

Point Post

Round 8, 2014

Auskick

With a little early rain, the Auskick group was initially a bit smaller than normal, however with some late arrivals we ended up with around 20 players. After a bit of kick to kick and some stuck in the mud we split the group up into three skill stations of handballing, goalkicking and ball handling skills. The kids moved through each station probably spending about 10min on each skill.



After 8 weeks now of Auskick, it's tremendous to see the development in the kids skills over such a short period of time and also their ability to understand the coaches instructions and carry out a particular skill.

After a quick drink we got stuck into our weekly game with roughly 10 a side. With the kids improvement in basic skills, the game style has also dramatically

improved in recent weeks. According to one parent who I spoke to on Sunday, "It's now looking something like an AFL game," which is pleasing!

The game had many highlights but there was one particular incident which stood out because as a coach it showed exactly why we tell the kids each week to 'keep their feet' when going for the ball. After a centre bounce, Ben and another player were chasing the loose ball on the wing and Ben held his feet whilst the other player went to ground. As a result Ben was able to (1) avoid hurting himself and anyone else, and (2) was able to win the footy and send it into the forward line for a shot on goal. Nice work, Ben!

– The Auskick Coaches

U9 Purple

Round 8 brought us up against formidable opponents from the Kellyville/Rouse Hill Magpies at our home ground. Their reputation preceded them, so the coaches had the team mentally prepared for a tough game.

This preparation paid dividends as the boys played the first quarter with great energy and

determination. DJ and Jerome worked hard in the centre, pushing the ball towards the forwards, with Ned having an early chance at goal. Alistair was great in defence with some timely grabs in the goal square and was supported well by our powerhouse Jeremy. Jack, as always, made some great tackles to ease the pressure from the Magpies. The boys were doing what had been asked of them, tackling well, supporting each other and finding space with their kicks.



In the second quarter the Magpies slotted a couple of early goals. Jerome, Ollie and Aarish (playing with us from U9 Whites) had to step up the defence with great tackles to stem the offensive pressure. Alistair and Ollie teamed up well with some strong running kicks and marks, and both were full of energy around the packs. Ned showed his strength making several clearing kicks and a

mark, and DJ positioned himself well to take a couple of strong marks. In another best on ground performance, DJ was also very effective at cleaning up the ball before using his strength to break through the defence.

During the third quarter the Magpies showed their experience in controlling the ball in some passages of play, and kept Christian and Oscar busy in defence. The Dockers managed to work the ball nicely up the wings and Connor was consistent in his marking to relieve the pressure. Aarish was also very busy under the packs and doing his bit in taking some good clean marks and disposing of it to advantage.

In the final quarter the Dockers goal line defence was called on time and time again and while the strong and accurate kicking of the opposition yielded some fine scores, Daniel, Ned, Alistair and Ollie stood tall and toiled for every ball.

The coaches of both teams came together after the game and acknowledged the work rate of both sides, and while the Magpies are appropriately seen as the benchmark, the Dockers boys earned high praise for their efforts

and no doubt a healthy rivalry has been born.

Midway through the season and the boys have much to be proud of!

– Deb Walker & Sean Cronin

U9 White

The Whites U9's were up against Baulkham Hills again, this time the Nippers, and we were more than ready. The game started with some outstanding hand-passing by Liam. A superb kick by Sean got the ball closer to the goal line but the team were feeling some challenges. Ben T showed exceptional defending with arms straight up to block a free kick.

Thomas's second quarter was fantastic, first to the ball, attempting to break tackles, and making some great one on one tackles. Ben B in the third quarter was very solid in his defence and listened to the coach. In our last quarter, Liam chased the ball hard in the centre and Ryan C sprinted free. Ben T took a fantastic mark resulting in a shot on goal.

Matthew played well throughout the game managing to take several strong marks. William was again in the thick of it managing to make several strong tackles. Hard work

and tackling in the forward line allowed us to get a shot on goal. Luca was as tenacious as ever, managing to get to the ball first on many occasions – well played. Jacob had his running shoes on, managing to run the ball from the backs to the forward line twice without being pulled up for running too far, much to the surprise of the Baulkham Hills coach who was heard shouting "how far?" in frustration. It was a huge run up the wing.

