Come along to the Cygnet Oval on Saturday to see Big Barry Hall line up at full forward for the Cygnet Football Club in their finals campaign. The day starts off with our storm u19 side playing in the qualifying finals against Hobart at 10.15am, followed by Hobart V Brighton Reserves and the big dance of Cygnet V New Norfolk at 2.30pm. The past two times these teams have met this season has seen the tally at 1 win each by a margin of 1 point and 7 points respectively. If history is any indication an amazing game of football will be on display this week.

Seniors

In a massive game for the Cygnet Football Club, we travelled to the Valley of Love to take on New Norfolk Football Club. The outcome of the game would determine who hosted the home final between these two sides the following week.

In total contrast to the atrocious weather from last week’s game, we were blessed with a perfect day for this much anticipated clash. It was the New Norfolk side that came charging out of the blocks dominating the play all around the ground. The Port side were very slow to react and the disposal by hand and foot was terrible. The Eagles piled on 5 goals in this quarter whist the Port could only manage the 2. It was Andrew Palmer and Braden Livingston that stood tall for the Port doing all they could to keep the Port in the game Goals in this quarter went to Braden Livingston and Jake Dance.

Cygnet 2.3.15 Vs New Norfolk 5.2.32

After a big spray by Coach Ben Cato at quarter time the Port were determined to turn this game around. Whilst the second quarter started the same way that the first quarter did with the Eagles dominating around the ground – toward the end of the quarter the Port began to show some intensity.  The Cygnet Football Club managed to even up the inside 50’s within the quarter and began to win the centre clearances. In what was a very entertaining quarter, with the quick free flowing game a feature. There were 10 goals scored, with 5 from each side. It was the experienced players from Cygnet who led the late fight back within this quarter - giving the Port a chance as they headed in to the half time break. Moving Ben Cato and Ben Halton into the midfield would prove pivotal as these guys lifted those around them.  Goals in this quarter went to Jake Dance (2), Barry Hall (2) and Toby Cowen.

Cygnet 7.4.46 Vs New Norfolk 10.4.64

It was a different Cygnet side that took the field after half time. The third quarter belonged to the Port. They dominated the centre clearances, the inside 50’s and the scoreboard.

Whilst Cygnet were able to pile on 5 goals the Eagles could only manage the 1. The ball use within this quarter was in complete contrast to the use within the first half. Cygnet used the ball more cleanly and efficiently and the delivery into the forward 50 was great. Big Man Reece Schuth worked his way on top of a quality opposition ruckman and the midfield brigade lifted around him. Not only were the midfield of the Port dominating the centre clearances – but they were also hitting the scoreboard. Goals in this quarter went to Braden Livingston (2), Rhys Jennings, Andrew Palmer and Sean Burgess.

Cygnet 12.8.80 Vs New Norfolk 11.571

The scene was set for a blockbuster final quarter. After being almost 40 points down at one stage – the Port had fought back hard to take a 9 point lead into the ¾ time break. The last quarter saw some quality free flowing football with the lead see-sawing back and forth with every goal. Whilst the centre clearances were even for the quarter – it was the Port who had the better of the inside 50’s. Up forward for the Eagles – Marcus Parker was causing some serious headaches for the Cygnet defenders. Luckily for Cygnet, our defenders stood tall under such pressure – Kane Nielsen, Adam Duggan, Jackson Gordon, Mitch Direen and Nathan Duggan continued to impress.  Up forward big power house Barry Hall was instrumental kicking 3 goals for the quarter – including a very tough opportunity from the 50m line on the boundary in the dying seconds when scores were level. Both teams managed 5 goals each for the quarter. Our other goals in this quarter went to Braden Livingston and Luke Paton. A much-needed win for the Port who now secure a home elimination final. Better players on the day were Andrew Palmer who was a shining light in all 4 x quarters, young speedster Luke Paton provided plenty of spark (particularly once he had moved forward), Kane Nielsen continued his great season, Reece Schuth led from the front when the Port needed him the most and Toby Cowen and Braden Livingston were everywhere.

Goals went to Barry Hall (5), Braden Livingston (4), Jake Dance (3), Andrew Palmer, Toby Cowen, Sean Burgess, Rhys Jennings and Luke Paton.

Cygnet 17.11.113 def New Norfolk 16.10.106

Goal Kickers: B. Hall 5, B. Livingston 4, J. Dance 3, T. Cowen, S. Burgess, R. Jennings, L. Paton, A. Palmer  
Best Players: A. Palmer, K. Nielsen, L. Paton, R. Schuth, T. Cowen, B. Livingston

 Reserves

In their final game for the season the Cygnet Reserves were up against New Norfolk at Boyer Oval. In beautiful sunshine New Norfolk hit the ground running and quickly had the first couple of goals on the board within the first few minutes. Cygnet struggled to get the ball into their forward half for the quarter, with New Norfolk having all the run. New Norfolk established a 30 point lead at quarter time. Cygnet played a better game in the second quarter and was able to limit the damage being done by New Norfolk. Cygnet managed to maintain the ball in their forward half for good parts of the quarter but unfortunately were not able to put a goal on the board. Daniel Webster was trying hard in the backline, along with the ever reliable Tom Slevin at fullback. Joel Davey worked hard in the forward line and on the wing trying to move the ball forward. Once again Pat Verrell, Jack Brett  and Jack O'Neill were giving their all all over the ground.

