SEASON 2023- ROUND 10

PANTHER CUBS NEWS

Official newsletter of Eltham Junior Football Club







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Community Bank Eltham









PRESIDENTS REPORT

by Jodi Mitchell

Hi Members,

This week we saw Susan Street closed for another week but just want to say thank you to everyone for your patience, we have been lucky we have Eltham High School to use. I would however like to remind members that there are bollards and cones placed at Eltham High School to block off and alert you to dangerous areas. Coaches, Team Managers and parents can you please ensure players respect these blocked off areas and go around them. They are there for their safety.

All families should have received their book of Raffle tickets, a list of all prizes is published in this newsletter. We thank all our supporters for their generous donations in our annual major raffle. Payment for the raffle tickets can be made at our website store or by cash. Once tickets are all sold and payment is made raffle tickets and any cash can be returned to your Team Managers.

Round 11 celebrates our First Nations people with the NFNL Sir Douglas Nicholls round. In honour of this, the EJFC will be joined by the EFC to host a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony on Thursday 6th July at Central. Our U17 and 18s will be in attendance and we welcome all members to come down and join us. Our guests will be arriving at 5.30pm and the ceremony will be kicking off at 5.45pm. On Saturday some of our First Nation players will be joining us to paint the Aboriginal flag on Central in readiness for game day on Sunday. On Sunday our U17 and 18s will be wearing our new Indigenous playing strip. Both games will be played at Central with U18s at 1.15pm and U17s at 2.45pm. So, if you are wanting to join in the festivities please get down to Central and cheer on our teams!

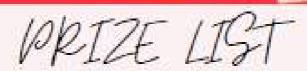
Enjoy the holiday break this weekend!

Kind regards, Jodi Mitchell EJFC President



2023 EJFC MAJOR RAFFLE





Milwaukee Cordless Tool Kit - ARDON RRP - \$1,500

Milwaukee gardening pack - MILWAUKEE RRP - \$1300

Hisense 50 inch 4k UHD Smart TV- Highbury Plumbing RRP - \$1,000

ipad 10.9 inch Wifi 256GB (10th Gen) RRP - \$995

Fondata dinner voucher - CLOSE COMMERCIAL RRP - \$500

AirPods Pro (2nd Gen) and mini hoop basketball RRP- \$440

RJR Skip RRP - \$385

Macpac puffer jacket - size 10 ladies RRP - \$280

EJFC Merchandise Pack RRP - \$250

Arcade basketball game set RRP - \$250

Richmond Football Club Premiers Framed Print RRP - \$200

Yarrambat Golf Course (round for 4) RRP - \$160

Dart Board, darts and \$50 Sports First Voucher RRP - \$130

Vaccination and health check from Home Visiting Vet RRP - \$150

Wahu Pool game RRP - \$80

Yarrambat Golf Course mini golf voucher and golf balls RRP - \$65

Yarrambat Golf Course mini golf voucher RRP - \$50

RAFFLE DRAWN
30TH JULY \$3 PER TICKET

WHAT'S ON THIS SEASON - SAVE THE DATE Being part of a footy club is more than just going to footy games it's a community that comes together to socialise and have fun..

Social Events 2023

Sunday night <u>free</u>

family dinners - ALL WELCOME

next one -

Sun 30th July from 5.30pm

Other Grown up events book a babysitter now!

Sat 22nd July - 80's night

https://elthamjfc.com.au/product/ejfc -80s-night-adults-night-out/





All Abilities match report

BYE

U9's match reports

Under 9 Red Eltham vs Greensborough White

NFNL, Greensborough Slime.

