and play games and work together but we as a coach the response does not give credence to the performance output. This will mean changes to balance our side and support a 4 quarter effort which demands a high performance and an eventual outcome of a win.

Things that we took from this game include :

- Positive was better movement into our forward line using space
- 2 way running needs to improve
- Voice is a constant that drops away when opposition sides start getting on top
- The better players for the day included Tim Byerlee (CHB), Cain Pisani (Rover), Zak Hutchinson (Half back) and Jaidyn Tilbrook (wing). Sam Clarke kicking 4 goals did well.

Lions are a front running team which will need to be stopped with pressure all over the ground and a high tackle count.

Cheers

Damien Mellow (A Grade Coach).