Liam again showed his leadership qualities both in attack and defence, and Sean and James were strong in defence. Andrew and Ben both took a few knocks but always managed to get up and keep going. Ryan also played strongly whilst still showing the black eye he copped the week before. Andrew gave 100% all day – excellent defending. The boys showed great courage and commitment all day.

– Loretta, Byron & Matt

U10 Purple

Another great game this week, with a very even contest between the Dockers and the Hornsby Eagles. Each week we continue to improve our game with everyone contributing playing a key role. The game was tough and there will be a few bruises and sore bodies but the

boys stood strong and should be very proud of their commitment and effort.

Our defence was magnificent with tight marking of the opposition players and great tackling in defence by Nicholas, Matthew and Rhys. Nicholas played one of his best games of the year. Ryan was "Eddie everywhere" once again, tackling his heart out all over the ground and was often the last line of defence repelling many attacks by the eagles right on the goal line. Great game Ryan.

Hugh had a great second half and picked up plenty of kicks and pulled off a number of great tackles. Rhys and Lachlan showed great dash down the wings and gave the forwards plenty of opportunities to score by long kicks into the forward line. Lachlan also fought for the ball and was often at the bottom of the pack gathering a possession. Henry had a great all round game with plenty of great passing to teammates and a number of great marks.

Henry was regularly scouting the packs and picking up lots of kick and was rewarded with a number of free kicks with some great tackling. Josh had another great game in defence using his strength

to fight off the opposition and kick long back into the centres on many occasions. James showed plenty of dash out of the back line and along the wing with many great runs and bounces before long kicks into the forward line. James was also rewarded for his relentless tackling with a free kick where he then went on to goal with a great drop punt from what seemed like the 50m line...

Matthew continues to improve every week and had a cracking all round game with a season best for his possession count. Matthew took a number of great marks and repelled lots of attacks from the Eagles to notch up his best game for the year. Liam backed up last week with another fine all round game and is becoming one of our most consistent players week to week which earned him player of the week.

– David Lugsdin



Keep yourself and your child warm this winter with a Dockers tracksuit!

U11 Round 7

The U11 Dockers travelled to Cherrybrook in Round 7 for what we knew would be a hard fought match against Westbrook Blue. The first quarter saw a very even score line – 1 goal 1 behind to each team – with Alexander recording the Dockers major score. Highlights included a terrific hand ball from Will to put Blake in the clear; a great shepherd from Matt to free Lucas up for a nice clearing kick out of defence; Jayden also eased pressure with a big kick from defence; Ben too got us out of trouble by smothering a Westbrook kick and then went on to clear his own ball up field; Flynn’s dominating tap outs to his midfielders.

In the second quarter, we again found ourselves in our defensive half, but accurate kick-outs from Fynn propelled us to our scoring end, one in particular to Matt, who then found Adam running past for a handball and a kick up to our forwards. This is the style of footy we need to practice & master. We also succeeded because of what we did when we didn’t have the ball. Onlookers were treated to a game of tough footy as our guys hit the packs hard, determined to get the ball & crash through to our advantage, and when we didn’t get

the ball the boys were relentless with their tackling pressure. The second quarter was a low scoring affair, but terrific crumbing work and a spot on snap shot from Rhys got us a goal.

The first goal of the third quarter went to the Bulldogs, but we saw great desperation from the Dockers when Yianni gathered up a ball and kicked it to Fynn. His reliable boot quickly answered with a goal to the Dockers, only to follow up with a second goal a minute later with lovely length-of-the-field play down the wing starting with Aiden in defence.

In the final quarter, Rhys got a second goal to kick the Dockers into a comfortable lead. Will decided the Dockers weren’t done yet when he gathered up on the run a ball that had travelled from our back line into the forward line and without missing a beat, he booted a long range goal (with some very intentional spin work that saw the ball leg-break through the goals). A nice goal, Will, that Warney would have been proud of!

The Dockers triumphed against a skilled side 6 goals to 2, not only because of their tackling and clearance pressure which has been solid all year, but by an improved

kicking and high marking game, aided by the way we spread the ball.