On a cold & Driver windy Sunday morning, Eltham Red were up against Greensborough White or commonly thought of in the

Our captain for the day was Josh B and the big fella led by example for four quarters. We lost the toss and were kicking into a tornado like wind but unlike Richmond in the 2014 elimination final against

Port Adelaide, our boys knew how to defend against it. Max M and Jude W were superb in defence, tackling, marking and running hard to ensure no easy goals for the Slime. Brax L played tight on his opponent which gave relief knowing there was one less player getting the ball. Charlie N and Cooper K brought the ball down be-it by a mark or a defensive spoil keeping the Slime to a low score at quarter time. The lads came into quarter time full of confidence knowing they had defended well. The second quarter we had the wind and our boys worked hard to use it. Archie L saw a lot of opportunity as he continues to run to space and make great options for his team. Tyler R showed his class around the ground showing the opposition his full complement of skills. Mason P was strong at the contest and gave good opportunity to the likes of Josh O, who was lively to say the least. Then in stepped Hudson T, broke through four opposition players and kicked a team lifting goal. Hudson is starting to look dangerously comfortable with his footy and will be a worry for upcoming sides.

Leo D had a head clash but this son of a gun kept playing, realising the severity of the game he started to accumulate possessions at will. Speaking of The Accumulators, our little running brigade Zac W, Tyler R and Marcus P ran the opposition into the ground. The game poised, Charlie N took a huge grab against the wind. Charlie kicked for goal but it started to drift back, then like a flash before our eyes, Max M clunked it and converted.

The siren rang and our legends knew they had done everything they could, leaving nothing in the tank. It was a fantastic team performance, special mention to a few though. Charlie N & Josh O won our spirit award for a four-quarter performance. While Zac W won the oppositions award for his

tireless, never give up attitude. Last mention is for Cooper K, who plays the game hard but would be

seen picking up opposition players off the ground if they were hurt or had fallen.

Watching the progression of our team from their skill set, understanding of the game and respect for the opposition/umpires is fulfilling for the coaches and parents alike.

Under 9 White Eltham vs Research

The round 10 match-up saw Eltham travel to Research which is always an exciting local derby. It was a windy moring, howeve3r the Research paddock was in perfect condition for the boys to take the field. At training over the last few week we have been focusing on behaviours that we believe represent the Eltham footy club and before the game we asked the boys to focus on the following:

1. Look after your team mates

2. Be respectful to the umpire

3. Stay in your zones

It was extremely pleasing to see that the boys played the entire game with these behavious not even coming in to question once throughout. Today we focussed on hard tacking, numbers to the ball, linking up kicks and handballs using the wings. The first quarter, Research who were kicking with the strong wind, took advantage of the conditions. It was pleasing to see that the boys who were led by captains Darcy and River worked hard to rally the boys to ensure we kept plenty of possession. Carter was strong in the midfield, with Isaac extracting the ball from contests providing clearances. In the second quarter, we had plenty of possession, led by Austin providing pin-point precision kicks into the forward line. Kingston emerged with a fantastic goal and Asher was in and under taking in the forward line. Sammy was enormously troubling for the opposition across half back with a number of clearances. In the third quarter, we were against the wind again, however with strong midfield clearances with Louis and Jude, we maintained the pressure even against the wind in the blustery conditions. Angus who was strong all game, was identified by the opposition as a threat so they were paying him some attention when he got possession. In the last quarter, we asked the boys to finish the game strong with a focus on handballs and hitting targets. Taylor provided a target in the forward line giving an excellent handball that led to a goal. Oliver seemed to be everywhere throughout the game and was awarded the opposition medal for his efforts. Will was menacing for the opposition with his bone crunching tackles all day. Darcy played an incredible last quarter and Christopher provided a strong target all day in all positions and earned himself



U9's match reports

Under 9 Black Eltham vs Montmorency



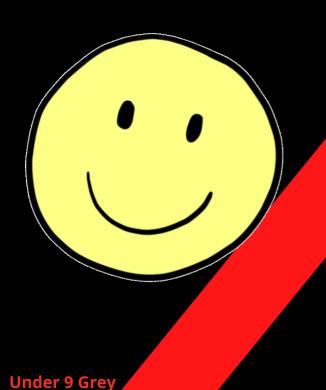
It was near perfect conditions for our game against Montmorency. We had a few away with holidays so we knew it wasn't going to be easy. It was a low key build up to the game with a real focus amongst the group. Jedd was our captain and took up his role with gusto. It was a tight tussle early on with both teams attacking the ball hard. We were playing well, moving ball quickly and kicking to teammates in space. Seb, Ethan and Josh J. were lively and Liam was marking everything in the forward line. Jedd and Connor combined well to allow Liam to get free again and this time take advantage by kicking the first goal of the game. We had hit the scoreboard the momentum was with us. Oscar pooped up twice with the ball out of nowhere but couldn't convert.

