

Auskick

Being the only fixture at ELS this week we didn't have access to a BBQ or Canteen unfortunately but it did mean we had the whole ground to ourselves and no time constraints, which was handy. That being the case, we broke up the kids into three groups and spread out on the top oval with three different goal kicking & skill stations.

The first was picking up the moving ball and shooting for goal, the second was a handball give and receive then kick for goal, and the third was a mixture of agility, dribbling and bouncing before shooting for goal.

After a quick drink we got stuck into our game for week with about 30 Auskickers. The game was played in good spirits and was very evenly contested right across the ground. A special mention goes to Jon who won the Auskicker of the week award for his terrific performance, teamwork and also for helping Daren cleaning up!

A very special thanks again to all the mums who made their kids available for the morning and for

coming down themselves on Mothers Day.

Don't forget we have a 'pie and drink' night on this Tuesday after training. The weather's still nice and warm so should be a good evening and we'd encourage as many of you as possible to try and make it down for 5pm. We also have our Auskick lunch on this Sunday 18th May at the Ranch from 11:30am. Hope to see you there.

– Auskick Coaches

U9 Purples

The boys were playing for their mothers this week and after last week's tough match against the Magpies, the lads really turned up to play against a determined Hornsby Berowra Red team.

The first quarter began with a tight contest, however Daniel's defensive work was the difference between the two teams. He laid some marvellous tackles before scooping up the ball and kicking it forward. Oscar was also in the trenches early showing good tackling skills and an ability to pick the ball up cleanly off the deck. When we were able to overcome

the arm wrestle and work the ball forward, Zach's tenacity was rewarded a shot and goal, which he duly converted.

Hornsby Red came out determined at the start of the second quarter and quickly put our boys under the pump in the middle. Jerome, Captain-for-the-day DJ, and Jeremy answered the call with some fierce tackling which allowed the Dockers to move the ball forward. Jeremy continued all quarter with terrific efforts and persistence, which eventually allowed an opportunity for Connor to scoop the ball up and have a great snap at goal.

The boys had their tail up for the second half of the match and started briskly with Connor busy up forward chasing down loose balls. Ollie continued his good efforts by chasing down a backman in the forward pocket and passing the ball off to Connor who marked and goaled. Jack also grabbed six points after applying strong forward pressure and converting after the ball was spilled.

The last quarter continued where the third left off with strong pressure from the boys. Alistair and Daniel were all over Hornsby's backmen and kept the ball up in our forward line with Daniel

grabbing a goal. Christian was also busy with a great run down the wing before passing off to Captain DJ on the half forward flank. DJ also showed off his speed through the middle before laying off a nice handball.

In the end it was a much improved performance, and one the boys should be really proud of. The consistent standing on the mark and picking up of loose opposition players showed the lads are really starting to put into play the things they are learning during the week.

Well done Under 9 Purples!

– Byron den Hertog

U11

The sun was shining for the most important event of the day – Mother's Day! Hopefully the later game time meant that Mums got breakfast made for them before heading out to Kellyville.

We knew this was going to be a tough match. Unfortunately it did not get off to a good start when we found out at the end of the 1st quarter that we only had 13 on field playing a strong Kellyville with 15 players on field. Two of our players had lost their bags

containing their mouth-guards & were off searching for them. None of the coaches were aware of this, which is a shame as we had two reserves on the bench that could have replaced these boys had we known we were down two players on field. A good lesson for us coaches in terms of preparation & also for all the boys. Let's make sure we arrive early and we are all ready for the start of the game.

The first quarter was goalless for the Dockers, but we did defend well, only letting a few goals in from the opposition. The second term started more positively with 3 nice goals to the Dockers, after some great midfield clearances. The Dockers won this second quarter, but it was the last quarter we'd win for the day.

The second half was a real battle for the Dockers as we struggled to pick up Kellyville's loose players. We did get our fair share of ball, but we didn't dispose of it well. We turned ball over & Kellyville's midfielders were able to more accurately kick or hand pass to their loose players, who then put scoreboard pressure on us. Congratulations need to go to Kellyville on a well-played game.

Special mention needs to go to

Matt who worked tirelessly all day. We should also congratulate Jayden & Ben on their debut with the Dockers. Both did well & show a lot of promise. Pleasingly our effort was for the most part good, but we have to improve our kicking & marking skills if we are make improvements in our play.

So guys keep your heads up, it's our first loss, but this part of life & we will all learn more from this game than others we've played this year. It will make us stronger & better. Have no doubt you are still are a very good, but developing football team who are just learning to gel as a unit & we will all get enjoyment as we watch that unfold as the year goes on.

Before and after a hard running game remember that it is very important to stretch to help prevent injuries. Britt will be focusing on this at training and before and after games.

At the conclusion of yesterday's game it was nice that the boys recognised their Mums by encircling the Mums as the boys all sang the club song. Well done lads & again Happy Mother's Day to all the Dockers' mums both there & not present.

Go Dockers. See you for a pie after training on Tuesday.

– Liz Thomson & Kyle Mahoney

U12

The U12 Dockers had their second game against the unbeaten Kellyville/Rouse Hill Magpies on a warm and sunny Mother's Day at Bruce Purser Oval.

The first quarter was close with the Dockers trying hard; however we found marking difficult, with only Nick marking in the quarter. Our defence was being severely tested with the ball being held in our half of the field for the whole quarter.

The second quarter saw the Dockers fighting hard for possession. Ned ran hard and pulled off a great save, whilst Tom, Rob and Ryan also took strong marks.

The third quarter was difficult, however our Dockers boys kept chasing and it was good to see that they never gave up. Tim and Zann ran hard all day, Luke, Harry and Hugo fought hard in close and Rob and Jack stood up under much pressure in the backs.