Congratulations guys on a well-deserved result for a lot of effort put in by every player on the park.

– Kyle and Liz



Thank you to all who keep the finances coming in...



...and thank you to all who keep our games running to schedule

U11 Round 8

Round 8 saw the U11s at home to Westbrook Red. Here's the quarter by quarter run down:

In the first quarter the Dockers got off to a slow start with the Bulldogs getting the jump on us, booting a couple of quick goals. The Dockers were not kicking straight, kicking 1 goal, 5 behinds.

In the second quarter, Fynn moved into the midfield to drop a tagger and also for him to pick up one of the Bulldogs best, only to have his tagger follow him. With Fynn keeping 2 of their best players busy it freed up our other midfielders the space to cut loose.

The Dockers came back playing great footy with wonderful ruck work from Flynn to solid clearances to our crumbers into our forward line.

The forwards took full advantage with some big strong marks to Sam & goals to Will, Rhys & the first of five fantastic goals to Yianni for the day. Great job Champ!

The third quarter was another great quarter with relentless shepherding, marking and kicking. The Dockers continued to play their tough but fair style of AFL and were rewarded with constant clearances

of the ball out of the backline by the likes of Aiden, Ben, Adam and Luke, who played all round the ground on the day. The midfield combination of Flynn, Matt Fynn, Alex and Connor, who had one of his best games, were simply unstoppable.



Late in the quarter, our captain for the day, Ben, injured his leg in a desperate defensive effort, which saw him join Blake on the sideline. Not a fun place for any footy player. So our hearts go out to you both, particularly Blake who was out with foot problems for the entire game (get yourself right guys & you'll be back in no time).

With a big score on the board, the final quarter was one of mixing it up a bit & reward for effort. Tom, Aiden and Lucas all moved forward and immediately had impact when Aiden took a wonderful mark, played on, took a shot but only just missed. (Next time, buddy!)

Lucas then also took a great mark and went on to kick his first goal of the season and, if that didn't give the kids and coaches a big enough buzz, Tom took a flying mark in the goal square. Cool as a cucumber, Tom then turned & lined up to deliver his payload straight through the goals for his first goal for the year to round out a brilliant day for the Dockers. Tom, we all know how hard you've been working, so well done, you deserve it, as do all of you Dockers.

The Dockers had a fantastic game all round winning 81-21. Well done guys, keep up the good work and you will continue to improve and get this kind of result.

I wonder if any other team sings the club song with as much enthusiasm as the U11s? It's great to see the team celebrate milestones and achievements with each other and be so supportive of each other's efforts.

Enjoy the long weekend rest.

– Kyle and Liz

U12

The North Ryde Dockers played strongly against Manly, managing to lead at quarter time and half time. Indeed, this was overall our best performance of the year.

After conceding an early goal, the Dockers fought hard for the rest of the first quarter, managing to score 3 goals. The second quarter was even, with the Dockers scoring 2 more goals and entering half time with a 2 goal lead. Unfortunately the third quarter saw us run out of legs, but we fought gamely in the fourth quarter to hold the opposition to just 1 goal.

Robbie had a great game in the centre, however he picked up an injury and had to sit out the whole second half. Luke competed really well being involved in a lot of the good forays forward, while Nick and Harry never stopped trying and their handball exchange in the first quarter was a sign of how the boys are improving.

The 5 goals were scored by Cam (2), Tom, Lachie B, and Brok. Tom's goal came from a great kick he did round the body of an opponent. Cam's second goal was a result of great team play, involving Lachie W, Hugo, Zann, Nick, Luke and Cam, and Brok's goal involved Tim kicking in, Luke, Sam Gre, Cam, Lachie B and finally Brok converting. A wonderful length-of-the-ground piece of play.

We saw some great marking from many of the boys, including Luke,

Robbie, Nick, Harry, and Sam Gre. Lachie B took a great contested mark that gave him a shot at goal on half time, which he converted with aplomb. There were also some great tackles by, Hugo and Sam Gra together, Sam Gre and Alistar on a player twice his size.