The second quarter was similar with the game starting with close contest. We broke the game open with two quick goals, firstly to Harry and then to Jeremy (a long range bomb). Our midfield led by Jarrod, Lachlan and Riley were brilliant while Jedd and Alexander were dangerous across half back. Josh A was getting first to the ball and taking the game on.

The game changed after half time. It was a much intense battle with Montmorency fighting back. Kingston was in and under while Liam continued his great form by continually attacking the ball. Connor was again having a fantastic game with Ethan and Harry showing speed and clever thinking to move the ball into our forward line.

The final quarter was again a tight tussle. Oscar and Josh A took contested marks and Alexander was tackling well. A towering mark from Lachlan was a highlight followed by the endeavour showed by Ethan, Harry and Liam.

Liam was rewarded for his great game by receiving the medal from Montmorency while Harry and Ethan were given our players of the match. Ethan received an award for his tackling and team work.



U10's match reports

Under 10's Red Eltham v's

Under 10's Black Eltham v's Greensborough

Eltham Red U/10 boys played another home game at what will now be known as the new Home of Footy in Eltham (Eltham High School)

Jacob B was the captain and he won what was a valuable toss and kicked to the city end with the breeze

The wind was strong and the boys had to bring their A-game to gain the advantage. From the first bounce the boys were switched on as River O and Ryle B were both having a great start to the game in the middle of the ground gaining valuable possession along with Archie T and Luke B. Kashan K stole the show in the first quarter not only kicking his first goal for the season but adding a second quarter goal to give the boys a great start. The celebration alone would have won the 100m sprint at State Athletics Carnival. The second quarter began much like the first and despite kicking against the breeze the hard work in the centre of the ground by Zach C saw the forwards provided with plenty of opportunities. Ryle B was continuing his great form by kicking an early goal. Jacob B and Toby C were dominating up back which was the spring board for a lot of the attacks forward. One of the better plays of the day saw a long handpass from Toby C to Isiah G who kick to Luke B who played on to kick to Ryle B who kicked his second goal for the quarter. Archie T was having another solid quarter taking some great marks around the ground and Jack K was also putting

together a great quarter of footy. The Eltham boys continued their great game with both Roy B and Joel S kicking their second goals for the season. The final quarter was again against the wind but the boys

continued to press hard. Captain Jacob B kicked a great goal on the run and then Isiah G marked to take a set shot deep in the pocket. From an extremely difficult angle Isiah G kicked an amazing goal and then a great goal from a set shot by River O just before the final siren saw the boys finish well on

River O had a great game to be awarded the Opposition medal for Player of the Day. It was such a great team performance three Eltham Player of the Day awards were awarded for the game. They were awarded to Kashan K with his brilliant two goals and overall game, Luke B with his continued pressure and willingness to get to the contest and Joel S with his great goal and hard work for the team. Both Zach C and Ryle B were also both awarded the Macca's awards for their great contribution to the team. Despite the difficult conditions it was our best overall performance for the year and was very pleasing to see how much fun the boys had playing the game and getting around each other when their teammate kicked a goal.

