

Point Post

Round 9, 2015

Editorial

We were lucky enough to have Kieran Jack join the Club for a special Thursday night indoor training session as part of the Swans' club visit week. Well done to all the kids, pictured below, who turned out for an extra practice during the week!

Congratulations to U9's Sean and Connor, U10's Ned and Will, U11's Tom, Cameron, and Rhys, and U12's Will, Sam and Yianni, who made & played in the Sydney Harbour AFL Development Day over the long Weekend, representing the North West Region. Not only did they represent our region, but they had fun, played well, and proudly represented the Dockers.

The Club trivia night will be held Friday 28th August from 6pm to 10pm – more details to come.

A couple of matches from last weekend were washed out, and the U15s had a bye, but we do have a couple of match reports from previous rounds, with the U9W report at the end of this edition.

U11

It's always a worry when rain causes mid-week training to be cancelled, especially the week after suffering the heaviest loss of the season. Persistent rain on Friday meant several grounds were closed and when rain reappeared again on Sunday morning there were many



in the Dockers family thinking Sunday afternoon will be spent in front of a TV or picking on a younger sibling. Without the benefit of the mid-week regroup it is often difficult to get the boys switched on and motivated as a team, and this was weighing heavily on Coach Darren's mind as he stared bleakly through the windscreen wipers on route to the Blacktown International Sports Centre.

For those of you who don't know, the ground was built as the training base for the GWS Giants when they were starting in the AFL. Bound by a railway line on one side and the M7 on another it is a new and very impressive sports facility that has played host to several pre-season AFL games. We soon discovered it has excellent drainage and appears to have a feature that allows the clouds to part just outside the carpark and the sun to shine right over the ground!

Those of you hard-core fans of the Dockers U11s will know that Coach Darren will often try unconventional coaching techniques. Since Paul Roos in 2005 several coaches have abandoned the coaches box and moved to the sidelines for a ground level view of the game. This week Darren took it

a step further and donned the pink runners bib instead of the blue coaches bib so he could really be in amongst it! While stretching his 40 year old hamstrings and probably inspired by a passing suburban train he said to the assembled boys "No Passengers – every boy puts in" before he played a coaching masterstroke and produced an A4 size photo of our star centre half back, Mattie "The Wall" D. Taken at the hospital Matt's normally smiling eyes painted a sullen portrait as held aloft his shattered right hand wrapped almost to the elbow in a Tutankhamen like bandage!

"Let's do it for Mattie boys!"

Those 5 words signalled the start of the most dominant display of football seen to date. Faster than commuter trains that raced past the ground the Dockers put on a display so one sided the ground started leaning over under the weight.

"Magnet" and "Fuzz" were immediately up to their brilliant best popping goals from everywhere so Ashton added his contributor for goal of the year. Josh revelled in the traditional "full forward" role, his Tony Lockett like presence giving the boys a target

and Rhys D proved that his knock last week didn't damage his confidence and quickly added his name to the goal scorers list. When the siren blew the Dockers had an amazing 6 goals 8 behinds and the scorer had writer's cramp!

The energy and enthusiasm was electric and continued into the second quarter. Tom absolutely dominated the rucks, James and Micah roved brilliantly, and Liam and Harrison made sure the ball never crossed the half back line. Luke charged through with the ferocity of a truck on the M7 and Lachy showed a turn of speed that would have had the speed cameras flashing. Mitch continued his excellent form running out of defence and Buster tackled players

so hard they probably wondered if they had strayed onto the railway lines and been hit by a train!

In a game so full of highlights there were a few things that really stood out. Aiden, who with his light build and timid nature has at times looked at times ill at ease on the park, underwent a Hulk-like transformation. Inspired by his team-mates he tackled opponents twice his size and threw himself into the play. His wide eyes and wider smile were proof he was enjoying himself. Ryan floated down to the empty pocket chasing a loose ball, he turned his man inside out and then instead of blazing away at the goals did the team thing to handpass to a team-



mate on the run. Hughie “goal sneak” covered the entire length of the field rushing a behind and then snapping a beautiful left foot goal on the run only a few minutes later. Henry treated the half forward line as his own and finished the day with an amazing 5 goals. They were all impressive kicks on the run but the most memorable resulted from his second and third efforts at the loose ball.

