**PORT CLUB NOTES - 8 & 9 JULY 2017**

Last weekend the Port and Storm men’s teams were at home to the highly-ranked Lindisfarne Two Blues. The Seniors were looking to extend their recent winning form against teams above them on the ladder, while the Storm Colts were aiming to consolidate their spot in the top three. To top off the weekend, the Port Women’s team travelled to Anzac Park on Sunday to play the Blues Women.

***Southern Storm Colts***

The Southern Storm Colts turned up to a white, frost-covered oval for the third week in a row and were fielding four Under 16 boys as well as first-gamer, Blake Mills. In a physically tough game the Storm started solidly, with Jack Brereton winning the taps, Marcus Coulson and Peter O’Neill getting some early clearances and Kyle Russell marking strongly in defence, and were able to take a three point lead into quarter time.

A five goals to two second quarter saw the Storm extend their lead to 21 points at the main break. Coach Matt Brereton asked his players for more run and accountability through the midfield in the second half to try and open up a bigger lead, however Lindisfarne held strong in a very even third quarter. The last quarter saw Lindisfarne shark the Storms winning taps from the ruck and out score the Storm by two goals with Campbell Gane repelling many of Lindisfarne’s attacks. In a tough contest, Storm held on to win by seven points and importantly with their eighth win of the season has consolidated third position on the ladder.

Good players for the Storm were Jack Brereton, Peter O’Neill, Campbell Gane, Marcus Coulson (who finished with 5 goals), Kyle Russell and Jacob Hayers. Connor Soward kicked two goals, with singles to Elijah Reardon, Campbell Gane and Jake Dance.

***Reserves***

The Port Reserves were up against a strong opponent who had only lost one game for the season and again needed to call upon a couple of Storm lads to make up numbers.

The first quarter was a very even affair with both teams struggling to break through their opponent’s defences, and with each team scoring three goals, scores were locked at the first break. Lindisfarne started to get on top in the second quarter kicking five goals to the Port’s two and had opened up a handy three goal lead at half time.

The third quarter proved a torrid affair with neither side giving an inch and with both defences on top. The visitors kicked the only goal for the term and had extended their lead to five goals at three quarter time, and it looked how far Lindisfarne. Although starting to run out of legs in the second half, the Port’s hard attack at the footy and constant relentless pressure on the ball carrier kept them in the game right up to late in the last quarter. The Port lads battled hard to kick four goals to Lindisfarne’s two goals for the quarter to reduce the final margin to 19 points.

Coaches Matt Whitehouse and Ollie Burke were pleased with the team’s four quarter performance and the very good result against a higher-ranked opponent which was a huge turnaround from the result earlier in the season.

Matt Turnbull was great coming back from a hamstring injury providing great clearances and Dallas Millhouse was solid all day in and around the contest. Patty Ford and new found ruckman, Lucas Pel, worked hard all day with Lucas really stepping up and doing the majority of the tap work in the absence of the injured Chris ‘Big Red’ Brereton. Fred Webster is back playing his role as a key defender, intercepting a lot of footy in the defensive 50 metre area, while Adam Direen, Shane Clark and Corey Shaw were other good contributors. Ben Smith, Shane Clark and Jake Dance each kicked two goals, with single goals to Marcus Coulson, Darcy Millhouse and Adam Direen.

***Seniors***

After four wins on the trot, and good wins against Dodges Ferry and Claremont in their past two games, the Port Seniors were looking forward to a big test against a top two side in Lindisfarne. The Two Blues got off to a fast start and quickly had two goals on the board before the Port had even touched the ball. The Port managed to settle and kicked four of the next six goals to even the scores up. The ball was moving freely from end to end, with the Port not able to assert their defensive pressure from last week, which enabled Lindisfarne to kick two late goals to take that lead into quarter time.

The second quarter was an improvement for the Port as they lifted their work rate and applied more pressure on Lindisfarne to narrowly win the quarter, but the Two Blues were keeping the Port at arm’s length and lead by 9 points at the long break. The first ten minutes of the third quarter were the Port’s best period of the game as they won the stoppages and locked the ball in their forward half, which enabled them to take the lead for the first time. Unfortunately it was all one way traffic for the rest of the quarter as Lindisfarne kicked away and took a damaging 28 point lead into the last change.

There was still life in the Port as they started the last quarter strongly and managed to hit the scoreboard early and even had a chance to get the deficit under two goals but unfortunately hit the post from close range and Lindisfarne settled and ran out winners by 26 points.

Sam Dean was again influential around the stoppages, Josh Halton continued his fine form up forward with 7 goals and Gerard Brereton rucked tirelessly after the Port lost Joe Direen to a leg injury by half-time. Nathan Duggan was solid down back, shutting down his opponent in the second half, with Cam Wilcox and Rhys Jennings other good contributors. Ben Halton, Brayden Hayes and Ollie Burke each kicked two goals, with single goals to Joe Direen and Will Ford.

Coach Ben Cato felt that the result had been a missed opportunity as the Port didn't play their best football or apply anywhere near the level of defensive pressure they had the previous week against Claremont. But he was feeling positive that the team was closing the gap against the top teams.

***Port Women***

In Round 10 of Women’s Football, the Port travelled to Anzac Park on Sunday to take on the second placed Lindisfarne Blues. The Blues went out strong in the first quarter scoring three goals. Brittany Woolley worked hard through the centre in an effort to create opportunities for the Port and Ash Munnings kicked her first goal of the season in the Port jumper, putting the team’s first on the board. The Blues had the upper hand over the Port Women in the second term, holding them goalless and converting another 2 majors. Kara Geeves tried hard to keep the pressure on the Blues and hold them to a respectable 23 point half time lead.

Back on the field and with a boost from Coach Tricia's half time speech, the Port went out firing in the third term. Caitlin Phillips continued her consistent season, pushing the ball forward on several occasions. Telishah Roland worked hard around the goal square, kicking one of Port’s 3 goals for the quarter reducing the margin to just ten points at the final break. The Blues entered the last term with a vengeance, determined to break the score line open again. Heidi Pettit continued a fine game through the midfield and forward line, creating space and opportunity but the Blues managed to run away 30 point winners.

For the Port, an amazing effort and a huge improvement in the margin from their last game against the Blues. Special mention to Port’s first-gamers; Elizabeth Loveless and Shaye Jenkins, who both played great games and to the Port team as a whole on a great effort, and one of their best games for the season.

***This week’s games***

This Saturday it is the much-awaited rematch of the Huon arch rivals, with the Port travelling to Huonville to take on the Lions. On Sunday, the Port Women will play the third-placed Demons Women at New Town Oval, with the game set for a 12 noon start. Get along and support your Port teams this weekend in what should be four great games.

***Past Players Function – Saturday 22 July***

Don’t forget the annual Cygnet FC Past Players and Officials Function to be held from 11am on Saturday 22nd July, with Collingwood Premiership Captain, Tony Shaw, the guest speaker. Tickets are now available for $60 and are selling fast. For more details see the Club website (cygnetfc.com.au) or Facebook page (Port Cygnet Football Club).

Go The PORT!