

Editorial

Mark Tuesday June 28th on your calendar, as we're expecting another visit from a Sydney Swans player for training that night!

The weekend saw more glorious (if slightly smoky) weather for footy. Read on for our match reports.

Representative teams

Over the June long weekend, the Sydney Harbour Junior AFL will be hosting representative & development carnivals for some of the best upcoming talent in the Sydney area.

The North Ryde Dockers have an excellent group of young players who will be taking part in these two days. The club would like to recognise these players, and congratulate those already selected. Well done to Arish, Callum, Jack L, Henry and Jack C on their selection.

We would also like to congratulate Alexander, Lucas, Yianni, Adam, Fynn, and Matt from the U13's, Alex, Mitchell, Pierce & Liam from the U15's, and Harrison, James, Ehsen and Jack from the U17's for

being nominated and wish them good luck through the selection trials currently underway.

– Kyle Mahoney

Auskick

The Auskickers started with a warm up drill where each team had to run around cones in opposite directions and when whistle blown had to find partner and then hand ball/kick a number of times. They had so much fun.

We followed this up with three drills: (1) Handball baseball – like baseball but the hit was done by handball, (2) Line up – with handballing jumping and catching practice done in a line, and (3) Practice in picking up rolling ball and running out to kick a goal.

It was followed with the game, there was good work by Alex J who kicked a good goal over everyone's head. Once again good team work was shown by all. We made all of Auskickers learn their teammates names so that they could call for the ball and made it compulsory for the ball to go through 3 person's hands before a goal could be kicked.

The Dockers team song was sung loud and clearly by everyone, and is almost the most fun of the day by the team.

Just a reminder that we are having a bring-a-buddy day this Sunday, where there will be a two for one deal on the sausage sizzle. Plus we have \$20 reduction of registration for any new Auskickers who sign up for the rest of the season.

– Melinda Jenkins



Bbq volunteers hard at work!

U9 Purple

It was a great team effort this week. Scarlett set the standard early with a strong defensive tackle, winning a free kick. A string of hand balls out of middle involving Brodie, John and Callum resulted in the second goal, then Ali burrowed in under a pack and shot out a handball to set up another forward entry.

Our defence held firm with Ryan laying a couple of strong tackles, whilst Hugo chased a contest for 30 metres before laying a tackle to win a free kick. In the second quarter Liam K laid a strong tackle, whilst hard work by Liam R set up Brodie up for one of his three goals for the quarter. Jack took a strong mark and handed off for another goal.

In the third quarter John showed good skill picking up a half volley deep in defence and cleared the ball, Jeremy ran down everything and laid a couple of strong tackles, Ryan and Harry both kicked two goals each for the quarter and Hugo kicked a late one. In the last quarter strong defence by Ryan, Aiden ran hard into contests, then Jeremy and Callum combined with a series of handballs resulting in Callum scoring the first of his three goals for the quarter.

There was more solid defence from Harry and Charlie C late. John injured his shoulder in the 4th quarter and went off, but reckoned he would be right for training on Tuesday. Plenty of subs this week, thanks to all players who sat out a quarter without complaint.

The coaches were delighted with the skills improvement this week, a sure sign of a team in development which has come about by focus at training and effort on game day. Keep up the good work kids... and Go you Dockers!

– Andrew Darnell

U9 White

Your correspondent will probably be tempting fate by noting that yet again we arrived at game venue bathed in sunlight and altogether beautiful conditions. I'll dust off the gum boots in anticipation...

The early start meant it was cool for most, but Coach Naushad was apparently still chilled by the Hawks' brave loss to the mighty Swans, and was dressed for the howling Westerly which will no doubt arrive some time in the next few months.

The game opened with the Dockers' usual early enthusiasm

converting via clearances from Will into excellent field position. He was ably supported by Alex, Aarish, Archie and Harrison, with the latter opening our scoring with a behind which clipped the post. Will continued his good work with a critical smother, and Harrison (who was everywhere at this stage) kicked our opening major. Aarish and Xavier were tackling the Demons like demons.

