**BIG DAY AT SNUG FOR THE PORT**

Last weekend the Port took footy back to the Channel with four games played against Lindisfarne at Snug Park.

Port Women

In the first game of the day, the Port Women were up against the undefeated Lindisfarne Blues who came into the game with an amazing 1613% having won their previous five games by an average margin of 88 points. The first quarter was a close contest with the Port defending strongly and holding the Blues to two goals, one of which was an accidental give away. The Port continued to battle hard but were unable to move the ball forward and score while most of the play was in Lindisfarne’s half of the ground. Annaliese Dance and Holly Upston were impressive in their blocking and spoiling while Jamie Noye was kicking in long from defence. Despite minor injuries to Taylah Dillon, Anna Bellette-Stanway, Jessie Burnett and Telishah Roland, this didn’t stop them from continuing to battle on. Given the amount of play Lindisfarne had, the Port on-ballers and defenders did extremely well to restrict their opponents to three goals for the quarter and a half-time margin of 34 points.

The Port midfield worked hard all day with Tameka Coventry, April Pottinger and Emily Direen working hard to support Michelle Cowen who was playing a great game against Lindisfarne’s ruck, who is a multiple State representative. The whole team continued to apply great pressure for the full four quarters and tried valiantly to move the ball forward while holding their opponents to three goals only in the second half. The final margin was 57 points in Lindisfarne’s favour.

This Sunday the Port will host a SFLW Gala Round, with all four women’s games to be played at Cygnet. The Port Women will kick off the day against New Norfolk at 10.30am and will be looking to come away with their second win of the season.

Reserves

Cygnet Reserves were taking on another undefeated Lindisfarne side, but welcomed the experience of Bradley Watson, Jeremy O’Neill, Micheal Darcy, Mark Bradley and Paul Cowen playing their first games of the season, along with first-gamers Nye Yates and James McQueen. The Port were really competitive in the first quarter, getting their hands on the ball and winning several clearances, and possibly surprised their more-fancied opponents to hold a one goal lead at quarter time. Lindisfarne started to get their running game going in the second quarter, kicking three goals while the Port could manage only one behind, and the Blues lead by 16 points at half time.

The game really opened up for the visitors with five goals in the third quarter and a further four in the final quarter as once again the Port’s lack of fitness became evident. The Port battled the game out but Lindisfarne’s team strength gave them a comfortable 12 goal victory.

Bradley Watson showed that he will be a real asset if his body holds out, Liam O’Neill was in everything and was well supported by Brad Sculthorpe who repelled many Lindisfarne forward thrusts, Darcy Millhouse who battled hard in the ruck against a much bigger opponent, Chris Coventry and Grant Clark. The Port’s goal scorers were Brad Watson, Jack Bester and Adam Direen.

Seniors

The Port Seniors were keen to continue their recent winning form against a formidable opponent who were coming off a loss to Huonville the previous week. The Port, missing key player Toby Cowen, started well with early goals to Joe Direen and Ben Halton before Lindisfarne settled and hit the scoreboard themselves. Lindisfarne’s key forward Cassidy was proving a handful for the Port defence with three early goals and the Port’s defence was weakened when key defender Cam Wilcox left the ground with a groin injury. After an even first quarter, scores were locked at five goals two behinds each and it was game on. The Port made a good start to the second quarter but were finding it difficult to score against a tight Blues defence. After the Port kicked an early goal to close the score line, Lindisfarne steadied and with their fast ball movement were setting up one on one opportunities for their key forwards, who responded with five goals for the quarter, and a 14 point lead at half-time.

After half-time the scoring opportunities dried up for the Port as Lindisfarne took control of the game. An eight to two goal second half was disappointing for the Port, who to their credit never gave up the effort, but in the end the final margin was Lindisfarne by 56 points.

Mitchell Direen continually ran hard, breaking the lines off half back, Matt Turnbull worked hard along with Joe Direen (two goals), who was double-teamed most of the day. Ben Halton again showed his sublime skills and ball-winning ability, whether up forward with three goals or on the ball, Andrew Palmer won many of the clearances and continually drove the ball forward and Campbell Gane defended stoutly against the opposition’s constant forward thrusts. Other to score goals were Pat Verrell, Ollie Burke, Will Ford, Elijah Reardon and Andrew Palmer.

Colts

It was a twilight start for the top of the ladder Southern Storm Colts, playing their first game in over a month, against a similarly strong Lindisfarne, who had won their previous four games by over 110 points. A close contest was expected and the large number of spectators that stayed on were not to be disappointed. George O’Neill was in everything earlier, winning numerous possessions. The Storm kicked the first goal of the game and then it was a very tight struggle with neither team able to gain the ascendancy. Lindisfarne scored a goal of their own and the Storm held a 2 point lead at quarter time. Both defences were on top with neither team able to score a major in the second quarter, and with three behinds each the margin remained two points at half-time.

After half-time, Lindisfarne kicked two quick goals to take the lead and open up the biggest margin of the game. A late goal to the Storm and it was Lindisfarne by a one goal at the final break. In the last quarter the Storm attacked relentlessly but were off target with 3 behinds. Finally a goal to the Storm and they regained the lead with only a few minutes remaining. Not to be outdone, Lindisfarne constantly attacked and after several frantic moments they scored the final goal of the game to take back the lead by four points. The Storm won the resulting centre clearance and rushed the ball forward but were only able to score a behind before the final siren sounded, with Lindisfarne winning a tight, low scoring contest by 3 points.

Better players for the Storm were Reece Scotland, Lucas Ford, George O’Neill, Jacob Burnett, young Cameron Walter and Dylan Gane. The Storm’s goal scorers were George, Cameron and Josh Coad.

Next week’s games

This Saturday the Storm and Cygnet men’s teams will face the road trip to New Norfolk to take on the Eagles who will be keen to improve on their slow start to the season. Following last week’s loss the Southern Storm Colts have slipped to third position, but a win over the undefeated Eagles will secure the Storm second position on the ladder.

Upcoming Social Events

Please keep the following dates free:

Sat. 16th June – Hypnolicious - a great night with comedy hypnotist Matt Hale (Cost $30)

Sat. 30th June – The First to Bust/Get Your Game On! (more details to come)

Sat. 11th August – Past Players Reunion Dinner (details on Guest Speaker to be announced shortly)