

Point Post

Round 6, 2014

U9 Purple

A fine morning greeted the Purples in their round 6 home game against Westbrook Blue. Building on last week's strong away performance, the Dockers played an intense game against evenly matched opponents.

The first quarter demonstrated the team's growing awareness of positional play. Numbers at the ball was a strong point throughout the quarter. Christian, Captain for the day, showed good running and equally strong kicking from defence to the forward line. Zach and Ned took on the responsibility of last line of defence and helped ease the pressure time and time again, clearing their lines, and initiating the next attacks from deep in their own half.

Strong effective tackling was showcased by the boys in the second quarter. Jack, as always was leading the line for the team, and strong in the tackle. He was able to find the smart leading Connor on a couple of occasions in goal kicking positions. Alistair, too, was never shy of a physical tussle when it came to tackling an opponent or marking the ball: he

relished the challenge and often came out on top. Ollie continued his learning of the game and displayed good man to man marking, passing, and won himself a couple of holding the ball decisions with some good tackles.



Such was the intensity of the game, on-field clashes caused a couple of our players to come off to recover. Well done Zach and Daniel for making brave returns to the game and continuing with the same endeavour. Both boys went back in for the contested ball and kicked strongly. Oscar was notable in transferring from attack to defence during the injury reshuffle, and got involved immediately in shoring up the backline.

The arm wrestle continued for the third quarter with Tobin in amongst the thick of it, winning valuable ball. DJ was constantly looking for possessions and moving the ball on to advantage, with a Dockers best on ground performance. Jeremy put in another tireless effort and was notably effective in the tight contest by getting down and gaining possession when surrounded by strong tackling opposition. Jerome backed up his huge game last week with another notch in his footy education which saw him giving his all no matter where he was positioned on the field.

The fourth quarter saw Connor continuing his smart leads and moving to advantage from the forward pocket. Taking strong marks was another highlight of his day. Oscar showed great reflexes by taking a terrific late game mark and also just falling short with a long bomb towards goal. In the end it was a terrific game to watch and showed how much progress the boys have made since the start of the season.

– Sean Cronin & Deb Walker

U10 White

By Jove, I think they've got it! Our team, consisting of new players this

year, had a sensational weekend of football.

Friday night under lights at Rofe Park against Hornsby was well worth the hour and a half travel to get there! The boys rallied and played brilliantly as a team. It was a joy to watch. The pieces are really starting to come together for them and they are clearly really enjoying their footy now.

The boys played a cracker of a game on Sunday, with our team taking on the might and height of Kellyville/ Rouse Hill – heaven knows what they put in the water out there!

Whilst initially off to a slow start, our defence came together and kept them mostly at bay in the first quarter. By the second quarter it was on! Ashton, Andrew, Jacob and Cameron in the centres took charge and didn't give an inch. Our passing was excellent and the boys are starting to develop their skills in better reading the game play and making themselves available for marks and moving the ball forward.

Hamish and Angus combined well with Cameron to ensure our defence held them out. Both boys are new this year and are

progressing well with their tackling and defensive skills.

Tom and James combined brilliantly up front and were magnificent at clearing the ball and evading tackles. James attacked the ball and it was great to see him have a go and try and kick a few goals. Unfortunately Kellyville's defence was excellent and some great opportunities at goal didn't translate on the scoreboard.

Cameron appeared to be "Teflon Man" during the game slipping from Kellyville's grasp – they appeared to give up on him during the third and fourth quarters and just let him go. Ashton, our resident pocket rocket, gave his all. His tackling was brilliant and rattled a few of the opposition cages.

It was a great game to watch and we couldn't be prouder of the boy's efforts. Tom and Angus were the worthy recipients of the Player of the match award for Friday and Sunday respectively.

– Melissa McAulay

U10 Purple

Our first night game, on Friday night, had the boys very excited even if the long slow drive meant the pre-game preparation was less

than ideal.

As we expected the Hornsby Eagles were a well-organised and highly skilled team, however our boys were up for the challenge. The mid-field in particular were very competitive with a lot of tough work from Ryan, Matthew, Lachlan and Kyeton. Our defence was under pressure all night but held strong on many occasions with some great play from Henry, James and Rhys driving the ball long back into the centres. Josh was as solid as a rock in defence again and took some great marks to stop Hornsby scoring. Nicolas and Hugh scouted the packs and tackled hard all night.



