

# SEASON 2023- FINALS

# PANTHER CUBS NEWS

Official newsletter of Eltham Junior Football Club



## FINALS FEELS



### Contents:

Presidents Report

How you can help - Volunteer Roles

Coaches Match Reports - PRELIM FINALS

Our Fabulous Sponsors



# PRESIDENTS REPORT

by Jodi Mitchell

Hello Members,

## GRANDFINAL WEEK!

Wow what a weekend of footy!

Congratulations to U14 black, U14 girls, U15 black and U16 girls that have cemented their spot in the grand final this weekend. To all other teams that made the finals this year congratulations on making it this far.

To the grand final teams, we wish you all the very best, enjoy the moment and I am sure you will do us proud. Members, please get around our grand final teams and get down to see them in action:

U14 black - 1pm at Mernda

U14 girls - 10.45pm at Hurstbridge

U15 black - 1pm at Diamond Creek

U16 girls - 12.45pm at Hurstbridge

Again, we will be hosting four grand finals at Central so if you can't get out to the grounds to watch our Panther teams in action please come down for some lunch and watch some good footy at Central.

Look forward to seeing everyone at Central for grand final night.

Go Panthers!

Kind regards,  
Jodi Mitchell



### Newsletter Co-ordinator 2024

If you are interested in a fun, simple role that you can do from home next year please reach out to Sharon - [ejfcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ejfcnewsletter@gmail.com) to find out more.

(I am moving to a different role for 2024).

There are only 2 rounds to go so you could have a handover this season and be ready to go!

Template set up you just copy and paste!

2 people could also easily share this role



# Volunteer Roles

(we'll keep asking!)



We hope your child/ren has had an awesome season at the Panthers in 2023. In order to run a successful season with over 500 players we need volunteers like you!

Many committee volunteers have children in the older age groups and will be finishing up.

We need fresh new faces and ideas to join the committee, if you can help out in ANY way please contact Jodi on **0408 134 066**

We are specifically looking for the following roles next season:

**TREASURER:** Sounds scary and we won't lie there is a bit of work, but you are supported by a fabulous team and if you are organised and have experience in accounts we would love to chat to you.

**TEAM MANAGER CO-ORDINATOR:** If you like being organised this role is for you, helping get new team managers started and supporting them with online paperwork and any things that may come up during the season, again supported by a fantastic committee and Age Group co-ordinators.

# U11 Prelim Final match report

## Under 11's Red Eltham vs Greensborough

We were up against Greensborough at Mernda in fantastic conditions for a final. Tiger was our captain for the day leading the way out onto the ground in his 50th game. We were playing for a spot in the grand final.

The 1st quarter Dan was bullocking his way through the pack. Clyde as usual was winning contested possession under pressure. Mitch was attacking the ball. Isaac was working hard in and under. Matt was looking fully fit running up and down the wing. Charlie was contesting hard holding out 2 opponents as he always finds himself doing. Harvey kicked 2 goals in a minute. We got off to a great start with the opposition getting a goal after the siren their only score for the quarter.

The 2nd quarter Knox was going in hard down. Billy was working hard up and down the wing. Tom OJ was running and working hard. Zac was playing well in the ruck and around the ground. Harry C was working himself into the game. The opposition got the better of us in the quarter, but there was nothing in it on the scoreboard as they got another goal late in the quarter which hurt.

The 3rd quarter, Jordan was playing a great quarter in the ruck and was unlucky not to score a couple of goals. Harry L was doing a great job defending as he had all day marking everything. Tiger in his 50th was running and working hard to every contest. Dayne was making good position. Noah and Mason were working hard. The boys tried so hard but could not register a goal but had reduced the margin to nothing and the scores were level.

The 4th quarter Zach A made a great smother to stop a goal. Owen was running quicker than everyone else. Cooper took a strong mark. Tom O was brilliant stopping anything that came into his path. Greensborough got 2 goals up and as they always do flooded the backline with a lot of kids that didn't play last time we meet, we got one more goal but ran out of time going down by 6 points.

