

POINT POST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH RYDE DOCKERS JUNIOR AFL CLUB

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 51

NEWSLETTER DATE : MAY 20, 2010

Hi sportsfans !!

The season is now well and truly underway with solid starts made by all teams. Last week was a bit of a mixed bag though - some great highlights and some areas to work on. One of the things that I like to see in sport , particularly at the junior level is fair play, goodwill and sportsmanship. I was fortunate enough to be witness to an outstanding display of sportsmanship last Sunday. Unfortunately for their opposition, the U16 game was all but over at quarter time with mercy rule being offered and accepted by half-time. To even up the flow of play, even if only a little, Jaryd Mayne and Simon Zaarour eagerly volunteered to play the last half for Western Suburbs, doing so in great spirit playing as if for their own team.

We should all follow the example shown by these two boys and remind ourselves that the kids are not playing for sheep stations. Our role is to encourage each and every child to do their best and foster an enjoyment of the sport. As adults we are responsible for not only setting, but also maintaining the high standard of behaviour that the club has come to expect. Hopefully along the way we will come to see more of these fine examples. Well done boys.

On a different note, this week will see the first of the *Purple Haze Days*. As the Swans are playing Fremantle at the SCG on Saturday, we will have the pleasure of hosting the General Manager and Community Football Manager of the Fremantle Dockers Football Club. Unfortunately the team is required to return to Perth immediately after the game and regrettably cannot come to **Purple Park** to lend their support. All are encouraged to stick around or arrive just a little bit earlier to support other teams, and of course display their pride with a flood of purple.

Good luck to all teams. Go Dockers !!

Round 5 Wash-up

Under 11's 8.10 - 58 def Baulkham Hills 2.1 - 13

Under 12's 0.1 - 1 def by St Ives 9.7 - 61

Under 13's 10.2 - 62 def Riverview 7.10 - 52

Under 14's 4.6 - 30 def by St Ives 7.8 - 50

Under 16's 15.1 - 91 def Western Suburbs 0.1 - 1

Upcoming Events:

- **Sat 22 May - Sydney Swans vs Fremantle - SCG**
- **Sun 23 May - Round 6**
- **Sun 30 May - Round 7**

PURPLE HAZE



Training Schedule:

Tuesday :- U9/10's 5-6pm, U11/12's 6-7pm

Wednesday :- Auskick 4:30-5:30pm, U13 5:30-7pm, U14/16's 6-8pm

ROUND 6
Purple Haze Day

Under 9 Purple vs Kellyville Black

9:00am Sun 23 May - ELS Hall

Under 9 White vs Hornsby Blue

8:00am Sun 23 May - Rofe Park

Under 10 White vs Under 10 Purple

10:00am Sun 23 May - ELS Hall

Under 11's vs Westbrook Red

11:00am Sun 23 May - ELS Hall

Under 12's vs Willoughby

10:00am Sun 23 May - ELS Hall

Under 13's vs St Ives

11:20am Sun 23 May - ELS Hall

Under 14's vs Pittwater

12:40pm Sun 23 May - ELS Hall

Under 16's vs Mosman

2:15pm Sun 23 May - Mahoney Oval

Team Talk

No match report or photos from AUSKICK, U9 White, U9 Purple, or U12's this week.

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Team Talk

Under 10 Purple

A brilliant blue sky warmed the Purples as Jake led the Dockers out onto the field. From the first centre-toss the Purples were hard-pressed as Hornsby-Berowra quickly moved the ball around. It took the Purples a while to get going, but by the end of the first quarter the centres were getting the ball to our forwards, with some particularly good passing from DJ.

The second quarter saw fewer points scored, with the backs showing great determination in shutting down their opposition. James and Emily in particular showed 'true-grit' with some pretty fierce ruck work. It was great to see Jayden, Alec and Alex looking for the ball, putting themselves into space and quickly passing on. Ehsen, Flinders, Mitchell and Ollie were particularly busy roving around the ground.

By the third quarter the Dockers were almost too determined to get the ball between the sticks, as at times all 12 players were to be found in the centre third calling for the ball and working hard in defence. This quarter seemed closer than it really was, as Hornsby-Berowra were able to get a few quick goals away despite being continually harassed by a determined defence.

The fourth quarter was characterised by some desperate defence by Sam, Alec and Alex with all three boys literally throwing themselves at the ball, with the centres once again working over-time.

By the end of the game twelve very tired Dockers left the field. I could not have been more proud of the team, as despite being beaten, they never gave up: not for one single moment. Other teams may have given up, but our guys (and gal) continued to play as a team: trying their best; supporting each other; and having fun. I'm thinking of changing the team name from Purples to 'The-Never-Say-Die Dockers'. They deserve the name. Thanks to Michael for his flag work and encouragement, thanks to Ollie, Mitchell, Alec and Alex for joining us from the U9's. Thanks also to Flinders 'dad for the oranges and Jayden's mum for her work on the BBQ. Finally, and especially, thanks to Kate (James' mum) our fearless manager.