Unlike the previous week, however, we weren't able to string as many marks together, but we still managed to have some nice passages of play. There was also another end-to-end piece of play that saw Harry kick in to Nick who moved it forward to Luke who got it off the ground to a contest, Jack and Sam Gre fought for it, Jack hand passed to Sam who hand passed to Ned who kicked for goal.

There were many encouraging pieces of play. Zann did a great smother; Jack and Henry were solid in defence. Lachie W was involved with two of our goals, fighting hard for the ball. Hugo was consistently battling, and together with Sam Gra they never stopped pressuring the opposition.

Overall this was a great effort by the boys against a good team and if we can improve our endurance and play a 60 minute game, we will continue to impress.

– Greg Randle

U13

After playing some good footy in patches last week, the team put in an impressive four-quarter performance against our old foes the Hornsby Eagles at ELS. While we were without Bomber and Sticks, we welcomed back Merlin, Dougal, Magic and Chook, with all making good contributions. Chook marked strongly in the goal square and kicked truly for our first goal, with Ice then converting from a long way out.

The first quarter was very competitive with the Eagles playing a 3-4 player forward line and trying to establish loose men in defence to run the ball forward in combination with their classy midfield. This saw them finish the quarter only marginally behind at 2-3 to 2-0 and I challenged our players to beat their individual opponents one-on-one and then run and spread.

Wizard was given a familiar assignment in running with Hornsby's most damaging player and covered plenty of the field in a disciplined display. Merlin and Chook worked hard to lock the ball in our forward line with their honest contest and persistent tackling. Hard running by Justin and Ryan on their respective wings provided us with effective outside

options, with both players attracting plenty of the ball and using it well.



Controlling the midfield, Bull and Diesel directed play with poise, distributing the ball to our advantage either to outside runners or a mobile half forward line of Dash and Ice. Multiple goals to Dash and a rock solid defence resulted in us pulling away at half time to lead 5-6 to 2-0.

The third quarter was more of the same, as Super kicked a goal and continued to dominate in the Ruck and with his marking around the ground. Magic impressed everyone with his run from half-back, often featuring in switches of play and it amazed me that Hornsby didn't try to man him up. Dash kicked another to make it 4 goals for the game, with the scores at the final break 7-9 to 3-0.

We continued to apply pressure in the final quarter, with Dougal

laying some good tackles and crumbing the loose ball. A free kick to Bull in the goal square (the benefits of playing in front in a marking contest) resulted in him goaling, with another 6 pointer coming after Wizard marked 20m out directly in front.

Overall we played a very attractive and effective brand of footy but our challenge now is to repeat this against Western Suburbs in 3 weeks time.

My highlights of the week were: the backline (you know who you are), after standing up against constant pressure for the last 4 weeks, complaining this week that they were bored (as coach, I like a bored defence); some of Super's tap-work, with 3 hitting an "on the move" Diesel on the chest (that's what training is for boys); our general field kicking and set shots for goal; and the #1 highlight was the copybook switches of play through the centre square in the third quarter – I was impressed!

Isn't it great being back on the winners list?

NRD 9-11=65 def HBE 4-2=26

Goals: Dash (4), Ice (1), Chook (1), Super (1), Bull (1), Wizard (1)

– Michael Hudson

U14

After three losses on the trot, the under 14's returned to their winning ways with a solid 57 – 21 victory over Pennant Hills. The game was set up in the first quarter where we scored 4 goals to 1, which gave the boys enormous confidence. They really hit the ground running and followed to the letter coach Garry's one message before the game of being first to the ball.

Following the quarter time break the game moved from end to end in an exciting contest where Penno would seem to be mounting a charge and then the purple and whites would repel them and then wrestle back the ascendancy.



Sam had his best game for the season, it was also great to have Bryn back in the side and he was in every contest. Others who performed well were Cory, Tom, Joey and Eddie.

Goals were again shared around with Tom slotting 4, Bryn landing 2 and Joey and Liam grabbing 1 each. The boys will enjoy having the long weekend off before the tough clash with Mosman/Willoughby.

– Christopher Whitnall

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U17



This is what a great team member does when they can't play

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