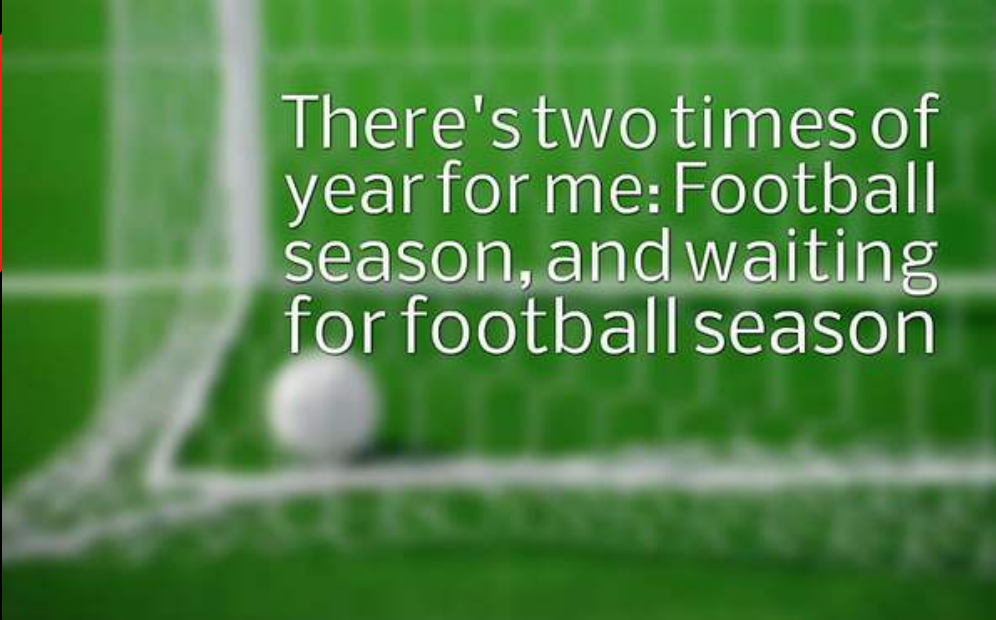
It wasn't the fairy tale ending we wanted but the boys put in 100% effort and that's all we can ask for.

It was a great season for a friendship based team to compete in a competition of 22 teams, come from red division into the top division and miss out on the grand final by a kick is pretty amazing.

Myself and the coaching team as parents and coach's are super proud of the boys efforts this season. Their determination, self believe when things were not going their way was infectious, bring on season 2024.

Go Panthers

**NOW**  
**THAT** →  
**IS SERIOUSLY**  
**EPIC**



There's two times of year for me: Football season, and waiting for football season

# U12 Prelim Final match report

## Under 12's Red Eltham vs Kilmore

Off to Yarrambat Memorial Park we went again coming up against Kilmore for a spot in the GF. Knowing we had a draw against Kilmore the last time we met, we knew we had to be at our best to advance to a GF. The boys were showing lots of excitement and nervous energy as they ran through the banner for Luka's 50th game. Captains for the day were Ben and Aidan S.

After getting early entries into our forward line, but not being able to capitalise on the scoreboard, Kilmore took control of the quarter and their presence around the contest was a real issue for us as they slammed on four goals for the quarter. The boys seem a little intimidated by the occasion and our renowned execution under pressure was not there and at times turning the ball over too easily.

Ben G and Lachy doing their best around the ball to keep us in the contest and Myles was restricting the fast ball movement down back with great reading of the play.

The message at quarter time was to stay positive and tidy up a little with first option and staying composed with ball in hand and that we had three quarters to fix our deficiencies.

The second quarter through the boy's willingness the contest evened up and we were starting to look like the side from previous weeks. We attacked the goal front with real purpose and good link up from our mids to attack. Jed lifting us around the centre with deft ruck work. We could not maximise our opportunities however kicking one goal and seven points for the quarter. Zach finishing of good "team" football with a classy mark and goal. Our defence doing a brilliant job for the quarter keeping Kilmore scoreless.

Now only being two goals down at half-time you can see the belief building in the boys' eyes. The message going into the third quarter was do not panic, stay composed and stick to our process and the opportunities would eventually come.

The third quarter became hotly contested and again we did not get any rewards on the scoreboard for our efforts. Kilmore finally breaking our defence to score their first major post the first quarter. Flynn B was running his heart out and at his creative best and James H was providing spark up forward. Although we went into the last break nineteen points down, we felt the boys were getting the game back on our terms. The messaging going into the last quarter was to believe, stay composed under pressure and leave nothing in the tank.