Stephen (coach of the 'Never-Say-Die Dockers'.)

Under 10 White

The first goal was the Docker's and the boys wanted more as they held their lead every quarter. Daniel rejoined the team this week and was one of the goal scorers with Bryn, Rory, Connor and Tom. The kicks were strong and controlled with many of the boys judging and also intercepting marks. Daniel, Connor, Bryn and Tom had many marks especially Tom, in defense, who caught the opposition's kicks and stopped their advance.

Dylan was successful many times in jumping for marks and moving the ball down to the forwards. Rory, Maddy and Wil were continually chasing the ball and Wil was able to often steal the ball just before it reached the hands of the opposition. Maddy even won a 'ball up', jumping and tapping it out with determination. When the opposition had the ball, Matt and Zac were conscious of the position of their opposing players and Zac was able to pick up the ball when they fumbled it.

A great team effort with some outstanding performances made it a very exciting game to watch. Thank you to our stand in coach Christopher Whitnall and the many supportive parents who help with all aspects of the running of the game.

Michelle Kelly-Sansone

Manager

Team Talk

Under 11's

As we arrived at a VERY CHILLY Charles McLaughlin oval at a VERY EARLY 8am all kids were keen as mustard and rearing to go. This was going to be our biggest challenge to date as Baulko had a reputation for being a well drilled and well disciplined team. It was also our first test without Luke, one of our star mid fielders. All parents were on edge... (Not to mention cold and tired from the early start).

Our team burst into the game with great enthusiasm and after a settling in period began to dominate. Our first quarter midfielders Nick, Matt Z, Sam and Tom managed to keep pushing the ball forward well and our forwards received a good stream of possession. Oliver, Oscar and Lachlan worked well up front and eventually we wore them down with 2 great goals. In the second quarter we kept our team in similar positions on the ground and another 2 goals came our way with only one to them. In the 3rd and 4th quarter we moved the players around and again our midfield kept dominating with 4 more goals including two to Ben sealing a good win. Josh, Matt N and Harry played well in the backline early and moved well around the ground later in the game. Matt N had his best game of the season with a powerful display in the midfield and in the rucks. Congratulations to Harry on his first goal with the Dockers and well done parents for embracing the early start! Another great win for the team 8.10 .58 to 2.1.13.

This week's photo courtesy of Jenny Smith.



Team Talk

Under 13's

What a difference a week makes!! Bouncing back from a big loss last week, the 13's were determined to stamp their authority over their Riverview opponents this week. Early in the week it looked as if a forfeit was on the cards as several players were unavailable for various reasons, fortunately though a few extra players were found.

The first quarter was a pretty even match up with Riverview leading by only a couple of points going into the break. The boys came out even more determined in the second quarter, chasing hard, getting plenty of the ball and making the conversion on the scoreboard. All our boys began to influence their own areas of the field, competing for every loose ball, giving run through the middle, looking for options with the usual suspects forming the backbone of the attack.

A handy lead at halftime was extended early in the third quarter but the boys just couldn't shake off their equally determined opposition, who managed to stay within reach. A couple of quick goals by Riverview at the start of the last quarter was enough to spark our boys into overdrive and finish off the game hard, to run out winners by 10 points.

The game had many highlights and positives; the boys have found something a little extra this year, that being a "never say die" attitude. In each of their games so far they have put in all that they have, even if the situation wasn't favourable. They have begun to play as a team, looking for each other, supporting each other, encouraging each other and giving each other confidence in their collective abilities. It was most rewarding to see some of the lesser known or gifted 'characters' come into their own have a stellar game. Excellent achievement, keep it up.

Each week our boys struggle with minimum numbers and play without the luxury of having reserves on the bench. As a team we have come to rely on players from other teams who volunteer to help out and play a second game, this week was no exception. Thanks to Sam and Ollie who kindly volunteered to step up from the **11's**, and also to Lachlan. Appreciation is also shown to their parents for sticking around or arriving early, and allowing them to play.

A Fantastic Effort by all yet again, well done Dockers.



Team Talk

Under 14's

Another bright sunny day at ELS Hall saw the 14's arrive in a casual and confident frame of mind. The warm up was light hearted, with coaches warning the charges not to be too confident. St Ives drilled hard next to us and looked keen.

Unfortunately for us they came out of the blocks with intent and continued to thwack us around the park for the first 3 quarters. The late comeback for the Dockers has bailed us out a couple of times this year but on Sunday we left our spirited comeback WAY too late. Fourth quarter footy will not bail us out all year and the boys 'woke up' with no time to spare.

There were efforts made by the usual suspects but what we need to do is learn that to win a game of footy, you have to PLAY the game of footy and not spectate.

I think Beachy summed it up perfectly in the after game speech when he said that if we played like the fourth quarter for the whole game the scoreboard would have shown a different result.

It is heartening to see that some of the boys form from previous years has improved and now it is just a matter of putting all together on the field.

St Ives by 20, Dockers on the way back.



Team Talk

Under 16's



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