It what could be described as a good, bad and ugly weekend for the Cygnet Football Club.  Good, was the wonderful win of the Storm u14 boys. Taking out the U14c grand final against Claremont.  Congratulations to all the players, coaches and the Southern Storm Football Club.

Next was the u19 loss to Lindisfarne, though the Storm side battled hard all day with a number of injuries and without a full bench. The u19 side still have another chance this weekend at North Hobart against Hobart to go one step further.

The ugly unfortunately was the Cygnet seniors game.  Whilst not the way to finish a season for these guys all credit goes to Lindisfarne on their professional performance. The Cygnet Seniors have had a wonderful four weeks and probably a down day was bound to happen, so The Cygnet Football Club seniors look forward to next year.

Seniors

It was a beautiful day at Lindisfarne and all was primed for the much-anticipated clash. Unfortunately, Barry Hall and Reece Schuth joined the long list of injured players from the Port unable to get up for the game.  In their place we welcomed back Paddy O’Neill from injury and young gun Luke Ashlin from the colts (who had also played in the earlier game). From the very first bounce it was the Lindisfarne side that were switched on ready to go. The experienced and classy Two Blues outfit were dominant all over the ground as the Port struggled to get their hands on the ball. The disposal and decision making from the Port was terrible. The Port were being smashed in the centre clearances and the inside 50’s. By quarter time the game was all but over as the Two Blues were able to pile on 7 goals in comparison with the one single goal from the Port – which came from Ben Halton.

Cygnet 1.1.7 Vs Lindisfarne 7.5.49

The quarter time break could not come quick enough for the Port. Coach Ben Cato pleaded for more from his troops. There was a real need for the Port to slow the game down and make better decisions with the ball. While the differential with the centre clearances and the inside 50’s improved for the Port this quarter – the Two Blues really hurt us on the rebound. With Joe Direen moved into the ruck in Reece Schuth’s absence and the need to get Ben Halton into the midfield – options on the forward line were limited. In this quarter the Two Blues piled on another 6 goals while the Port could only manage 2. These came from Ben Halton and Luke Paton.

Cygnet 3.3.21 Vs Lindisfarne 13.9.87

Cygnet lost Ben Halton early in the third quarter to a foot injury and he would take no further part in the game. Unfortunately for the Port – not only did Lindisfarne once again dominated the centre clearances as well as the inside 50’s in the third quarter, but they were again dominant all over the ground. There was little to no resistance from Cygnet and by this stage it was little more than a training drill for the Two Blues. The Two Blues added another 7 goals in this quarter compared a solitary goal from the Port – which came from Corey Polley.

Cygnet 4.4.28 Vs Lindisfarne 20.16.136

In what was a very consistent performance by the Two Blues – the final quarter went the same way as the preceding 3 quarters. They piled on another 6 goals and were able to keep the Port scoreless. A very disappointing end to what has been a great season for the Port side. Goals went to Ben Halton (2), Luke Paton and Corey Polley.

The only shining lights out of this game were the performances of young gun George O’Neill who battled tirelessly all day wining the ball all over the ground and the form of ‘The General’ Adam Duggan across the half back line. If it had not been for these two guys the score line would have looked a lot worse.

We look now to our young U19 side who are still in the finals race. Get along and support these boys as they chase another Grand Final appearance this weekend.

Colts

With the chance to go straight into the Grand final up for grabs, The Southern Storm Colts made the journey to Anzac Park to take on their fierce rivals in the Lindisfarne Blues. The overcast yet particularly breezy day was to have a large impact on the infamous small ground that Anzac Park is, saw the boys taking the field hoping to have the ever changing wind behind them. Straight out the gate, the footy was hot and the pressure was hotter, with the weight of each team being thrown around. Josh Coad was determined to get his team the fast start they needed, winning a large amount of the football despite his heavy tag. Kade Francis in the ruck met his match in Tom Currie, who worked Francis tirelessly all day long.  Despite the hard battle Francis was faced with, he never showed bother, with him being able to win his fair share of taps and get the ball into the hands of his partners in crime Coad and Burnett. The midfield group played strong lock down football for the entire first quarter, and were able to capitalise early on on their hard fought efforts through the proving to be key forward that is Jonte Fahey. Fahey alongside dominate small forwards Will Clifford, Blake Sculthorpe and Murray Bastick, were able to work as a core group to put the score on the board early, with Fahey booting two big goals for the first quarter. The Storm were able to battle hard and keep their tough opponents to a just a 7-point lead at quarter time.   
  
The second term saw the Storm eager to build on their intencity and tackle pressure from the first quarter. The football was locked down and the pressure from the midfield brigade consisting of Coad, Francis, Jacob Burnett and Bastick was second to none. The brigade was able to surge the football forward and give options to our forwards, but unfortunately the two way running on the ground the Blues play so well was to cut the Storm up. The boys fought hard, winning stoppages and centre clearances, but a few wrong decisions and kicking out of full back let the Storm down. The Blues were able to pile on 5 goals for the quarter whilst keeping the Storm goalless. The Blues led the Storm 52-14.   
  
After halftime, the boys were determined to bounce back, and that they did. This initiative was led by the youngest guys on the field, with Elijah Cowen and Will Clifford standing up for the team. The pair were in sync, with Cowen stepping up and putting his body on the line for his team mates, as well as Clifford showing the older boys his skills, courage and the pairs toughness. The two worked well with Coad’s midfield group, with Will Clifford being to put his name in the paper by kicking a team lifting goal in the early minutes of the third. The whole Storm group stepped up their physical presence after the strong precedent was set by Coad, Cowen, Clifford and Burnett early on in the quarter, with all four laying massive tackles, shepherds, bumps and head over the ball mentality. Blake Sculthorpe too was rewarded for his unselfishness in the forward line as well as his courage when the football was in the air. Jonte Fahey too was able to present hard and make a contest within the forward line to give the Storm a stronger chance to score. Unfortunately, The Blues were able to build on their successful fast breaks of the previous quarter and kick another three goals for the quarter extending their margin over the Storm to a 44-point lead at three quarter time. Score 72-28.   
  
The willingness to continue the fight come from the core group consisting of Coad, Francis, Cowen, Clifford, Fahey as well as key in and under player in Cam Slater, who never let his size comparison worry him. The boys fought hard, locking the Blues down to just one goal for the quarter. Luke Ashlin was able to give the group a key bit of run in the last quarter, helping the Storm get the ball forward which resulted in an exceptional on the run goal to lift the morale of the boys. Cam Slater alongside his brother Liam were exceptional all day, with the pair laying a numerous amounts of bumps, shepherds and tackles as well as those key in and under pack breaking hand balls they do so well. Liam Slater, aka Tippa, was able to thread the needle through the packs of the blues and kick an exceptional boundary line goal to soften the blow for the Storm. The two way running and knowledge of the small ground proved to be too good for the Storm, allowing Lindisfarne to run away with a 38-point victory.  
  
Better Players for the day included: Kade Francis, Josh Coad, Elijah Cowen, Jonte Fahey, Will Clifford and Cam Slater.   
  
Goal Kickers for the Day: Jonte Fahey 2 and singles to Luke Ashlin, Will Clifford, Liam Slater and Blake Sculthorpe.   
  
The Storm now head into a Preliminary Final at North Hobart This Saturday the 7th at 9:30 am against The Hobart Tigers. This will be a hard fought game for the big prize that is a spot in a grand final. Come along and support the boys in what will be an exceptional game of football.