Keyton The Tackling Machine did a couple of things that stood out. One was during a brilliant run down the wing. Leaving his man in his wake, he had a cheeky bounce, ran his full measure and then kicked truly for a magnificent goal! The other thing was when he went to the aid of one of their players who was injured in a tackle. He checked on him and signalled to their trainer to come and attend to him. As you can imagine with the score line so one sided the Kellyville boys were getting frustrated and a couple of our guys had been on the receiving end of some pretty physical treatment. That gesture by Keyton showed a sense of sportsmanship and fair play that personified the Docker “Work hard but Play Fair” attitude. Well done Keyton.

It was a great consistent team effort. There were 9 different goal scorers and the pressure was relentless with never less than 4 goals kicked in each quarter. 19 players deserved the footy cards... actually so did Coach Darren who tried desperately hard to keep up with all the boys! It was hard to single anyone out but Henry and Fuzz both received the cards this week for their consistent effort all game.

The boys belted out a team song so loudly they have to reinforce the sound barriers on the M7 and then posed for a photo to give to Mattie D to remind him – that 125 point win we did for you!

– Stephen Grech

U12

This week we woke early and packed a lunch for the trip across town to Miranda for our game. The wet weather during the week meant that the ground was quite muddy and slippery, something that under 12 boys just hate!! Each of our boys had their own stellar moments this week and we are proud to report the following...

Matt, Tom, Flynn and Fynn took control of the clearances at the bounce. Tom is proving very handy

at reading the bounce and making good clearance. He is also showing a lot of courage in the way he goes for the ball.

Blake played an awesome game in the forwards and demonstrated spectacular skill to take several marks and was amazing under pressure to take 2 noticeable marks in particular.

Aiden played forwards this week and had a cracking game hand passing and moving the ball across to the kickers. Lucas showed he is maturing as a player with his vision of the play and his ability to choose between a kick and a quick hand pass which is proving to be a real asset to the team.

Alexander did some great work off

the ground in the centre crumbing and scored a great goal when he marked the opposition's kick from the square. Alexander is hard to pin down as his presence is felt all over the field. Sam took a number of flying marks and made some well-timed tackles.

Adam defended the goal mouth with his usual gusto and in the 3rd quarter took a goal saving mark right in front of the sticks and he made several important tackles at critical times to blunt the oppositions momentum. Flynn also defended the back line at times and in one particular instance took a mark to save a goal and kicked the ball up field to take the pressure off.



Dockers' reps at the Development Day

Matt and Fynn underpinned the goal scoring with Sam, Alexander and Yianni also among the goals. Matt and Fynn are the glue to the team and showed their usual exemplary skills which allows them to capitalise on their team mates work.

Yianni showed his usual incredible work rate in the forwards and assisted with several of Fynn and Matt's goals.



Conor did some fantastic work on the wing both in defence and attack and put his body on the line on several occasions. Aryan and Conor were awesome sheparding and running the ball down.

By the third quarter our guys really lifted and one passage of play in particular showed that beautifully which involved Lucas, hand passing

to Alex, back to Lucas, back to Alex and on to Conor for a 30 metre gain!! That kind of AFL is pretty to watch!

Jayden, surrounded by Miranda, took a fantastic mark in the 4th quarter which changed the run of play and sent us back up the field 60metres for a shot at goal by Sam. Jayden was put on Miranda's #4 and tagged him all day making his life difficult.

Given that our boys had no reserves, and that 7 of them played up for the 13's in the game immediately prior they did well to come from well behind in the first quarter for a final score of 14.12=96 to 6.7=43. Go little Dockers, you are all legends!

– Sarah Platts

U14 Round 7

Round 7 vs the Pennant Hill Demons was not one of our better performances. While Angry was out with a broken wrist, Super was unavailable, meaning we went into the match without a Ruckman against a team with a number of quality "talls", including the NW Rep Ruckman. Q1 saw the Penno midfield get an armchair ride, as their Ruckman did pretty much

what he liked against our undersized Followers. This regular supply of ball saw our defence unable to contain the Demon's forwards, who posted 6 goals for the quarter. Ranga and Hammer were winners against their respective opponents all game, however, the depth of the opposition forward line was proving difficult to cover. A scoreline of 6 goals to 0 at quarter time wasn't pretty.

Diesel volunteered to play on the Penno tall forward who had kicked 3 in Q1, restricting him to 2 for the next 2 quarters, while Liam did an equally good job on their CHF. Our improved attack on the ball wasn't reflected on the scoreboard, as we were much more competitive than the 4 goal to 0 Q2 result. The Wizard carried on from his good form of the previous week, backing himself and hitting targets.

