**WIN FOR THE PORT IN LOCAL DERBY III**

Another packed ground and a carnival atmosphere greeted the ‘Cygnet Community Bank Football Club’ when it took on arch-rivals, the Huonville Lions, at Kermandie last Saturday. Both teams were keen to get a win for local bragging rights and more importantly to cement their position in the final five.

**COLTS**

The Southern Storm Colts, after their bye the previous week, were also looking for a win to retain fourth spot and possibly even move up the ladder depending on other results. They opened the game brightly, with eight scoring shots to one in the first quarter, but only managed three goals from their forward activity. A five goal to two second quarter gave the Storm had a handy six goal lead at half-time. The third quarter was a much more even affair but again the Storm’s inaccuracy was a problem, with only one goal scored from eight shots. However, the Lions were unable to take advantage of this and the lead had increased to 7 goals with a quarter to play. The final quarter was all the Storm’s as they kicked away to win comfortably by 71 points.

Better players in a very good team effort were Nathan Duggan, who continues his excellent year, Joe Direen with another bag of nine goals (his fourth for the season), Aza Nichol-Hawkes, Kurt Russell, Campbell Gane and Jack Bester. Elijah Reardon kicked two goals, with Brandon Lane and Jack Bester the other goal scorers.

**RESERVES**

The Reserves, looking for a win to keep their slim chance of a finals berth alive, were lively in the first quarter and were moving the ball well, with Brad Carver and Jamie Direen providing good targets up forward. The Port held a five point lead after an even first quarter, but Huonville got their game going in the second term outscoring Cygnet, four goals to one, to lead by 16 points at the long break. With Coach ‘Stick’s Clark encouraged his players to work hard and kick the ball long, it was an even third quarter with each team scoring two goals. Unfortunately, all the scoring in the last quarter was done by the Lions, as they booted four goals whilst keeping Cygnet goalless, to run out victors by 7 goals.

Brad Carver (3 goals) and Paddy Wilcox ran hard all day and never gave up trying, whilst other good contributors for the Port were Jack Bester (in his second game for the day), Daniel Donato, Jarryd Atkins and Tommy Slevin. The only other players to hit the scoreboard were Jamie Direen, two goals and Ian Coulson with one goal.

**SENIORS**

The Seniors welcomed back Matty Dance and Grant Clark but were again missing ‘regulars’ Gerard Brereton, Bradley Watson, ‘Pud’ Darcy and Mitch Direen. The game started in drizzling rain with both teams moving the ball quickly and creating many scoring opportunities. It was the Port’s greater accuracy and Ben Halton’s three goals in the opening term which gave Cygnet the lead by 10 points at quarter time. In possibly one of the Port’s worst quarters for the season, it was all one way traffic in the second quarter as the Lions moved the ball quickly and created the loose man on numerous occasions, scoring four goals to Cygnet’s nil, to open up a 16 point lead.

A half-time ‘bake’ from Coach Gav Quirk obviously had the desired effect as it was now the Port’s turn to be first at the ball and create multiple scoring opportunities. A six goal to one quarter, including two goals each to Toby ‘Logger’ Cowen and Brayden Hayes, helped Cygnet to reverse the margin and take a 16 point lead into three-quarter time. In what promised to be another cracking, close contest, Huonville scored a goal early in the final quarter to reduce the margin to 10 points, then another scoring shot missed and the Port’s lead was suddenly only nine points. For the next ten minutes it was a real battle as both teams battled hard at every contest and defended gamely. A fifth goal to Ben Halton extended the Port’s lead to 14 points but with 10 minutes to play there was still plenty of time for the Lions to hit back. Enter Matt ‘Rat’ Cane, who marked dead in front and with his trusty boot sealed the result in the Port’s favour, the final margin being 21 points.

Rhys Jennings and Sam Dean continued their fine form, both winning many of the hard ball contests. Ben Halton (5 goals) was again superb, whether up forward or on the ball, whilst Josh Doyle played an excellent nullifying role down back along with Cam Wilcox. Matty Dance and Gav Quirk both got plenty of possessions and gave good drive off half-back and through the midfield. Pat Verrell and Liam ‘Lingy’ O’Neill were the other goal scorers.

The win has now consolidated the Port’s spot in the top five, but with two rounds to go the final ladder positions from third to fifth are still not locked in. Cygnet is currently sitting in fourth spot, but could move into third spot (and get the double-chance) with a win over Hobart and if New Norfolk lose to Brighton this Saturday.

**LAST HOME ROSTER GAME AGAINST HOBART THIS SATURDAY**

Make sure you get along to watch the Port take on Hobart this Saturday in what are our last home roster games for season 2016. Go the Port and Storm!

**RED FACES NIGHT**

Don't forget about Red Faces Night this Saturday after the Hobart game. Everyone loves red faces night, it is always a great time filled with friendly banter and laughs all round!! So start getting your ‘act’ together.

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