**LIONS REGAIN HUON VALLEY COMMUNITY BANK SHIELD**

Last Saturday the Cygnet Football Club journeyed along the Channel Highway to continue their decades-old ‘Battle of the Huon’ rivalry with the Huonville Lions for the Huon Valley Community Bank Shield, and came away with mixed results. On Sunday the Port Women were at Sorell for a contest against the Lauderdale Bombers.

**Colts**

The Huonville ground was in surprisingly good condition considering the overnight rain as the Southern Storm were keen to consolidate their second place on the Colt’s ladder. The first quarter was a real arm wrestle as the Lions applied considerable pressure, but the Storm made the most of their scoring opportunities to lead by 3 goals at quarter time. With the Storm on-ballers getting first use of the ball and Connor Soward providing a key target up forward, the Storm really got their running game going in the second quarter, kicking five goals to one, to open up a handy 43 point lead at the main break.

The third quarter was an even affair with the Lions defending stoutly, but the final quarter again saw the Storm moving the ball quickly to their forward and kicking another five goals to run out comfortable 79 point winners.

Better players were Connor Soward (7 goals), Noah Clifford (2 goals), Lukas Ford, Josh Coad who led from the front, Brayden Dowling and Luke Ashlin. Others to hit the scoreboard were Liam Slater, Bruk Duggan, Jake Munnings, Cameron Slater, Brayden Dowling and Isaac Memory.

**Reserves**

In a fast opening to the game, the Port were quickly on the scoreboard, before their Lion opponents clicked into gear, kicking the next five goals to open up a 25 point lead. Three goals to the Lions in the second term while keeping the Port goalless and the margin was 47 points at half time. The third quarter was more of the same as the Lions continued to move the ball quickly and outscoring the Port five goals to two and extending their lead to 65 points. The last quarter saw a more spirited display by the Port as they showed the type of football they are capable of, kicking three goals, but the damage had been done and the Lions ran out victors by 63 points.

Mark Bradley continued his good vein of form with his ball-winning ability and excellent disposal, onballers Jeremy O’Neill and Kane Nielsen put in good performances, along with Shane Clark, Kyle Russell and Jacob Direen. The Port’s goal kickers were Chris Stockfeld (3), Nye Yates (2) and Shane Clark.

**Seniors**

Kicking with the aid of a three to four goal wind to the bottom goals, the Port were looking to get off to a quick start, and did just that, scoring five goals before the Lions scored their first. Joe Direen was winning the centre taps and Andrew Palmer was in everything, busting the packs open and kicking three long goals for the quarter. The Port held a 29 point lead at quarter time but knew that their Lion opponents would bounce back.

The second quarter was all the Lions as they controlled the play getting a real run on which the Port were unable to contain. The end result being a seven goals to one quarter and Huonville now lead by seven points at half time. The third ‘premiership’ quarter was just that as both struggled to gain any clear advantage and it was only the Port’s accuracy (three goals straight) which kept them in the game. After an even quarter the margin was now 11 points in the Lion’s favour at the final break, and another close finish looked a possibility.

An early goal to the Port brought an immediate response from the Lions, while a couple of 50 metre penalties didn’t help the cause as Huonville again scored to extend their lead. With the Port doing all the attacking late in the game, a goal and a couple of near misses to the Port, including a poster, and the margin had been reduced to 7 points when the final siren sounded. After a tough contest and with the Port having their chances to win, victory went to Huonville along with the annual Huon Valley Community Bank Shield.

Joe Direen and Andrew Palmer (3 goals) battled hard all day in and around the stoppages, where they were well supported by George O’Neill and Rhys Jennings, while Mitchell Direen and Paddy O’Neill battled hard in defence. Ben Halton again caused headache for defenders with 3 goals, with James Zeitzen, Elijah Reardon, Rhys Jennings, Liam O’Neill, Peter O’Neill, Ollie Burke and Jordan Lane others to kick goals.

**Women**

On a fine afternoon the Port Women stepped out onto the oval with 18 players with a very positive attitude and looking forward to a close game against the Lauderdale Bombers.

With only two on the bench the girls knew that they were going to have to dig deep and play out the full game while Lauderdale were running a full young bench with fresh legs.

The first quarter saw the Bombers score 2 quick goals but then the Port tightened their defence and stopped them from scoring another major till the last quarter.

Anna Stanway scored the Port’s only major in the second quarter with them going into the half time break down by 6 points, Lauderdale 2-1-13 to Port’s 1-1-7.

It was a fast flowing game with the centres working hard. Michelle Cowen and April Pottinger were rucking with Serena Hubert, Ash Munnings, Anna, Chantelle Clark, Holly Upston, Grace Lovell and Tia Duggan doing a lot of running. Scotty (Keren Scotney) in the back pocket stopped many attempts to score while kicking long to get the ball out of the Bomber’s forward zone. At one stage being nearly at the centre square to take on opponents to help her team mates out.

Going into the last quarter the Port rallied as the difference was possible to make up, but the Bombers snapped one more major at around the five minute mark. The Port girls fought hard to keep the score very low and close but more important didn’t give up with the final score Lauderdale 3-2-21 to Port 1-1-7

Best players Anna Stanway, Serena Hubert, Tia Duggan, April Pottinger, Holly Upston and Grace Lovell.

**This week’s Games**

This week the Port Men will host the Hobart Tigers in their second last home game for the season, while the Port Women will play the South East Suns at Cygnet on Sunday (1st July) at 2pm.

**Last Man Standing**

Don’t forget the ‘Last Man Standing’ function at the Clubrooms on Saturday after the Hobart game. See our Club Facebook page for all the details. Get along for what promises to be another great, fun night.

**GO THE PORT**