**R13**

Reserves

The Cygnet Reserves travelled to Pontville this week to play up against Brighton.  The rain held off for the game but it was still a cold and windy day.

Cygnet jumped out of the blocks early and was playing well. They placed a lot of pressure on Brighton and was able to kick three straight to take a small lead into the second.

Brighton began to get some clean passages of play together, although The Port players were defending well. Once again Big Bird was playing well in the centre with Jules Direen and Pat Verrell battling in the centre.

Brighton were able to kick 4 goals to Cygnet’s 1 and retake the lead at halftime. The game continued on much the same way with poor discipline costing Cygnet after giving away a couple of 50 metre penalties that cost goals.

Unfortunately Jacob Direen broke his ankle quite badly in a tackle and the game was called off with around 5 minutes remaining with Brighton leading by 26 points.  The club wishes “Direeny” a quick recovery and look forward to him back on the field.

Cygnet 5.6.36 def by Brighton 9.8.62

Goal Kickers: J. Direen 2, D. Fahey, J. Brett, T. Slevin
Best Players: J. Direen, P. Verrell, S. Blacklow, J. Brett, D. Webster, G. Brereton

Womens

This week the Port women travelled to Boyer Oval New Norfolk, in less than ideal conditions.

We welcomed new recruits Abbey Tromp and Sophie Brouwer into our team, as well as Kingborough players Abby Doyle and Olivia Brouwer, thanks for stepping up and giving us a hand.

First quarter saw the Port women starting off slowly, due to shock from the cold weather and slippery conditions.We also saw both teams playing congested footy through the middle of the ground, which made ball movement and goal scoring very difficult.By the end of the first quarter we had scored 1 goal 4 points while keeping New Norfolk scoreless. The second quarter coach Mark asked the players to have even numbers around the ball at stoppages, and to spread away from the congestion. Sammy Kluga, Stacey Fox, Taylah Dillion and Ash Munnings took this on board and the game started to open up, which saw Emily Direen ending the first half with an impressive 3 goals, Stacey Fox with 1 and first timer Sophie Brouwer also with 1 goal. The third quarter saw some change of positions, most prominent was Emily Duggan's move into the mid-field where she dominated at times in the last half. Other changes saw Mady Eaves and Hannah Cowmeadow go forward both adding a goal apiece to Ports growing total. Brooke Griggs moved to centre-half back where she read the play well and dominated her opponent. Abbey Tromp showed promise in her first game, helping her team mates with several touches and shepherds. By the end of the third quarter Port had scored 5 goals, one point, thanks to 2 goals from Stacey Fox, another from Emily Direen, and 1 apiece from Mady Eaves and Hannah Cowmeadow. The last quarter saw only 15 players on the field, due to New Norfolk losing a player  to injury. Dana Van Andel moved onto the wing for a tagging role after playing a solid game in defence. Tameeka Coventry returned to the backline where she played well. Abby Doyle had an impressive game on the half backline and mid-field at times. Olivia Brouwer and Hayley Kluga ran tirelessly on the wing for three quarters putting pressure on their older opponents. Chantelle Coad was moved from the backline to the forward line kicking her first goal for the season, along side Ash Munnings also kicking a goal. By the final siren a wet and muddy Port team had scored 12.12.84 while keeping New Norfolk scoreless.

Goal Kickers: E. Direen 4, S. Fox 3, A. Munnings, H. Cowmeadow, S. Brouwer, M. Eaves, C. Coad
Best Players: T. Dillon, S. Fox, E. Duggan, M. Eaves, S. Kluga, B. Griggs

U19

On the most dismal day for football this season, the Southern Storm Colts made the early morning journey to Boyer to take on the New Norfolk Eagles. The conditions were less than ideal but the Storm took the puddle of the ground determined to live up to the name and pride in brand “Storm”. The first term saw Storm really bust out of the blocks surging the footy into their forward line which rewarded a quick first quarter goal to Connor Soward after a strong grab. This really set the tempo for the first quarter with midfielders Reece Scotland and Luke Paton being exceptionally clean despite the conditions. Scotland was found in every contest surging the football forward where he could, and when he couldn’t, Paton was ready for the quick off the deck handball which he then was able to sell the candy on plenty of occasions to allow himself a clear run forward to ensure the ball spent majority of its time in the Storms forward 50. Murray Bastick again was dominate in not only the forward line, by laying a number of big bodied shepherds, but also through the midfield where he was found playing his signature tackle busting game to ensure the Storm had every forward opportunity possible. The Storm were able to maximise on many of these forward entries, especially through Soward, with his high level of accuracy, to take a 40- 0 lead at the first break.

At the first break, the heavy rain had set in and was here to stay. The Storm were determined to take advantage of the conditions and work on keeping their feet. The team set out with a few players being given the chance to try a different position and showcase what they bring to the team. The composure of the Storm in the wet is what really set them apart from the young Eagles with Connor Soward and Noah Clifford appearing to have a ball magnet holding numerous marks across the ground as well as both being successful in front of goal. Blake Sculthorpe, back after a few weeks off with state cricket, showed his exceptional skills again, bagging himself a goal, as well as providing pinpoint kicks to his team mates which resulted in a number of goals. The defence of the Storm was exceptional with the ball being locked in the Storms attacking half for the first half.

With hope that the half time rain break would hold, the drenched Storm team took the field again and showed the Eagles that they weren’t done yet, with Murray Bastick and Reece Scotland putting on a show with their exceptional skills in the wet, as well as a number of tackles to keep the ball as far away as possible from the Eagles forward line. Samuel Ryan and Ollie Townsend too continued to impress with their versatility across the ground and their attack on the football. Ryan had a number of tackles as well as a number of hit outs, while Townsend was laced with the same magnet as Clifford and Soward being able to hold onto the footy in any which way it came at him. The efforts of the team saw the Storm have a comfortable 70-0 lead at three quarter time.

The Storm set out in the 4th term with a mission to really come together and put 5 goals on the board for the quarter. The belief from the coach staff was put into the team and the Storm acted upon it. Coming out blazing, the ball was immediately found in the attacking 50 with a quick goal put onto the board from Paton to make his third for the day. Paton again was found in front of goals twice but with the opposition hot on his hammer, he was un able to convert. Defender become forward Ethan Lovell made his limited forward line time very useful kicking two goals for the term, making the Storm’s mission a reality. James Zietzen wasn’t going to miss his chance to contribute either with him securing his second for the day, as well as young under 16’s gun Elijah Cowen making his mark for the future, kicking the fifth required goal for the quarter after unluckily hitting the post a few times throughout the day. The Storm were able to run away with a strong 107-1 point victory on what was a wet and wild day of football.

Best Players Included Reece Scotland, Luke Paton, Connor Soward, Murray Bastick, Noah Clifford and Blake Sculthorpe

Goal Kickers Included Connor Soward 4, Luke Paton 3, James Zeitzen 2, Ethan Lovell 2, and Singles to Murray Bastick, Elijah Cowen, Noah Clifford and Blake Sculthorpe