**TOUGH DAY FOR THE PORT AND STORM**

A week is certainly a long time in football, particularly around finals time. After the highs of the previous week, the ‘Cygnet Community Bank Football Club’ Seniors and the Southern Storm Colts unfortunately were not able to get across the line in their Second Semi-Final games last Saturday.

**COLTS**

The Southern Storm boys faced the top team, Claremont, on their home turf, and were keen to put in a strong performance and improve on their previous results during the home and away season.

Claremont opened the game brightly and were quickly on the scoreboard, scoring the first two goals before the Storm hit back with two goals of their own. A late goal by the Magpies had them eight points up at quarter time and another close contest was looking on the cards. The Storm got their game going in the second quarter, outplaying their opponents and with Joe Direen and Brandon Lane proving dangerous around goals, hit the front and led by five points at half-time.

In the third quarter, Claremont showed why they were the top team and with their taller boys marking well, reasserted their ascendency and held a nine point lead with a quarter to play. However, the Storm were not to be outdone and were winning many of the ground level contests. With Claremont leading by seven points with only a couple of minutes remaining the game looked to be slipping away from the Storm. However a behind to the Storm followed by a goal on the run from Aza Nichol-Hawkes with only seconds remaining, tied the score at 71 points each when the final siren sounded. It was then into extra time with five minutes to be played to each end. The first five minutes saw each side scoring a goal and scores were still all tied up half way through extra time. In the next few nerve-racking minutes, Claremont scored a behind and then a goal to run out victors by seven points in what was a great contest by two evenly matched teams.

Better players in a very game team effort were Campbell Gane, Nathan Duggan, Jack Brereton, Joe Direen (with 6 goals), Liam O’Neill and Bailey Gordon.

Other goal scorers were Brandon Lane (2), with single goals to Jake Dance, Jack Bester, Aza Nichol-Hawkes and Jake Munnings.

Joe’s six goals took his season tally to 99 goals, a great effort from his 20 games. Joe now has the opportunity to notch up his 100th goal in this week’s Preliminary Final.

**SENIORS**

The Port Seniors were matched against the competition’s form team in the Lindisfarne Two Blues, again on their home turf at Anzac Park. The Two Blues had suffered their only loss for the season to Claremont in the final roster round.

With the Lindisfarne defence double-teaming Jason Laycock and congesting Cygnet’s forward 50 metre area, it was Brayden Hayes who got the scoreboard ticking for the Port with consecutive goals. Unfortunately Haysey suffered a hamstring injury shortly after and could take no further part in the game. The Two Blues then hit back with three goals of their own to lead by ten points at quarter time. Two quick goals to Ben Halton early in the second term gave the Port a real lift and they hit the front, before Lindisfarne settled and started to get their well-drilled running game going. A five goal to four quarter had the home team in front by 19 points at the long break.

It was a disappointing second half for the Port as Lindisfarne continued their relentless forward thrusts, scoring seven and five goals respectively in the final two quarters whilst holding Cygnet to a solitary goal in each quarter. The final 83 point margin was reflective of Lindisfarne’s dominance particularly in the second half of the game, but to the Port’s credit they battled the game out with a much depleted bench.

Better players for Cygnet were Will Ford who battled hard all day under the constant pressure of Lindisfarne’s attacks, Ben Halton (3 goals) in his 150th Club game and Jason Laycock (2 goals) provided targets up forward but often had to contend with several opponents. Brad Watson, playing his 150th Senior game was his usual determined self and was in all the heavy contests, until a hamstring injury also forced him from the field. Others to do well were Matty Dance, who continually ran the ball forward and Darcy Millhouse who played a tight game in defence.

Brayden Hayes (2 goals) and Micheal Darcy (1) were the only other players to hit the scoreboard.

**THIS WEEK’S PRELIMINARY FINAL GAMES**

Both the Cygnet Senior and Storm Colts teams must now regroup and make the most of their double-chances in this week’s Preliminary Finals, to be played at North Hobart Oval on Sunday (18th September).

The Southern Storm Colts will play Brighton and Cygnet Seniors will take on Claremont, in what will be replays of their respective Qualifying Final match-ups of two weeks ago. The winners of these games will go into the Grand Finals the following week so there is much at stake for both teams from the Port.

Make sure you get along this week to watch both games, as if they are anywhere near as exciting as the previous contests, then everyone is in for another great day of football.

**CONDOLENCES TO THE CLARK FAMILY**

The Committee, Players and Members of the Cygnet Football Club are saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs Verna Clark, loved mother of Graham, Gary and Meg, and grandmother of current players Grant and Shane Clark.

Our thoughts and sympathies go to Grant, Shane and all of the Clark family at this sad time.

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