Although trailing 10 goals to 0, the boys showed some determination in Q3, with Bull putting up an excellent contest in the Ruck, which reduced the Demons midfield effectiveness somewhat. Swapping Jarrod and Jaydan was paying dividends, with both having a much better 2nd half. Justin kicked 1-1 (missed the easier shot)

to put us on the board and even though we were again outscored during the quarter, 3 goals to 1 (3 scoring shots), I was proud of the team's fighting spirit.

That was about it, as the boys ran out of puff – it's always harder work having to chase. A special mention to Merlin, who played when he probably shouldn't have after injuring his shoulder last week. A gutsy effort.

NRD 1-2 = 8 lost to PHD 18-8 = 116

Goal: Justin

U14 Round 8

After our comfortable win earlier in the year against a competitive Glebe team, a poor midfield and forward defensive effort cost us a great opportunity to get back on the winners list. Even though its winter time, our effort showed that having too many "downhill skiers" in the team makes it very difficult to win. ("Downhill skiers" on a footy field are happy to run hard to try and kick a goal when we have the ball, but aren't interested in running back to defend or manning up when the opposition has the ball).

We went into the match without Merlin, Angry or Mike, but pencilled in Junior Rizza for another game. We started well enough, with Justin bagging 2 goals in the opening quarter, finding space and getting in behind the Greyhound defence, before clinical finishes. The defence was working as a solid unit, with Jarrod playing a tight and disciplined game in the BP, while Hammer was having a blinder with his contest and fierce tackling. The end of the 1st quarter had us just in front, 2-0 to 1-2.

Q2 saw the start of the downhill skiing, with the Greyhound midfield cutting us up with no pressure, recording 3-2 for the quarter, despite the continued efforts from our defence. Wizard was rebounding well, showing great poise with his disposal and rarely missing a target.

Rizza showed some great desperation at the back, winning a contested ball and forcing it forward, which resulted in brother Junior goaling from a strong mark – all agreed Junior owes his bro' a can of coke for his efforts. Half time and we were lucky not to be further behind than 3-3 to 4-4.

I was hopeful that some positional changes and a rev-up at time may have resulted in a better effort, but

unfortunately this was not to be. Junior bobbed up for another goal, but was running out of puff after already playing 2 games. Dash marked well after some good team lead-up play and kicked truly from a difficult angle, but that was about it.

Things could have been much worse, if not for Ranga's eye-catching work at CHB (must be the blue skins) and Ninja's hard-at-it approach. We entered Q4 only 14 points behind, 5-3 to 7-5, but needed to show something if we were to prevail.

After a good game in defence, Liam went into the midfield in an attempt to give us some run and this paid dividends when he marked strongly in the goal square and goaled. Dash posted his 2nd, as our defence continued to keep Glebe out, forcing a number of behinds. Diesel topped off a good 4 quarter performance, being our only midfield winner for the day, by taking 4 intercept marks across half back with a display of two-way running.

Although we won 2 quarters, we allowed the opposition (not for the first time this year) to score too heavily when they had the momentum. We will need to lift next week if we want to beat

West.

NRD 7.4 = 46 lost to GG 8.9 = 57

Goals: Justin (2), Dash (2), Junior (2), Liam (1)

U14 Round 9

The 3rd instalment of our 2015 rivalry was played in cold, wet and slippery conditions and although we failed to make it a clean sweep against Western Suburbs, I was pleased with the team's effort. In the end, it was only a couple of decision errors and missed tackles that separated the 2 teams.

We went into the game without the injured Super, Merlin and Angry, but were fortunate to have Connor F. (U15s) playing for us.

Although Picken Oval was in pretty good condition given the rain, the game was a slog from the first bounce, with contested possession and hard tackling the order of the day. Few excel under these circumstances better than Bull, who played the best half of footy I have seen him play, amassing over 10 tackles and winning numerous contests in Q1 alone. Sticks reminded us what he is capable of, holding a strong overhead mark, before "selling some candy" and posting our 1st goal. Quarter time

and the scores were 1-1 apiece.

Q2 was more of the same, with Liam gallant in the ruck, with his 2nd & 3rd efforts around the ground bringing other players into the game. Bull's hard-at-it style won a free kick and a 50 metre penalty thanks to a frustrated opponent, allowing him to score a major from the goal square. Some great team football on the outer wing then resulted in Rizza running into an open goal and we were only 2 points down at the main break, 3-1 to 3-3.

