

Port vs Centrals Round 5, 2016.

Port – 12.8=80

Centrals – 14.10=94

1-3 was written on the board before the start of the game. The group needed the realisation that was our reality and we needed to make this game ours to strengthen our position for the year. Fraser Collins came into the team to support on the wing and half forward line due to the loss of Jacob Neary with a shoulder.

The first quarter we were well structured and our commitment to playing on and running with each other was very evident. We were pushing up from our forward line which enabled us to run the ball into space from our half back line. We kicked 4 goals to give ourselves a handy lead going into the first break but let Centrals in red time to sneak back within a couple of goals.

The second quarter was going to be our reaction to Centrals coming at us and how our response was going to be back into this situation. Our response was worse than previous weeks with total confusion and total focus on individuals. 50 metre penalties and an attitude that did not focus around team saw us kick 2 points to the opposition 6 goals.

Half time was to address how we continue to let ourselves down with our voice and team skills. Being responsible in our position and when others are not playing well to support them and step up with our game. At the moment we have 15 players down during a quarter which is allowing teams to kick 6 goals. Other quarters we have 3 or 4 players down which can be covered and play well and kick goals.

The third quarter was not the response the team was looking for. An uncommitted effort to a plan which resulted in undisciplined efforts and lack of respect to each other in working together. Centrals were running past us and kicking easy goals and managed to blow the score out to 8 goals.

The last quarter address I put to the team to let go of any restrictions (which is not many but a game plan) and to play with flair and a licence to play in front, leave your man and run. Josh Byerlee started knocking the ball forward, we started winning the centre clearances and things started to click. The quarter

again enabled us to get close to a team that we let away during the second and third quarters but again, close in games doesn't count for anything.

The hard reality is we are letting a season fall away because we are not playing as a team and when we are pressured we drop everything that we value (game plan, structure, voice and ability to win the ball).

The first round is gone and we need to make a committed effort in the next round of games to be:

- Focussed as a team (when players are down we support)
- Responding when pressured (stick to what we know)
- Be disciplined for each other (not play as individuals)
- Play 4 quarters and see what happens.

We need to be disappointed as our best is good enough but not consistent for long enough. I don't see this as a problem that cannot be turned around but it has to be started this week against Sollies.

The better players for the day included Aaron Fetherstonaugh (half back), Sam Dignan (back pocket), Lachlan Murphy (wing), Zak Hutchinson(on ball) and Jakan Magor (Full back).

Cheers

Damien Mellow (A Grade Coach).