In the fourth quarter, the Dockers continued to play hard. Luke took

an excellent contested mark and Rob showed great determination using a strong hip-and-shoulder bump to contest the ball. Sam was solid when moved into the ruck, Mason, Cam and Lachlan showed good effort and Alistar and Henry kept trying as the Dockers managed to hold the opposition to 2 goals, while getting their only score – a behind to Brok.

The physical nature of the game was certainly evident with a number of Dockers needing to leave the ground at different times for various injuries. It was good to see that they all managed to get back on the field. Despite the one-sided score board, it was pleasing to see the boys following coach instructions and giving a spirited performance against the odds. The team continues to improve every game.

– Ro Coroneos & Greg Randle

U13 Round 4

Having recorded strong wins in the first two games, the team received a reality check at the hands of Manly. The players showed great determination kicking into a strong wind in a scrappy Q1, finishing the quarter only 4 points behind in a

pleasing start, with Wizard kicking a quality goal.

Ranga led the way at CHB consistently beating a much taller opponent and rebounding well, however, Manly broke the game open with their run and superior kicking skills, kicking 4-3 to our 0-1 to hold a 30 point lead at the main break.

Co-Captain Bomber battled hard in the midfield, usually winning the contested ball and laying plenty of tackles, while Ryan was rewarded for his impressive work ethic and determination in defence with a midfield rotation (keep it up Ryan).

Thankfully, the bus that picked up some passengers at quarter time dropped them off to start the 3rd quarter, the team showing how competitive we are when we contest and work together. Dash started making an impact when moved to Full Back, playing in front and stopping a number of Manly forward thrusts, while Magic's penetrating run off the half back line helped change the game's momentum.

Q4 started with Bull receiving a nasty kick to his shin, putting him out for the rest of the game. Maybe inspired by this, the

team lifted and outscored the opposition, with a hard fought goal to Justin the highlight. Setting a great example, Diesel played a terrific Captain's game gathering 20+ possessions and effecting 20+ (unrewarded) tackles in a four-quarter "blue collar" performance.

The 35 point losing margin was not a true reflection of how competitive the game was for 3 quarters – it was our performance in one quarter that let us down. In the second half we had the same number of scoring shots as Manly, something we can take into our next match against them.

Thank you to Robbie (U12s) for his determination and contesting.

An even bigger challenge awaits us next week when we play St.Ives (6 wins in Division 1 last year).

NRD 2.7 =19 lost to MB 7.12 =54

Goals: Wizard (1), Justin (1)

—Michael Hudson

[U13 Round 5](#)

If we thought playing against Manly the previous week was challenging, then St. Ives was a step up again, with almost every Docker player faced with a taller opponent and 5 interchange players to our one.

Despite having a player that looked almost as big as Aaron Sandilands at Full Forward (bring a ladder next time, Ranga!), I was exceptionally happy with the team's effort in the first half, restricting the Saints to only 2 goals (10 behinds, many forced). We were hard at the contest and moved the ball well on occasions, however, we were playing against a fit, highly skilled and well drilled opponent.

Unfortunately that bus that appeared in Q2 last week turned up again at half time, with a number of our players seemingly in awe of our opposition. With limited interchange we were starting to run out of puff, particularly as 3 of 4 starting midfielders carried leg injuries into the game, which restricted their run. Rizza, Hammer and Jarrod battled manfully on the last line of defence, with the ball constantly being pumped deep into the Saints forward line.

Meanwhile, the coach's frustration continued to rise in Q3 as our accountability and effort started to wane, allowing St. Ives to kick 6-3 to zero.

Injuries to Magic, Sticks and Bull presented us with further challenges, but provided opportunities to play players out of

position and turn the game into a learning scenario. After a tentative start, Ice looked good in the Ruck and around the ground, showing some great desperation.

Q4 saw a better effort, despite an unusual tactical set up, with everyone except Wizard in defence. This was more to do with getting our forwards into the game than blocking up the oppositions forward line to prevent scoring and it worked, with both Chook and Dougal seeing some action and teaming well.

The last 2 matches have shown the boys the level of skill, fitness and football understanding they need to aspire to and despite the score line, every player did something positive during the match. In the last two games we have played well for 3 quarters only to let ourselves down in the areas of concentration and discipline in one quarter.

Thanks to Cory (U14s) and Matt (U11s) for playing for us.

Let's "ban that bus" and get back on the winners list against Kellyville this week.

NRD 0.0=0 lost to StI 12.18=90

Goals: nil

– Michael Hudson

U14

A bright sunny day greeted us as we arrived at Middle Head oval for the Mothers day clash with Willoughby/Mosman. It became very apparent from the first bounce that the opposition team was fired up and came out very enthusiastically.

We had a few opportunities and were a few goals up at quarter time and then one goal up at half time, although we certainly knew we were in an arm wrestle. We were down a few numbers on the day and a nasty head bump had Bryn on the sidelines for most of the game, which was a big loss.

With the extra numbers and a greater sense of urgency at the ball the Willoughby/Mosman team get on top of us in the third quarter and then extend their lead in the final quarter as they ran out well deserved winners 72-48. Ehsen was best on ground for the purple and white, Connor went in hard, Cory ran all day as did Macca.

Joe had another busy game and is starting to find his feet in the oval ball game, as is Eddie. Up front Tom kept us in touch with 5 goals and Cameron and Connor chipped in with one each.

The game was played in a great spirit and was good to watch although some good lessons for our boys to learn. We will dust ourselves off and get ready to take on the new ladder leaders, Forest next Sunday afternoon.

– Christopher Whitnall

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all managers and coaches for their reports and all club sponsors for their support.

ALL DAY/NIGHT PLUMBING

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