The 3rd quarter saw both teams only have 1 shot at goal each, unfortunately the Magpies scored a major, while we only registered a minor. Connor battled hard and looked impassable at CHB, while the Ninja continued to dominate his opponent on the wing, often combining his AFL and soccer skills.

We were having trouble with 2 West players playing loose in defence and providing them with damaging rebound, often resulting in a score. Moving Diesel from HB to a hard tag kept 1 of these virtually kickless in the last 1.5 quarters, although we were unable to quieten the other, which was to cost us in Q4. There was still nothing in it at the last break, the Maggies leading 4-3 to 3-2.

In an attempt to find a winning combination a number of positional changes were made. Missed tackles in defence resulted in WS posting a couple of goals, however, the boys didn't give up and a quick thinking Diesel found Dash alone in the goal square.

A repeat of the team effort that resulted in Rizza's Q2 goal saw Justin sneak in behind the opposition defence and goal – this is becoming Justin's trademark. Wizard made a number of decisive rebounds from deep in our defence, with his disposal a highlight, making light of the conditions.

While a win would have been nice, all I ever ask for is a 4 quarter effort and the team gave it this week. If we play with that commitment every week we will win more than we lose, well done boys.

NRD 5.2 = 32 lost to WS 7.5 = 47

Goals: Sticks (1), Rizza (1), Bull (1), Justin (1), Dash (1)

U9W Round 8

Many people have asked, "Where is the U9 Whites Round 8 match report?" They have Googled, checked the newspaper sites, contacted the Freo Dockers and

come up with nothing, not even a dead link on the North Ryde Dockers app. One avid reader even called the Police and was given some sound advice – either stop taking your medication or start taking something much stronger!

Many conspiracy theories have been proposed on AFL bulletin boards, chatrooms and Facebook pages; aliens took it, Elvis has it, the CIA has confiscated it and my personal favourite, global warming burnt it. Alas, it was nothing more sinister than the dog ate my homework. Fortunately, with that "Mistry" now resolved, we can get on to re-communicating the report itself. Hopefully, this version is a faithful replica of the original, pre-dog and its hunger games.

Qtr 1 – A full strength Dockers team ran into position for the first bounce with muscles flexed and glistening in the sunlight or maybe that was the dew... should have remembered my glasses. The ball bounced between the two forward lines with both defences holding firm. Key position backs, William and Sean held their own and brought the ball to ground for their defensive team mate Kaelan who cleared the ball from the defensive zone. Desperation and commitment were the words that

best described the effort from both teams and neither team had a shot on goal let alone scored. For those that find maths a little tricky, this one was easy, nil all.

Qtr 2 – After the scoring drought of the first term, the second stanza was by comparison a flood, almost Noah-like. So much so, that one of the coaches was counting the players in pairs, but I don't think he has a boat. Hornsby opened the scoring with a goal. President Lincoln and Nikolaj had near misses and Jack, also known in these circles as Mr Consistency, accepted a pass from a team-mate and slotted a major.

Harrison was busy around goals and his pressure helped keep the ball in our forward zone. President Lincoln then chimed in with a major of his own and pumped his arms so fiercely in celebration that onlookers feared he might KO a team-mate or an opposition player if he accidentally connected!

The second goal was a beauty and was subsequently voted on as goal of the day by the adoring public... Aarish kicked to Sean at half forward who in turn kicked to William who then hand-passed back to Aarish who kicked to Jack inside scoring range, who turned

around and went bang with his trusty right boot... goal and play of the day.

Qtr 3 – Leif, Ryan, Hugo and Charlie did some great work through the middle of the ground providing some opportunities for forwards. William just missed a goal, then Nikolaj passed to Aarish who kicked a running goal from 20m and then followed that up with another major after marking a pass from Sean and playing on while the Hornsby player was looking at the Umpire.

Qtr 4 – Whilst the Dockers were playing well, a lapse in concentration for even a few minutes would enable the Hornsby Reds to take over. The Reds came out breathing fire, but were only able to register two behinds after several forward entries. The rest of the quarter saw another arm wrestle, without a score being registered. Neither side gave an inch and by the time the final siren sounded, all the boys were looking a little worse for wear. The game was played in good spirits with both teams contributing to an entertaining spectacle well worth the entry ticket price.

Player of the match – President Lincoln for playing well all over the

ground and kicking his first goal for the Dockers and celebrating with all the flair of a senior AFL player.

– U9W Coaches

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