What the boys produced was nothing short of sensational, showing enormous character to try to give themselves a chance of victory. The last ten minutes of the quarter we were able to produce repeat inside fifties working over Kilmore's defence with increased forward pressure. James H saluting with a good snap at goal and when Ben gained a free kick dead in front of goals and saluting with just minutes to go, we had a real shot at winning only trailing by one goal. Our defence holding strong and would eventually keep Kilmore scoreless. The boys gave everything in the closing minutes, pressuring Kilmore to turnover the ball frequently and giving our forwards increased opportunities. The siren finally beating us, going down by a meagre four points. As an indication of how well we had turned the screws and how well respected the team has become the past six weeks, all Kilmore players flooded our forward line in the dying seconds.

We may have lost the game and a shot at a GF; however, the boys can hold their heads extremely high for what they have accomplished this season. Well done on a great season, it has been a pleasure coaching you all and seeing the improvement across the board.

Thanks, again for all the panthers' supporters who came down to cheer the boys on, we appreciate the effort!

Nathan/Keith/Richard



# U14 Prelim Final match reports

INTO THE  
GRANDFINAL!

## Under 14's Black Eltham vs Laurimar

All the hard work and preparation the boys have been through as a collective came to this game and us getting the Grand Final we deserve to be in. 12 months prior it was Laurimar that broke our hearts by getting the better of us in this exact same game so without saying it was history going to repeat itself? well not if we had anything to do with it. It all started at training with a good vibe week that included plenty ball movement and voice, a game a soccer and even a BBQ put on by Scotty Mitchell (thanks to Jodi and Kaz for teeing up). This continued into Sunday's changeroom with a motivational video put together by Vic and Rosette had most of us pretty pumped but even better still was just having our extraordinary coach Ryan in the rooms having a chat to the boys and guiding us through what lies ahead. The message was clear as we earned this and we deserve to be here and we deserve to be in the grand final so let's bloody get out there and do it! With all being said the nerves were at full tilt which was a good sign as our boys could not have started any better by doing everything we spoke about and more. We were able to keep Laurimar scoreless while we kicked 3 goals and created so many opportunities. The most pleasing aspect was our willingness to work as a team and apply pressure to the opposition like we have never done before, we gave them no space and no opportunity to get into the game. Our second quarter was just as good as the 1st and we went into the main break with a healthy lead but we all knew Laurimar were not done yet and had to stay on our game. Stay on our game we did with our second half even better than our 1st by scoring 9 goals to finish up with a scoreline of 13-13-91 and Laurimar not scoring a goal until the last quarter where we seen the mercy rule come into play. We can make special mentions to players but that would mean a longer summary as every player played a key role in this win and this is a reward for all the work put in by all and Ryan's constant message about taking the game on, being your best and just going for it!

"GO PANTHERS"



# U15 Black Prelim Final match report

INTO THE  
GRANDFINAL!

## Under 15's Black Eltham vs Yarrambat

The Preliminary Final against Yarrambat ,saw another one of the boys reach the magical milestone of a 100 games for this great club

Rohan Sharpe, a tough, competitive ,hugely talented player ,with a big personality who very rarely has a quiet game. Sundays game was no exception, amongst the best once again, along with a goal to top off a great day.

Well done Sharpe!!!

Wow Wee!!! Yarrambat had come to play.First quarter saw Yarrambat's fierce tackling pressure have an impressive impact.Giving Eltham no space or time for many clean disposals .

Two freakish goals by Yarrambat to Elthams one saw a 5 point lead at quarter time to the Hawks. Dintinosante stood out ,with some telling marks which probably stopped Yarrambat from being further in front.

Second quarter was another low scoring affair with a goal apiece, with missed opportunities from both sides .

Half time Yarrambat 21

Eltham 16.

Third quarter saw more of the same , with both teams fighting hard to win control of the game.

Cameron was brilliant, with his run off the half back/wing.

Eltham managed a slender 2 point lead going into the last.

4th quarter saw the floodgates open for Eltham.Park and D'Amico ran amok in the forward half.With Lawless,Carbone,Dintinosante and Sharpe amongst our biggest contributors for the day.

Dintinosante, I thought was just terrific.

Eltham ran out winners by a comfortable 41 points.