Really well done team

Shane O'Keeffe

This week we played Greensborough Green on top of the icy cold windy hill at Anthony Beale Reserve. We knew this was going to be another tough games as this opposition is loaded with tall players. The boys were led on to the field by our Captains Harry and Lachlan, who both played well getting a lot of the ball around the ground, we won the toss a decided to kick with the wind in the first quarter. In the first quarter, our midfield boys Henry, Ollie C, Ollie E, Lucas and Jobe dominated play and won just about every clearance getting the ball down to the forward line quickly (with help from the wind). Rhys, Jaxton K and Jaxon T were moving around well and managed to get the ball to the goal line many times, unfortunately due to the Greensborough pressure and the strong wind we were not able to capitalise with goals. Down the backline Riley was intercepting the ball when Greensborough managed to get it to their end. In the second quarter, Maximus was rucking well in the middle and Jarvis was getting a lot of the ground ball. Our the backline including Rhys, Caleb and Josh were under immense pressure. It was great to see Seb taking a mark on the goal line in defense stopping a certain goal. Greensborough made the most of the wind and ended up scoring a few goals. It was great to see the boys pushing hard into the wind, with Harry and Finley getting into the right position to intercept the ball, then kicking to Will who kicked to Henry who kicked

n the third quarter, we had the wind again, Jaxton K, Jobe and Luca were all over the ball in the middle and we ended up getting the ball forward a quite a few times. Riley and Caleb were under pressure down forward but managed to handball well to get clear, we managed to get the ball to Will who took a great overhead mark and then kick our second goal.

In the final quarter, we were again going against the wind which meant that there was a lot of pressure on Jaxton K, Luca, Josh, Seb and Lucas in the backline. Jaxon T, Luke and Harry still managed to get their hands on the ball and kick forward, however, the ball almost stopped mid air due to the wind.

Our game medal went to Jaxon T and Lachlan who both played great games and contributed to the overall team effort. Our game vouchers went to Maximus and Josh who also played well. Well done

Overall, it was another competitive game played out is challenging conditions, it was great to see the boys pushing hard right to the end. Keep up the good work boys. Go Panthers! Cheers Frank, Sam and Brendan



U11's match reports

Under 11's Red Eltham vs Montmorency

We were up against Montmorency away from home with a very early start in sunny conditions with

Harry C our captain for the day leading the way out onto the ground playing in his 50 th game for Eltham.

The 1 st quarter Harry C was showing this was going to be his day with great run, Zac J laid a great

tackle, Jordan was showing great determination, Knox and Charlie were great down back. Owen took

a good mark. The boys played a great first quarter as a team and were fired up.

The 2 nd quarter Zach A and Billy laid some great shepherds. Daniel was back working hard. Belly was

positioning and running hard. The defence was working hard into the wind and we were looking good.

The 3 rd quarter Tiger was attacking hard, Noah got a good goal, Harry L took a great mark and Mitch

laid a great chase down tackle. The boys played a great quarter and were not looking like they were going to give up their lead.

The 4 th quarter Dayne was positioning well, Clyde was continuing to work hard, Harvey continued his good game now playing down back and picked up an award with Noah for his efforts.

The boys put together their best 4 quarter effort for the year continuing to improve as a team. It was a great win in Harry's 50 th . Congratulations Harry!

Go Panthers





Under 11's Black Eltham vs Yarrambat

A great game by two very strong Junior clubs, with Yarrambat taking home the biscuits this time in a great tussle played with high intensity and respect. Well done boys, this was a great game and whilst not victorious, you should hold your heads up as you did well. Special shout to Jude, who was simply outstanding on the day. He was everywhere and played his heart out. Also, our entire defence where superb. Led by Spencer at full back the defence of Charlie G, Hunter, Harrison, Jacob and also Cheesy was brilliant all day – well done. You absolutely prevented a few goals.

Yarrambat are a very fast team and very fit. Well drilled. We tried hard all day. Perhaps we didn't make the most of our opportunities in the first quarter and we will work on this. Our third quarter was strong and we went into the last quarter with the lead however Yarrambat ran over the top with some easy late goals with the wind. We had our

chances

We need to back ourselves in a little and take a risk. We will practise the run on after a mark or free kick and shake things up a little. Now, we can be a little one dimensional and predictable. We are also fast; we need to make more use of

Well done to the Wizard (Lucas) and Riley who were absolutely in our best. They read the ball well and you could tell then enjoyed the lack of zones as they ran on well.

