**THE PORT SECURES THIRD PLACE ON LADDER**

After another strong performance against Hobart last Saturday, and thanks to Brighton’s one point victory over New Norfolk, the ‘Cygnet Community Bank Football Club’ has secured third spot on the SFL ladder and the all-important second chance. The Southern Storm Colts had another good win and also sit in third spot with one roster game to go before the finals commence. For the Cygnet Reserves, the season of mixed results is now over, as they have missed out on a place in the top five.

**COLTS**

The Southern Storm Colts were looking for a strong performance to reinforce their position in the final five, as only one and a half games separated the teams placed second to fifth on the ladder. Unfortunately Hobart were short of players and both teams started with only 14 players on the field. With Coach Matt Brereton interstate watching his son, Harry, compete in the Australian Cross Country Championships in Canberra (Harry ran 7th and was the first Tasmanian runner across the line), ‘Squid’ Gordon took over the coaching reins.

The Storm were quickly out of the blocks, hitting the scoreboard early and often, scoring seven goals to nil in the first quarter. Once again, Joe Direen was providing an excellent marking target up forward with Jake Dance swooping on anything that hit the ground. An unfortunate injury to a Hobart player resulted in an ambulance attending, but the very pleasing news from Hobart officials was that the young lad is okay. The Storm boys were teaming well together and a further six goals had them up by twelve goals at half-time. To Hobart’s credit they never gave up and in the third quarter matched it with the Storm, with both teams kicking two goals. The final quarter saw the Storm kick away to win comfortably by 101 points.

Better players in an excellent team effort were Marcus Coulson, Paddy O’Neill, Jack Brereton, Jack Bester, Will Donato and Campbell Gane. Joe Direen kicked eight goals and was well supported by Jake Dance (4), Marcus Coulson (3), Jack Bester (2) with single goals to Kyle Russell, Paddy and Jack O’Neill.

**RESERVES**

The Reserves came up against a Hobart side determined to hold their fifth place and a spot in the finals. The visitors opened the game brightly with a five goal to one first quarter. This proved to be the quarter in which the game was won. Pleasingly the Port boys battled gamely for the remainder of the game although they were unable to really challenge the Tigers, who managed to maintain their four goal advantage through to the end of the game.

Brad Carver (2 goals) continued his very good form of recent weeks, with Jamie Direen, Leigh Savage, Shane Clark (2 goals), Tom Slevin and Aaron Dance other good contributors in an even team performance. ‘Libba’ Paul kicked two goals with Jamie Direen the other goal scorer. Many thanks to Shane ‘Sticks’ Clark who has done a terrific job in coaching the Port Reserves for the past three seasons under very difficult circumstances. Well done Shane, you are a real legend of our Club, and your contribution both on and off the field has been magnificent.

**SENIORS**

The Seniors welcomed back mid-fielder Bradley Watson in what proved to be an important game in the context of the team’s final position on the ladder.

The Port got off to a very good start, kicking seven goals in the first quarter with Jake Brereton winning the taps and giving his onballers first use of the ball, whilst Ben ‘Bunsen’ Halton and Brayden Hayes were both on fire up forward. The second quarter was more of the same, with the Port kicking six goals to Hobart’s three to take an eight goal lead into the half-time break. The third quarter was all the ‘Bunsen’ show with Halton taking full advantage of the Port’s quick centre clearances to kick six goals for the quarter to take his game tally to ten at three quarter time. Hobart were not to be outdone and started the final quarter with four quick goals before Cygnet matched them with the final four goals of the game to run out comfortable victors by 72 points.

Ben Halton (with 11 goals one behind) was superb in a best-on-ground performance, Bradley Watson, Rhys Jennings and Sam Dean won most of the hard ball contests, Brayden Hayes (5 goals) was a live-wire up forward and Jake Brereton rucked and marked well all around the ground.

Other goal scorers were Jason Laycock (3), Brad Watson (2), with single to Jake Brereton, Matty Dance, Liam O’Neill and Gav Quirk.

**SOUTHERN STORM AT HOME TO LINDISFARNE THIS SATURDAY**

With both the Senior and Reserve teams having the bye this week before the finals start the following Saturday (3rd September), the only game this weekend will be the Southern Storm Colts hosting Lindisfarne at Cygnet, in what will be their final roster game for season 2016. So get along to the Port on Saturday and watch the young Storm lads play their exciting brand of football.

**RED FACES NIGHT**

Once again, the Red Faces Night last Saturday was a huge success with the many acts bringing the house down. Congratulations to Matt Whitehouse and Gerard Brereton for their multiple song play list which scored them the perfect ‘10’ score from all four judges. The Ford, Hayes, Brereton and Doyle team with their skit ‘Sh\*t no one says’, were the runners-up. Well done to all acts and many thanks to Brig Wilcox and her team for organising another fantastic, fun-filled night.

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