There was some brilliant play down the wings on a number of occasions setting up some great scoring opportunities. One particular play involved James, Henry and Kyeton with a series of four handballs to each other when under pressure to

open up the game and pass it on to the forward line to be robbed by the siren when Rhys was about to goal. Some of the best team-work we have seen for the year, well done boys.

Everyone ran hard all night and never gave up. The intensity was high, every kick or possession was hard earned against a taller, faster Hornsby team. It was a great experience to play under lights and a lot of fun. Player of the week was Matthew (also the birthday boy) with James and Ryan picking up the footy card award for their excellent and continuous tackling and toughness.

The cupcakes for Matthews 9th birthday were also one of the highlights of the night for the boys!!! Thanks to Stephen and all the parents for coordinating and getting the boys to the game on a Friday night through heavy traffic.

After being outplayed on Friday night the boys were ready to turn the tables and notch up a win against the Hawks and that they did. Liam was determined that a black eye was not going to stop him from playing and had his best game of the year with many great plays in both defence and up forward. We managed to keep the Hawks

goalless for the first half with some great tackling and defence from Lachlan, Jack, Josh and Kyeton.



Henry, James, Rhys, Zack and Ryan got stuck in and did a lot of the tough work in the packs getting the ball out to team mates in space like Matthew, Hugh and Liam. Nicolas played a great tagging role in defence and kept their full forward goal less.

The second half was more of an even game following a few injuries to some key players. Jack's groin strain slowed him down and Matthew's head clash needed some special water before he returned for a strong finish in the last quarter. There was some fantastic play in the last quarter with James being rewarded with 3 free kicks for chasing down and tackling his opponent as well as busting through the pack and kicking long to Henry, Hugh and

Matthew in the forward line.

Rhys was great in the packs and getting the ball out to a team-mate and Zack booted some great goals up forward and was not afraid to take on the bigger boys in defence. Ryan's tackling was strong again this week along with some great runs through the middle of the ground setting up team-mates in the forward line. The passing (particularly down the wings) was great from everyone.

Josh was this week's player of the week as he took a couple of great marks on the last line of defence and chased hard all day. Zack picked up the footy cards for his fearless play in the packs and great goal kicking.

– David Lugsdin

U11

Hornsby got an early jump on us in the midfield and the ball ended up in our back line for much of the first quarter. This very talented team did not play like a team without a victory this year and any of us that went into the game feeling confident, were put on notice very quickly that we would need to be on our game this week.

Our defenders found themselves

under pressure from the get go, although we were able to hold Hornsby to a small score, we did not seem to be able to get the ball down the other end of the field for any length of time, which made it tough for forwards to have their normal impact. Sam and Will under instructions stayed put in a quiet forward line and Blake had to come up field a long way from goal in search of some action.

Fortunately, in the second quarter we were able to get some midfield clearances and on for a couple of strong marks from Will up forward and from Alexander on the far wing. As a result we were able put on some scoreboard pressure through goals to Alexander, Matt and Rhys with a nice goal. Defenders Luke, Aiden, Ben, Jayden and Tom all held close to their man, making sure our goals weren't matched by Hornsby.

The third quarter again saw a tight midfield contest which for the most part the Dockers did not win and when we did get the ball our kicks we not well directed. One highlight was the job done by Flynn in limiting the impact of one of Hornsby's best, (Ollie) throughout the 2nd half. All day we seemed to be out of sorts, dropping marks we'd normally get. Hornsby played

a very congested game, which we seemed to get sucked into. When we arrived at the end of the third quarter we found ourselves behind by about nine points, a position which Hornsby earned and we deserved to be in.

The lads were asked for a special effort as they ran back onto the field for the last quarter and our young Dockers did just that, with all putting extra special efforts to dig ourselves out of the hole were in.



It's said that "when the going gets tough, the tough get going" and there is no tougher in our team than Matt, who led by example as he crashed through multiple defenders to score 2 final term goals and put the Dockers back in front. It was inspirational stuff for his fellow players, and us on the sidelines to watch.

