**PORT GETS TWO WINS OVER BRIGHTON**

It was a disappointing start to Saturday with the Claremont Colts forfeiting their game against the Southern Storm. As a result it will be almost a month between games for the Storm lads when they front Lindisfarne this coming Saturday.

With the Port Women having the bye this meant that the only games played last weekend were the Cygnet Reserves and Senior Men’s teams at home to the Brighton Robins.

**Reserves**

The Cygnet and Brighton Reserves were both aiming for their first wins of the season and there was an added incentive for the Port with Club legend, Shane Clark playing his 250th Club game, a fantastic achievement. The Port hit the ground running and had the first goal of the game on the board within the first minute, courtesy of Liam O’Neill. The onballers were making the most use of Darcy Millhouse’s ascendency in the ruck contests and it was an avalanche of goals for the Port, as they kicked a further seven goals straight for the quarter while keeping their Robin opponents scoreless, to lead 48 – 0 at the first break.

The second quarter was a more even affair with Brighton kicking their first goal and Cygnet adding two goals of their own to lead by 56 points at half time. A further three goals to the Port in each of the third and fourth quarters while restricting the Robins to two goals for the game and it was a much-needed victory to the Port by 92 points.

The Port displayed the running team style of football which would have them competitive against most teams in the competition, with fitness levels slowly improving as the season progresses. Darcy Millhouse, Shane Clark (4 goals), Kyle Russell, Paddy O’Neill, Elliot Ross and Daniel Webster were excellent contributors all day. The other goal scorers were Ollie Burke (3 goals), Chris Stockfeld (3 goals) and single goals to Pat Ford, Jack Bester, Kyle Russell, Matt Coulson, Liam O’Neill and Brandon Lane.

**Seniors**

The Port Seniors also had several important milestone games to celebrate, with Co-Captain Rhys Jennings also playing his 250th Club game, Kane Nielsen his 200th Senior game and young forward Joe Direen was lining up for his 50th Senior game. The team also welcomed Scott Blacklow for his first Senior game along with Ben Smith who had earnt promotion from the Reserves and Matt Turnbull back from injury.

It was almost a carbon image of the earlier Reserve’s game, with the Port quickly out of the blocks and hitting the scoreboard, but inaccuracy in front of the big sticks was presenting a problem, with the Port scoring four goals and six behinds in the first quarter, but managing to keep their Robin opponents goalless. The Port got their goal kicking radar working in the second quarter, with Joe Direen and Ben Halton providing great targets up forward. Toby Cowen was in everything, kicking three of the Port’s eight goals for the quarter (from ten scoring shots) and their lead had extended to 68 points at half time.

With Coach Ben Cato urging his players to keep the pressure on and build into a percentage-boosting win, it was more of the same in the second half with the Port too strong and too fast for their opposition. Five goals to one in the third quarter and a further six goals to one in the final quarter and the final margin was 126 points in the Port’s favour.

Toby Cowen continued his excellent form, continually breaking the lines and kicking long to his forwards, whilst also booting four goals of his own. Andrew Palmer (2 goals), Joe Direen (7 goals), Rhys Jennings, young James Zeitzen in only his fourth senior game showed great skill and poise, and Ben Halton (4 goals) were all dominant players in an excellent team effort.

Other goal scorers were 200th gamer Kane Nielsen who relished his move up forward with two goals, Pat Verrell also kicked two goals, with singles to Elijah Reardon and Jason Shaw.

**This week’s games**

This Saturday the Port will take football back to the Channel (Snug Park), in what promises to be four excellent games against Lindisfarne.

The Port Women will kick off the day at 10.30am with their game against the Lindisfarne Blues, followed by the Reserves at 12 noon, the Seniors at 2pm and the final game of the day will see the undefeated Southern Storm Colts up against third-placed Lindisfarne, who have won all of their last four games by margins over 110 points.

Get along to Snug Park to watch the Port and Storm’s exciting group of young players and support the several ex-Channel players who are now making their mark in the Port colours.