**THE STORM PERFORM BUT ‘THE PORT’ MEET THEIR MATCH IN THE ‘TWO BLUES’**

It was one good win and two big losses for the ‘Cygnet Community Bank Football Club’ from their journey to Lindisfarne’s ANZAC Park last Saturday.

In perfect conditions, Coach Matt Brereton and his Southern Storm boys were keen to take on Lindisfarne, who had only lost one game this season, whilst the Storm had won three and lost three. The first quarter was a very even affair with both teams kicking four goals and the ‘Two Blues’ leading by a solitary point at quarter time. In a low scoring second quarter, the Storm kicked the only goal to take a five point lead into half time. The Storm were putting tremendous defensive pressure on the home team, who could not get their open running game going.

The premiership quarter was when the Storm made their break, kicking four goals to two to extend their lead to three goals at three quarter time. The last quarter was again an even affair with both teams kicking three goals, with the Storm holding on to win by three goals. Coach Matt was extremely happy with the overall team effort, with the way everyone contributed and importantly there were no passengers. Joe Direen (4 goals) once again provided a focal point up forward, but was well assisted by Aiden Geeves, Jake Munnings and Elijah Reardon (each with 2 goals), whilst Jack Bester and Sean Burgess also hit the scoreboard.

Better players were Campbell Gane, Jackson Gordon, Nathan Duggan who is having a great season, Elijah Reardon, Brandon Lane and Sean Burgess.

As Sorell aren’t fielding a Colts team this season, this Saturday the Storm boys will play Brighton instead.

The Reserves welcomed Leigh Shepheard for his first game for The Port but unfortunately the boys were no match for the continual run and slick ball movement of the Lindisfarne team. The ‘Two Blues’ were quick out of the blocks and had opened up a four goal lead by quarter time which they extended to ten goals by half-time. The lead would have been much greater but for Lindisfarne’s inaccuracy. The backline led by Tommy Slevin and Darcy Millhouse was under constant pressure and Lindisfarne’ superior fitness was clearly evident. The second half was more of the same with Lindisfarne kicking a further 15 goals to Cygnet’s three, to run out very comfortable winners. Coach ‘Stick’s Clark was obviously very disappointed with the performance and is expecting a much better performance against Sorell this week.

Darcy Millhouse and Tom Slevin battled hard all day, Daniel Donato played his best game for the season, Chris Brereton, Damian Duggan (with two goals) and Tyler Cowen were other good contributors. Brad Carver and Daniel Donato each kicked a goal.

To put a further dampener on a miserable day, Christopher ‘Snodger’ Coventry broke his leg with only two minutes to go in the last quarter. ‘Snodger’ has quickly become a very popular member at the Club since coming over from Channel at the start of the season. We wish him well for a full and speedy recovery and no doubt will see him around the Club when he is up and about.

Club stalwart, Josh Wilcox recently underwent an ACL knee operation and it was good to see him at the footy last week. Best wishes Josh for your recuperation.

There was a sense of promise as the Seniors welcomed back key forwards, Ben Halton and Jason Laycock from injury and Chris Nield from the Kingborough Tigers for the clash with undefeated top team, Lindisfarne. The Port got off to a perfect start with a free kick to ‘Big Bird’ Brereton from the opening ruck contest, a quick handball to Nield who kicked long to Jason Laycock who marked strongly and kicked the first goal of the game, all within 30 seconds. Lindisfarne soon started to get their running game going and took a handy 3 goal lead into quarter time. Cygnet were applying pressure to the Lindisfarne ball carriers and it was goal for goal in the second quarter, with each side kicking four goals. The game really opened up in the third quarter with the ‘Two Blues’ creating the loose man at will and playing the smaller ANZAC Park to perfection, extending their lead to eight goals at three quarter time. The last quarter was much of the same with Cygnet again doing most of the chasing and were held goalless whilst Lindisfarne kicked a further four goals. In a very disappointing result, the final margin was Lindisfarne by 79 points. Their ascendency was clearly evident on the scoreboard with 36 scoring shots to Cygnet’s 12.

Ben Halton (5 goals) and Jason Laycock (4 goals) kicked all of Cygnet’s goals and made the most of their limited opportunities. Brad Watson, as usual was hard at the ball all day, Will Ford and Cameron Wilcox performed well under constant pressure and Rhys Jennings never gave up trying.

The Club wishes Ollie ‘Herbie’ Burke all the best for his knee operation in Melbourne later this week. ‘Herb’ has carried the injury for a couple of years now and it quite amazing how he has been able to run and jump and even play senior football with his wonky knee.

**‘PUD’ DARCY’S 250th CLUB GAME**

A magnificent achievement for Micheal ‘Pud’ Darcy, who will play his 250th game for the Cygnet Football Club this week.

‘Pud's’ football ability cannot be disputed and his record with the Port Cygnet Football Club speaks for itself. He is one of the strongest and best one-grab pack marks and shots for goal many at the Club have seen. ‘Pud’ played his first season with the Cygnet Colts in 1995 where his football abilities became quite obvious. He moved into the Senior team the following year, where he topped the Club’s goal kicking for the first time, with 52 goals.

‘Pud’ has now kicked over 1,000 goals for the Club, an average of more than 4 goals per game over a long career, which has included five 100 goal plus seasons (119 in 1998, 122 in 2003, 117 in 2004, 108 in 2005 and 103 in 2007). He has won the Club’s goal kicking award on an amazing eleven occasions, out of the 13 seasons he has played with the Club.

In recognition of this marvellous achievement, the Club’s Senior Goal Kicking Award was last year renamed in ‘Pud’s’ honour. He was a member of the 2003 and 2004 Premiership teams, is a former Club Best & Fairest winner and has also had a year in the Senior Coaching role.

Apart from stints at Tongala in Victoria, Kingston, Channel and Glenorchy, the ''big fella'' has always had the black, white & teal running deep through his veins! It is great that ‘Pud’ is still pulling the boots on and making a significant contribution with the development of our younger players and still more than capable of making those back-men very wary!!

Congratulations ‘Pud’ on a great career and best wishes from all at the Club on your upcoming 250th game.

**CAMPBELL BROWN TO ATTEND PAST PLAYERS AND SUPPORTERS DAY THIS SATURDAY**

The Club’s Past Players and Supporters Committee will hold their Annual Past Players and Supporters function this week, with the highly entertaining Campbell Brown as guest speaker. Do not miss Campbell’s many tales and he is sure to have the audience in raptures. Tickets are $60.00 per person plus gate entry with the function commencing at 11.30am. The cost includes a two course meal & free refreshments till the Senior match against Sorell commences. There will be no door sales, so get your ticket now from the Cygnet Newsagency or from any of the organising committee.

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