The third quarter saw Chris Stockfeld kick the first goal for the Port and the quarter was the best one played by Cygnet. They matched New Norfolk all over the ground and saw some great contested play in patches. Brad Carver kicked their second in the final term and the Port was able to keep New Norfolk to three goals.  In a season that saw Cygnet finish 8th on the ladder, with two wins for the season. The coaches would be thinking that it was a season of what if's, as the Cygnet Reserves lost five games under two goals.

Cygnet 2.6.18 def by New Norfolk 10.17.77

Goal Kickers: B. Carver, C. Stockfeld  
Best Players: D. Webster, J. Davey, T. Slevin, P. Verrell, J. Brett, J. O''Neill

Round 19: U19

On the last home and away game for the season, the Southern Storm Colts travelled to New Norfolk with the hope to make it their third and final win over the young Eagles this season as well as gaining  a win heading into next week’s first final. The conditions could not have been better, the ground was in pristine condition and there was not a cloud in sight. The first term saw the Storm come out being a little bit fumbly despite the marvellous conditions, perhaps being used to a usually wet first quarter was to blame.  This did not last long though, with George O’Neill, back into the side after an extensive amount of time on the sidelines due to injury, finding his feet, taking a strong grab that resulted in the opening goal of the game. The midfield consisting of Josh Coad, Murray Bastick, Samuel Ryan and ruckman Kade Francis, worked extremely well together to control the play and get the ball into the hands of Kayne Wouters who knew how to get his team on the offensive attack. The Stormed closed the quarter out strongly with Blake Sculthorpe using his size to hold up  a 3 on 1 to create time for his ruckman in Francis lay a massive tackle to get the ball into the hands of a hard leading O’Neill to mark his name in the paper for the second time this quarter and give the Storm a 9-point lead.

After a slow start to the game, the Storm really had to take a bit of time and become more composed. Unfortunately, it took more than the better half of the second quarter to find this composure, with New Norfolk fighting hard to show the Storm why they have managed to make their way into finals. During the less than desirable start to the second quarter, it was Ethan Lovell who stood tall, mopping up anything and everything that came his way across the centre half backline. He was able to hold the play up and allow dominant midfielders in Bastick and Coad to use their explosiveness and both sides of their bodies to get the ball into the Storms control. The hard work of the midfield did not go unrewarded with Blake Sculthorpe kicking a magnificent goal as well as George O’Neill being too strong for his opponent, to result in another strong grab and goal. The two late goals saw the Storm take a 20-point lead heading into the main break.

The chance to suck in some much needed breaths for the bare 18 Storm players during the long break proved to be the difference, with the third quarter being the brand of Storm football the team desires to play. Francis was able to continue his full control of the game in the ruck which allowed Bastick and Coad to have free rain, both being dominate in getting the ball into the forwards. It didn’t take long for Sculthorpe to find the big sticks again, after team mate Kieran Lawler, who is freshly back into the side, put in the hard yards to get the ball to him and lay three big shepherds. The goal from Sculthorpe early on really set the tone for the quarter, with the big three in the midfield dominating the centre clearances, which allowed George O’Neill time and time again to use his size, strength and great set of hands to kick three big goals for the quarter. Kayne Wouters and Blake Sculthorpe couldn’t let O’Neill have all the goal scoring fun, with both putting their hands up and kicking two big goals. The Storm had real control over the football throughout the quarter, with Ethan Lovell and Brayden Dowling ensuring the football stayed locked in the forward line. Dowling playing out of position, showed the team he can play just about anywhere, with Dowling taking some massive marks as well as exceptional two way running. The Storm were able to keep New Norfolk to just one point for the quarter whilst taking a 57 point lead.

The final term saw the boys go back out there and really build on what they started in the third quarter. The boys came out firing with Josh Coad and his partner in crime Murray Bastick smashing through New Norfolks line of defence, which allowed George O’Neill to have first use of the football. With a large amount of body on body contact, O’Neill again out muscled his opponent to take a strong grab and cement 7 goals into the paper. The New Norfolk boys fought hard but couldn’t compete with the sweeping defence of Dowling and Lovell which allowed the Storm boys to keep the ball in their forward line. Despite repeated attempts by New Norfolk to find their key forward and last year’s leading goal kicker in Caleb Triffett, Jacob Burnett was to have the better of him, with Burnett taking some massive intercept marks, as well as laying some massive tackles during his time in the midfield. The in and under small forward of Liam Slater found his way onto the score board with a true crumbers goal. Bruk Duggan was able to tough his way out of a heavy hot headed tag and get his name into the book to seal the deal for the boys and allowed the Storm to run away with a 77 point victory over New Norfolk.

Better players for the day include: George O’Neill, Murray Bastick, Josh Coad, Ethan Lovell, Brayden Dowling and Blake Sculthorpe.

Goal Kickers include: George O’Neill 7, Blake Sculthorpe 3, and singles to Kayne Wouters, Liam Slater and Bruk Duggan.

The Storm will follow their Senior side and will play Hobart in a home qualifying final. The record stands at 2-1 in the Storm’s favour across the home and away season. This will be a game you will not want to miss. The game will kick off from 10:15am this Saturday!