For the next 5 minutes, the ball just seemed to gravitate towards the Hornsby goals and it was

desperation from all concerned, Adam and Fynn held firm as a last line of defence while our smaller guys like Yianni & Captain-for-the-day Lucas scrambled to limit the Eagles possessions. Defensive effort for the day must go a diving Ben, whose smothering effort got a hand to a kick from Ollie from the Eagles as he kicked goal-ward. Ben's touch registered as a behind to the Eagles, rather than a goal, which would have seen the Dockers beaten.

When the siren sounded a minute or so later, the Dockers had won by just 2 points and there were some very relieved coaches & parents on the sideline. It was a massive last quarter effort that got the boys over the line in the end. Whoever lost could feel somewhat unlucky as this was a game that could have gone either way. Hornsby played well all day and I'm sure a win is not far away for them.

To our guys: this was not a pretty win, it was one where effort clearly got us there, but we cannot rely on this alone. We need to improve our baseline of skills and positional play, and if we continue to do that, we will turn on some classy footy in the coming weeks

– Liz Thomson & Kyle Mahoney

U12

The North Ryde Dockers proudly sang their club anthem after a strong victory over Pittwater. The boys played their best game of the year in perfect football conditions. It was pleasing to see great improvement in teamwork, highlighted by accurate kicking, strong marking and most pleasingly our contested effort throughout the entire game.

The first quarter started with strong centre work and clearances by Luke, Nick and Hugo, supported by hard running from Tim, Harry, and Tom on the wings, which provided consistent scoring opportunities for the forward line. Our backline maintained a strong structure that quickly shut down any forward thrust by the opposition.

The second quarter saw our centres and half forwards dominate again, with great run down the centre. A solid effort at the back by Rob, good leading by Henry, excellent pressure from Hugo, and some good passing and marking saw some more goals added, with Brok being dominant at full forward, and the other forwards all helping.



In the third quarter the Dockers continued to dominate and maintain possession, with strong marking by Tim, Nick and Harry, supported by strong determination to move the ball forward by Mason, Alistar, Tom, Cam, Ryan and Lachlan W and Jack as the Dockers score continued to build.

In the last quarter, Tim again took some strong marks. The Dockers strong tackling, ball gathering and marking skills continued with Luke, Harry, Ned, Nick and Sam Gra, who provided strength in the packs. Dockers' newcomer Hugh made his

presence felt with hard running and solid defending.

Great teamwork during the game led to multiple goal scorers, including Brok, Cam, Ned, Mason, Ryan, Lachie, Sam Gre, Harry and Tom. While the backline did not see much of the ball it was pleasing to see great focus on structure and tagging the opposition. Jack, Ryan and Rob played central roles, and Rob continued to play strongly when playing for Pittwater.

Again, what was really pleasing was the great effort, non-stop run and our boys' willingness to keep fighting for the ball all game. This week it seemed something had clicked for the Dockers. Well done boys, everyone contributed something to the win. Every player was 'man of the match'.

– Ro, Charles & Greg

U14

The under 14's travelled to Lionel Watts Oval in Belrose (or Davidson depending on your GPS) for the late afternoon, top of the table clash against Forest. We are not sure who Lionel Watts is or was although suspect he may have been a purveyor of smallgoods as the oval can only be described as sausage shaped. Not only strange

in shape it is also very long and is apparently longer than the SCG.

In the first quarter an accidental bump saw one of the Forest players knocked unconscious and he was taken away by ambulance. The arrival of an ambulance at a junior footy ground is never a good sight, although we can report back following contact with the Forest coach overnight that the young boy is much better now and will be OK.

On the ground, the Forest team cut off any supply to our forward line and as a result we were unable to mount any scoreboard pressure. Forest were the better team on the day and ran out deserved winners 47 to 7. For the Dockers, Rory and Sam were best on ground and were well supported by Ehsen, Oscar and Connor. It was Connor who bagged our only goal.

Special thanks to the two under 13's, Diesel and Bull, who helped out and fitted in well. Hopefully we can get back to our winning ways against Hornsby at home next Sunday.

– Christopher Whitnall

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