**PORT CLUB NOTES – GOOD FRIDAY (19 April 2019)**

The Port teams were up against Claremont at Abbotsfield Park on Good Friday, with the Seniors probably a bit fortunate to catch the Magpies in their first game for season 2019, after having two bye rounds.

**Port Women**

Our women knew it was going to be a hard physical encounter against Claremont, as it always is against these opponents. The girls started off raring to go and looking for a competitive game, but quickly found themselves in  a challenging match with Claremont starting the quarter off well with 3 quick goals. Port fought hard in the midfield thanks to Stacey Fox dominating in the ruck and tapping the ball to our quick midfielders, Sammy Kluga, Jessie Wynter and Abby Watson to get it to our forward line. By the end of the first quarter, despite Port getting the ball forward, they had only managed a behind to Claremont's 3 goals 3 behinds.

The second quarter was more of the same, with the Port women continuing to tackle and run well, but despite their best efforts they ended the quarter scoreless. At half time the girls discussed how they could improve their game against their hard hitting opponents.

They came out looking for redemption, and they proved themselves with Tayla Clifford and Ash Munnings putting pressure on Claremont's backline and helping Stacey Fox kick Port's only goal for the game and winning the quarter. Abby Watson continued to impress with her tackling pressure. The women adjusted themselves to the early morning slippery conditions, putting themselves on the line for the ball and  getting rewarded for their efforts. Mady Eaves and Sammy Kluga did this well.

Our backline fought hard all day with full back, Emily Duggan being our best player with the support of Isabel Sharp, Jessica O'Neill and Tara Slater. The scoreboard did not represent how well the Port women played against a bigger bodied physical team. Unfortunately Lil Bobbett suffered a nasty knee injury and we wish her a full and speedy recovery.

We would like to thank Kingborough Tigers for lending us four excellent players: Tayla Clifford, Jessie Wynter, Kylie Cornish and Maddy Barr. Our better players for the day were: Emily Duggan, Stacey Fox, Tara Slater, Jessie Wynter, Isabel Sharp and Jessica O'Neill.

Thanks to our wonderful support volunteers: Jason Kluga, Toby Cowen, Emily Direen and Kerrie-Lyn O'Neill.

**Reserves**

With all players playing their roles well, the Port Reserves burst out of the blocks and after an even first quarter had outscored their Claremont opponents three goals to two. Darcy Millhouse was working hard around the ground and Tom Slevin was leading by example in the back line. It was a similar even contest in the second term as both sides worked hard to break through their opposition’s defences and score. This time it was Claremont who made the most of their scoring opportunities, outscoring the Port three goals to two, and scores were locked at 5.3.33 apiece at the half time break.

With the game anyone’s for the taking, the Port stuck to their game plan and continued to move the ball forward where Ollie Burke was providing plenty of headaches for the Magpie defenders. Another three goal to two quarter saw the Port regain a 4 point lead with a quarter to play.

Unfortunately the Port’s efforts fell short in the final quarter, as the home team started to get their running game going to boot five goals to the Port’s one goal, with the Port going down by 23 points. This had been a much better performance by the Reserves and sets them up well for what will be a tough contest against Brighton this week.

Darcy Millhouse, Tom Slevin, Jack Brett, Ollie Burke (3 goals), Jules Direen and the Storm’s Will Polley were all good contributors, while others to hit the scoreboard were Darris Fahey, Jules Direen, Shane Clark, Jack O’Neill and Sean Burgess.

**Seniors**

It was a hot contested ball early in the Senior game with the Port starting extremely well. Once again it was ruckman, Reece Schuth and his on-ball brigade of Toby Cowen, Sam Dean, Braden Livingston and George O’Neill who dominated the centre clearances and the inside 50’s. While the delivery into the forward line was not always great, the ever reliable Ben Halton was proving unbeatable in front of goal, kicking two goals. The small forwards were also up and about early for the Port, with Noah Clifford and Jake Dance making the most of their opportunities. At quarter time the Port led 6.6.42 to Claremont’s 2.0.12.

The second quarter commenced with the same pressure from the Port that was witnessed in the first quarter. The back six of the Port controlled the game led by Jackson Gordon and Paddy O’Neill. Unfortunately the Port lost Captain Mitch Direen this quarter after a heavy knock to the head and he took no further part in the game. But the quarter really belonged to the small, excitement machine, Jake Dance up forward where he kicked 4 goals for the quarter. Halton and Rhys Jennings also kicked goals in another six goal quarter for the Port who had extended their lead to 64 points, with Coach Ben Cato a very happy man with his team going into the half time break.

The third quarter saw Claremont put up a spirited fightback, where they evened the centre clearances for the quarter and it was their turn to dominate the inside 50’s. The Port could only manage 2 behinds for the quarter while the Pies were a little wasteful in front of goal kicking 2 goals and 5 behinds. The margin at three quarter time was 49 points in the Port’s favour.

The final quarter saw the Port dig deep, with the on-ball brigade lifting to once again dominate the inside 50’s. However the Port were very wasteful in front of goal, kicking 2 goals and 10 behinds for the term while the Claremont Pies could only manage a solitary goal. Both Port goals this quarter were kicked by youngster Luke Ashlin, who continues to impress in only his second senior game. The final margin was 65 points and a pleasing win for the Port, who continue to improve each week.

Better players in a solid team effort were Sam Dean, Ben Halton (3 goals), Jake Dance (5 goals), Toby Cowen, Joe Direen and George O’Neill. Other goal kickers were Luke Ashlin (2), Kane Nielsen, Ben Cato, Rhys Jennings and Noah Clifford.

**This week’s games @ Kermandie**

This Saturday the Port makes their annual football pilgrimage to Kermandie with what promises to a great day of football and fun.

 The day will kick off at 9.30am with the Southern Storm Colts taking on Lindisfarne in a replay of last year’s Colts Grand Final. This will be followed at 11.30am by the much-anticipated Huon Legends game between Kermandie Legends, coached by ‘Balls’ Kean and Eric Martin and the Cygnet Legends, coached by Daniel Walter. With many ex-champions from both Clubs signing up to play for the Kenny Pepper Cup, this should be a most enjoyable contest.

At 1pm the Cygnet Reserves will play Brighton with the final game between the Port Women and Brighton starting at 3pm.

Unfortunately as Brighton aren’t fielding a Senior side in 2019, our Port Seniors will have a rest day.

Support the Port in 2019