Always welcome boys.

Well done everyone. Whilst not the four points we wanted and needed, we will learn from that make sure that when we play them again, we get the chocolates.

U12's match reports

Under 12's Red Eltham vs Research

Into Round 10 we went, up against top of the ladder Research.

Captains for the day were Aidan S and Jasper. Aidan S also playing his 50th game alongside Myles.

The theme for the day was belief and reinforcing the way we had been training.

We got off to a fast start with some great chains, connection and use of hands from our mids to forwards resulting in a well measured running goal through Ben G to get us off to the perfect start. Zach was also having some real presence around the ball.

We continued matching Research with our intensity at the ball and by quarter time were only seven points behind.

The second quarter turned into a battle of defences and lots of stoppages, but we were still holding our own and taking it up to our opposition. Rhys and Jed doing their best to give us first use of the ball, however we weren't getting the rewards on the scoreboard. Zach however finishing off some good team play with a good running goal from the boundary. We went into halftime 10 points behind and right in the contest.

The third quarter saw Research lift their intensity, increasing their inside 50's. Luke B and Jonah repelling many attacks with some smart positioning and composure. Unfortunately, we couldn't get the ball into out forward 50 enough to hurt the scoreboard.

By three quarter time we were still only 13 points down and reinforced that we were kicking with the wind the last quarter. We tried valiantly in the last quarter, however Research had a little more polish when executing under pressure, eventually running out winners by 22 points.

Best player awards for the day went to Luka, who read the play and positioned himself very well to enable forward 50 entities and Ben G who continues to show the way with his attack on the ball and cherishing every possession.

All in all a tremendous effort and looking at what Research had done across the season so far, we more than matched them in a lot of areas.

Some further tweaking in executing under pressure at training will hold us in very good stead for the the rest of the season.







U10/12's girls match reports

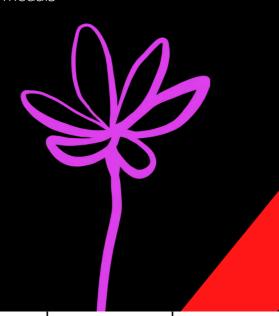
Under 10's Girls Eltham vs Mernda

The Under 10 girls versed Mernda on Sunday morning at Mernda.

Mernda was a wind tunnel on Sunday. All the girls were kicking and basically marking at their own balls that's how strong the wind was. It was freezing, but the girls left everything they had on that field. They played a ripper game and it really shows how much we've improved since that first Mernda.

JoJo received the spirit award.

Elin and Mille R. received the players of the match medals















Under 12's Girls Eltham vs Montmorency

After a tough outing against Laurimar the week before, the girls were fired up and ready to take on Montmorency. Our last outing was an even match all day but we just fell short.

As expected, the game was very even through the first quarter with both sides having moments of control. There was a strong attack which led to Charlie kicking a goal. We are seeing huge development in some of the girls as they get more comfortable with the game. Maddie and Indie were determined in defence, positioning well and chased down the opposition. Grace showed a good understanding of how to position herself to support the team. Zoe O was a stand out as she continued to tackle and win the contested

ball. Willow burst through packs and Emma was strong in the ruck. Ava kept going for the ball and showed persistence. Olivia showed her strength in positioning and attacking the ball.

We are working on various components of match play each week with the girls and we are seeing it come through with confidence in the game. On full display was kicking in, using angles to create options, bouncing on the run, playing on quickly and 1-2 handpasses. We are seeing girls back themselves to clear a stoppage and take the game on when the opportunity arises.

The team coordinated well and were unlucky with the siren sounding twice with the girls deep in attack. The team should be proud of how they are listening, positioning and working with determination. They are fierce in their attack

Zoe O was strong all day and Olive had some moments in crucial contests and were deserved recipients of the awards

The girls really are setting themselves up to finish the season strongly as they continue to develop every week. We are very much looking forward to playing under the lights at Yarrambat on Saturday night after the break.