We then had series of highlights: first, Archie displayed field awareness by kicking forward to, wait for it, himself on the burst, and followed up with a neat handpass, this time to a teammate; second, under heavy pressure from two Demons in front of goal, Tommy attempts a full bicycle kick (a spectacular air swing - followed by a more conventional and successful snap at goal); third, Aarish pulled off a copybook goal-saving tackle. The Dockers continued to dominate, with strong running from Will, excellent work by Archie and Kaelan on the ball and in tackles, and excellent marks to Alex and Lincoln.

Tommy kicked out from a Demons point early in the second quarter for an excellent mark to Harrison. This seemed to inspire Will to take control of proceedings, and in a

short period he made several bullocking runs, shrugging off tackle after tackle, and either firing the ball forward, or drilling a long range goal. He was a man amongst boys. The Demons eventually responded to Will's onslaught, and kicked a cracking goal across the body from out wide – probably the goal of the game.

A more even and free-flowing period gave opportunities for Jackson, Reid, Friyana and Harvey to show their skills and determination in the rucks. Aarish started to back Will up in dominating the midfield and Archie showed his range of skills by rushing through a defensive behind for the Demons.

Kaelan was active in the centre, and Harvey and Oliver suddenly started appearing everywhere.

Some great tap outs by Harvey and Harrison forced the ball forward, once again via strong runs from Will (with another goal), and good team play saw nice handballs from Harrison and Aarish, with a strong mark also for Aarish. The Demons once again closed the quarter with a behind, and Lincoln was unluckily just beaten by the buzzer in taking a shot at goal.

After the main break we saw the boys continue the most pleasing aspect of the first half, with good offensive teamwork displayed in handballs, short kicks, and players looking for open teammates, even if that meant looking wide or indeed in some cases backwards. This was balanced with good early defence from Tommy, Aarish, Archie, Lincoln and Xavier.

Excellent end-to-end play by the



Tommy kicking a goal after marking an excellent kick from Oliver in the final quarter

Demons saw them score another good goal. Archie continued his strong ruck work, and Lincoln and Tommy epitomised the teamwork ethic with consecutive kicks by Lincoln marked by Tommy. The quarter finished with a period of vigorous tackling by Xavier, Nathan, Aarish and Oliver.

Archie, Aarish and Xavier opened the final quarter as they had left off, contesting well, and tackling everything. Will was once again unstoppable, and unselfishly offloaded to Oliver who kicked his debut goal for the Dockers! They say “success breeds success” and “confidence is king” and Oliver took inspiration from that goal and stepped up to another level – he tackled, he ran, he passed, he kicked. A behind to Oliver was followed by a pinpoint kick to Tommy, who marked and converted the goal, and the game ending with a strong goal to Harrison.

It was a strong performance by the team, with rapidly improving teamwork, and coolness under pressure.

Quote of the Week: “The only thing better than a Sunday game is two Sunday games...” *Archie’s Dad*
Second Best Quote of the Week: “I

don’t have any hair!” *Frozen Coach Naushad*

Best on Ground: Oliver

Debut Goal: Oliver

– Andrew Loadman

U12

The U12s took on the Forest Lions this week. During the pre-game talk in the change room, a quick vote was taken for permanent Team captain & Vice-captains. Congratulations to Cam for being elected Captain, Tom for Vice Captain & Zac who will step up if Tom or Cam cannot play.

Dockers had a good start winning early clearance from the ruck. Ruck rovers Cam & Kyeton combined well with Tom to move forward out of the mid field quickly with assistance by Cliff laying in a great early tackle & shepherd.

Tom gave The Dockers first points of the morning with a goal straight through the middle of the posts. Next scorer was Ibrahim who snapped on a fantastic goal from the right pocket which was set up by a great midfield mark from Zac. Great defence in the back line by Lachy – right in front of the posts – saw the ball back to the forward line where Tom took a great mark

in front of goals and converted. Final play of the first quarter was a great mark from Ash after the bounce. Luke & Mattie played their positions well helping us to the lead early.

Kyeton opened his account in the second quarter with a great 6 pointer with a right hand turn and snap, he then quickly backed it up with another long range goal. It was great to see a very proud Mum & Dad watching on trying to remember what he had for brekkie! A great mark by Tom resulting in another six pointer. Cameron was unlucky in hitting the post from a long-range kick after the restart. All second-quarter Matti & Adam were strong in keeping the ball from reaching our last line of defence.