Next week sees the boys at the 'Big Dance 'against Mill Park back at Coventry Oval Diamond Creek 1 pm.

Good luck Boys!!

Go Panthers!

Cheers Steve Irvine

# 100

## CONGRATULATIONS



# U16 girls Prelim Final match report

INTO THE  
GRANDFINAL!

## Under 16's Girls Eltham vs Darebin

In the Preliminary Final, our U16 girls faced off against the top-ranked Darebin team. We urged our girls to give a consistent effort throughout all four quarters, and they certainly delivered.

Georgie played a crucial role, dominating the hard ball and effectively distributing it to our outside runners.

Both Eloise and Scarlett were truly inspirational. Eloise's 3 goals and consistent involvement in the game stood out. Scarlett J's presence in the midfield and her amazing goal were remarkable.

Eleri was a defensive rock, preventing Darebin from capitalizing on two very good goal opportunities, showcasing her determination and grit.

Scarlett F's tireless efforts, especially her remarkable runs and ruck work, posed a constant threat to Darebin. She followed our pre-game advice to focus on running angles and dismantled the Darebin team effectively.

Shaelee and Freddie played pivotal roles in our defence, effectively stopping Darebin's attacks. Jade showcased her sensational running ability, consistently creating opportunities for our forwards.

Keely played a flawless game, demonstrating her ability to read the game and position herself perfectly, successfully stopping Darebin's advances.

Paige and Jaida showcased amazing speed and defensive skills from the wing and half-back positions. Riley embraced various roles during the game, and she delivered exceptionally well in each one.

Millie took some excellent marks in the forward line, showcasing her strength. Lily made a welcome return to the team and had a notable presence, coming close to scoring two goals.

Rosie's strong tackling and physical play created numerous contests and opportunities for our side. Joss displayed versatility by playing multiple positions and her sensational running style consistently threatened the opponent's defence, creating scoring chances.

Ella's incredible on-the-run goal and her remarkable second efforts were a pleasure to witness. Our girls displayed a ruthless attitude throughout the game. Tiah worked tirelessly in the ruck, battling it out in tight spaces to get the ball out. Roxie made a significant impact in the forward line, capping it off with a great goal. Amelia, Charlotte, and Elisha all made solid contributions to our victory.

Charlie, although not on the field, acted as an extra coach by running water onto the ground, showing her dedication to the team. Yuri and Dom were vocal supporters, cheering on the team loudly.

The way our girls played as a unified team made the game truly enjoyable to watch. Their chemistry was evident, and they absolutely deserve their spot in the Grand Final. One more match to go.

“

ALWAYS JUST BELIEVE IN  
YOURSELF. BE THE BEST  
VERSION OF YOURSELF AND  
ALWAYS BE PROUD OF WHO  
YOU ARE

- SAM NERR

[WWW.THESPORTSMARTS.COM](http://WWW.THESPORTSMARTS.COM)





# All Abilities Prelim Final match report

## All Abilities Eltham vs Fountain Gate

This round was the semi final against Fountain Gate. It was an away game.

This was always going to be a tough gig. Fountain Gate were far more experienced and mature. They have A grade players and will definitely be going up to the higher grade next year.

The game was out of reach in a few minutes and the mercy rule was activated. At this point there was only one thing left to do and that was to enjoy the last game as much as we could! It was difficult to keep the spirits high so we made sure that every player had a chance to kick a goal and each player kicked one! Fountain Gate were fantastic in allowing us to get on the scoreboard and have some fun!

All in all it was a successful season! We weren't sure if we were going to be able to field a team. We did and we made it into the finals.

The future is looking bright for Eltham FIDA! We have 3 new players ready to go for next season and this will mean we have 18 players!!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved. EJFC, all the parents / carers and game day helpers. Josh and Val for assistant coaching. Our team managers Marnie and Caroline. Big thanks to all the players for a great effort all season lead by our spiritual leader Lachie Wadsworth!

Go Panthers!!



**SPONSORS** Please take a moment to look through our sponsors page and support their businesses where you can. Thank-you for supporting EJFC!

## EJFC MAJOR SPONSORS

---

# morrison kleeman



Community Bank  
Eltham



## EJFC PLATINUM SPONSORS

---



## EJFC GOLD SPONSORS

---



## EJFC SILVER SPONSORS

---

