**SOUTHERN STORM WIN TICKET TO THE ‘BIG DANCE’**

With a comprehensive 83 point Preliminary Final victory over minor Premiers, New Norfolk last Saturday, the Southern Storm Colts have once again won their way into the SFL Colts’ Grand Final at North Hobart Oval this Saturday. They will play Lindisfarne with the game to commence at 5.10pm, following the Senior Grand Final.

**Preliminary Final details**

The Storm got off to a promising start to the scoreboard end of North Hobart Oval, kicking the first two goals of the game through Noah Clifford and James Zietzen, but several misses late in the quarter meant that the Storm’s lead could have been greater than the 15 point margin at quarter time. Will Polley was again dominating every ruck contest and giving his smaller onballers first use of the ball. The Storm were moving the ball quickly into their forward line, where tall forward, Jordan Lane, took several strong marks and converted two second quarter goals. Noah Clifford bobbed up with two goals of his own and another by George O’Neill had the Storm 45 points up at half-time.

The Storm defence, well led by Murray Bastick and Jacob Burnett, were hard at all the contests and miserly in restricting New Norfolk to two behinds only in the first half.

The third quarter was a much tighter contest, with New Norfolk upping their pressure around the ball and slowing the Storm’s running game and free scoring, but the Eagles were also having their own problems scoring. After some great team play and ball transfer from defence, Storm’s Josh Memory kicked a great snap goal to extend the Storm’s lead to 54 points at the final break.

With darkness closing in and a real chill in the air, the Storm could easily have taken their foot off the throttle, but Coaches Daniel Webster and Paddy O’Neill had other ideas, challenging the Storm lads to fully run the game out. The longer the game went on the greater the New Norfolk lads’ frustration and ill-discipline grew, with the umpires awarding numerous 50 metre penalties and sending a few Eagle players from the ground. Last quarter goals to Jordan Lane, George O’Neill, James Zeitzen, Will Polley and Bruk Duggan took the Storm’s final score to 13-8-86 to New Norfolk 0-3-3, and a morale-boosting win for the Storm.

Picking out best players in an excellent team effort was possibly unfair, but Murray Bastick, Jacob Burnett, Will Polley, Josh Coad, James Zeitzen and Noah Clifford were excellent contributors all game. The Storm’s goals were kicked by Jordan Lane (3), Noah Clifford (3), George O’Neill (2) with single goals to Bruk Duggan, Josh Memory and Will Polley.

The Storm lads will need to be switched on from the first bounce if they are to take their Grand Final contest up to Lindisfarne, who have a 2-1 winning record over the Storm in their contests this season. A Storm victory would be just reward for the team’s progress since forming in 2016 after not fielding a team in 2015, building on the fine foundation and development work commenced by previous Coach, Matt Brereton.

Port supporters are encouraged to get along to North Hobart on Saturday to see the Club’s future players in action.

**Best & Fairest Counts**

The Club’s Best and Fairest Counts will be conducted at the Clubrooms on Saturday 15th September, starting at 2pm and will include a BBQ.

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