We were well in front in the third quarter and the mercy rule was applied so all Dockers were moved around to give all a chance to play in different positions. Aidan put himself in harm's way near the goals, then Ibrahim snapped another through the posts for a goal. Soon after Rhys was hit high & awarded a free kick, which led to a great mark by Ibrahim, great pass to & from Adam, then another 6 pointer by Tom.

Mitch started off the last quarter with great defence. Kyeton continued with great defensive shepherding. Cam took an excellent mark in the centre of the ground. Cameron had a shot at goal which unfortunately landed short, but a high flying mark by Adam resulted in another goal! There was further good work in the half forward line by James, with great marking & positioning by Luke who played well all game. Ash, Cliff and Luke all contributed as the Dockers ran out the match having kicked a winning 10.11 = 71 for the day. A great game!

– Alex James

U13

This week the U13's headed back to Moore Park to play the Tigers again, trying to recoup their close loss from the last visit here.

After a reasonably scrappy first 2 quarters, and being behind at half time we managed to find some space and connect with each other to get a run of goals on the board in the 3rd. The boys then cemented the win in the last quarter, playing some better, clean footy.

Having Alexander back gave us extra force on the ground. Newbie Nathan fought hard this week,

showing more improvement every time he plays. Our regular helpers Cameron and Gabe worked hard and added some points on the board as did Fynn and Will. Tamas had a good game and the combination of Ben and Matt getting the ball back down the ground between proved to work well again.



On field bickering, not playing to the whistle, not getting to the ball or picking it up all contributed to the slow start. It was obvious that when we took these out of the game in the 2nd half the points flowed and the game turned our way giving us the win. The final score was Tigers 7.6=48, Dockers 9.9=63.

The weeks look promising ahead with a run of home games and full teams. Keep up the good effort boys!

– Bron Papandrea

U17

It was a grand occasion for footy. A still and mild Friday night, with Drummoyne Oval decked out in its laminated finery, a brand new playing strip, players names up in lights, a new coach on debut with a clearly articulated and thought out game plan to play the Swans who'd been under the pump all season and post-game pizza as additional incentive. Only thing wrong ... we forgot to turn up.

We were down on numbers with several late withdrawals. Conversely Rizza showed up with his arm in a protective cast. I thought he was out for another month and was there to show moral support ... then he ran on to play. They breed some of 'em tougher than others.

The unavailability of Luke and Tyler in particular meant we were short on body-on-body defenders, which isn't something we are over-endowed with anyway. Ben got his noggin in an awkward place and copped friendly fire (second week in a row) and had a Niagaraously bleeding nose for most of the 1st Quarter.

Willoughby Mosman had taken the opportunity to strengthen their list:

you don't often see Div 3 players kicking goals from outside the 50m arc.

We started as badly as usual, being down 2 goals quickly though fought back at the bell. We didn't score in the second quarter and only their poor kicking kept us in the game. A concerted third quarter effort got us back within a winnable margin at 3/4 time but we faded and the Swans ran out comfortable 3 goal margin for their first win of the season.

A game to drive any coach to distraction with spilled unpressured marks, missed hand balls and errant kicks causing incessant turnover of possession. All night we fought hard, put pressure on them, won the ball and then handed it straight back. We'd need 60% of possession to win 50% territory and 40% of scoring chances. It wasn't a good day for those who like seeing skills being displayed as per the coaching manual.

We had plenty of endeavour, and James had his most productive game. Jack won the "Played strong done good" award. Haz played as a Trojan, rucking unchanged as usual. He had his colours lowered on the day as the prime beneficiaries of

his tap skills were the Swans midfielders. Harry banged & bumped and made a contest all day. After being moved out of defence Oscar showed more involvement as a half forward and MattyK presented as a target which we didn't feed anywhere near often enough.

As far as I'd aware no injuries to report apart from badly bruised egos, with the final score Canada Bay Dockers 6.5=41 defeated by Willoughby Mosman 8.11=59.

Need to get this ship's tiller back under control, preferably this coming weekend.

– Graeme Durrant



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