**GOOD WIN TO ‘THE PORT’ SENIORS**

Last Saturday saw a better result for the ‘Cygnet Community Bank Football Club’ Seniors, with a good win over Dodges Ferry at Shark Park, whilst unfortunately the Reserves and Colts could not get wins against their opponents.

In perfect football conditions, sunny and no wind, the Southern Storm Colts were keen to continue their recent good form and avenge their loss to Dodges in round 5. The Sharks had other ideas and jumped the Storm right from the start, scoring four unanswered goals to open up a handy 27 point lead at the first break. The second quarter saw the Storm start to get their running game going and hit the scoreboard, outscoring their opponents four goals to two to narrow the gap to 3 goals at half time. The third quarter was a repeat of the first, with Dodges kicking 4 goals whilst keeping the Storm scoreless, blowing the lead out to seven goals at three quarter time. Again it was an even last quarter which saw the final margin at 46 points in the Shark’s favour.

The clear lessons from the game for the Storm were to be switched on from the first bounce and two quarters of good team football simply won’t get you a win over the more competitive teams.

Better players were Liam O’Neill who continues to impress in winning the hard ball, Paddy O’Neill, Campbell Gane, Nathan ‘Bluey’ Duggan, Kyle Russell and Peter O’Neill. Joe Direen and Jack Bester both kicked two goals, with singles to Liam O’Neill and Jake Dance.

The Reserve game pitted the sixth and seventh-placed teams on the ladder, so a close contest was on the cards. Coach ‘Sticks’ Clark had several players unavailable but thanks go to ‘veteran’ Dave Bone and the other boys who filled in on the day, with all acquitting themselves well. From the first bounce Dodges showed that they were keen to get a fourth win on the board, moving the ball quickly and scoring at will. In each of the first two quarters they outscored the Port four goals to one to lead by six goals at half-time. Although outscored in the third quarter, the Port boys showing greater desperation and improved ball movement to score three goals, but were now 8 goals down with a quarter to go. Dodges kicked away in the final quarter with another four goals to one quarter, to run out comfortable victors by 65 points.

Jarryd Atkins battled hard all day, as did Jeremy Duggan, Paddy Ford, Kurt Butterworth, Ben Smith (2 goals) and Tom Slevin. Other goal scorers were Brad Carver with two, with one each to Dave Bone and Damian Duggan.

A win would have had the Reserves in the final five but they now sit in seventh spot, behind Dodges and Hobart on percentage.

The Seniors were forced to make three changes due to injury and unavailability, with ‘Pud’ Darcy, ‘Dallas’ Millhouse and Paddy Verrell coming into the side. The first quarter was a very even affair however inaccuracy cost the Port with only two goals from their seven shots on goal at the Clubroom end. Jason Laycock and Ben Halton were working well together up forward, with ‘Halts’ kicking the first two goals. It was goal for goal in the second quarter as Laycock continued to mark everything that came his way, kicking three consecutive goals whilst ‘Pud’ Darcy was also worrying the Shark backs. At half-time the difference was two points in the Port’s favour.

It was another arm wrestle in the third quarter with fierce contests at the ball and neither side letting up. There was less than a goal in it at three-quarter time and it was still anyone’s game with an exciting final quarter on the cards. Early goals to Laycock, Darcy and Jackson Gordon extended the Port’s lead to a comfortable margin and despite frequent forward forays by the Sharks, the Port were able to hold onto their lead, with the final margin being 19 points.

Mitchell Direen, in possibly his best game for the season, was superb off half back, running the ball forward at every opportunity. Cameron Wilcox was steady across half back, repelling many Shark attacks, Jason Laycock’s marking was again a feature and he finished off his work with five valuable goals. Brayden Hayes, Loic Auderset and Jake Brereton were also good contributors in an even team performance. ‘Pud’ Darcy finished with 3 goals, Ben Halton and Gavin Quirk kicked two each, with singles to Haysey, Jackson and Jake B.

**HOBART AT THE TCA THIS WEEK**

This week the Port travels to the TCA Ground to take on Hobart, who are always difficult to beat on their home turf. A Senior win is critical to retaining a spot in the final five. Last week’s win has the Port perched in fourth spot but with both New Norfolk (5th) and Hobart (6th) breathing down our neck and each still having a game in hand.

Despite recent inconsistent performances, the Cygnet Reserves are also not out of final’s contention. A win against Hobart could see them move into fifth spot, whilst the Storm Colts also need a good performance to consolidate their fourth position on the ladder.

**AUSTRALIAN LAMBASSADOR AT THE PORT’S SPORTMANS NIGHT (23RD JULY)**

Tickets are still available for this year’s Southern Smash Repairs ***Sportsman’s Night*** where AFL North Melbourne legend and Australian Lambassador, ‘Slammin’ Sam Kekovich, will be the guest speaker. In what promises to be another great fun event, there will also be a Memorabilia Auction and Live Raffle. Tickets are $50 per person, with nibbles provided. Check out our website (cygnetfc.com.au) or Facebook page for more details, or contact Shane Clark on 0429 132 762.

Come along and support the Port in our major fundraising event for the year.

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**Weekly Award Donors**: Phillip & Loretta Wilcox [Wilcox Electrical], Bill Cribbin’s BP Cygnet, Roys Bits of Old Pizza and R & D Meats

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