GO PANTHERS!!

Brendan, Matt, Cam & Stu

U12/13's match reports

Under Under 12's Black Eltham vs Diamond Creek

Under 13's Red Eltham vs Wallan

Round 10 saw our Under 12 Eltham Black team traveling the short distance up the road to take on Diamond Creek. Our captains for the game were Yorke, who has continued to take his game to a new level each week, and one of our most consistent performers in Bryce. The message this week was for the boys to continue to focus on our physicality, work rate and effort at the contest, along with fundamental skills of marking and hitting targets by foot.

With a shake-up in our positions for the start of the game, Bryce led from the front with his effort in the ruck, ably assisted by Seb, Hendrix and Ben when the ball hit the ground. Unfortunately, the wide, open expanses of the Coventry Oval played to the strengths of Diamond Creek who generated multiple and repeated inside 50's. Led by Harley yet again, the likes of Tom, Blake and Balin worked hard to limit their opportunities and in turn their scoreboard impact. When we did get the ball moving forwards Yorke, Jacko and Dane provided the contest we required but unfortunately we were just not able to impact the scoreboard.

The second and third quarters proved to be relatively even across the ground but again it was Diamond Creek who were able to make the most of their forward thrusts. It was great to see the continued improvement of Sticks and Seb across the middle of the ground, tackling and chasing hard, along with JP who showed the run and attack on the ball that we have become accustomed to over the past 18 months. Hendrix, Tom and Harley worked well together in the last quarter to generate some forward momentum out of the middle and their attack on the ball and contest was yet again pleasing for the coaching staff and supporters to see.

Whilst the scoreboard favored Diamond Creek at the end of the game by 39 pts, as coaches we could not have been happier with the continued endeavor of the boys and their attack on each and every contest.

With 4 rounds left to go in the season, the focus will continue to be on the boys ongoing improvement – both from an individual skill set perspective as well as game awareness. With a few weeks break now before our next game against ladder leaders Yarrambat, we have challenged the boys to make sure they have a ball in their hand each day across the holidays and look forward to seeing them all at training next week.

Thanks as well to the parent group for their help and support again on match day – especially Leanne, Mel and Joel who stepped up in the absence of Mark, Brad and Lane.

Enjoy the break and we look forward to seeing you in a few weeks time.

On a cold and windy 10 degree day at EHS we were set to play 3rd place Wallan. No complaints though, it would've been 6 degrees colder at Wallan.

We set up with a defensive mindset to man-up and play tight. It's an improvement area for us as we've been able to hold off top sides for quite a few quarters lately.

Captain Paolo won the toss and kicked south with a nice breeze. Started quite well as we picked up a few U12 guns to help us with numbers.

A kid named Balin Fitzpatrick wanted to play midfield; I worked out why in about 2 minutes. Their best player, number 1 was double his height and decided to man up on Badin who was tearing Wallen apart.

We also had Aiden and Luke adding run off the half back, you beauty, plus Hendrix, half a chance here.

Evan was winning the tap, our mids were clearing it out. We competed in contest after contest in all areas of the ground. A real team effort.

When Myles kicked 2 in the third, we had our heads in front for the second week in a row. Unfortunately we were run over again.

Considering that they played 22 players to our 18, which included five U12s, we did bloody well.

Really proud of our boys once again.



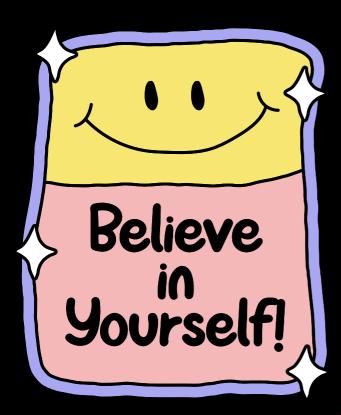


Russ and Matt'

U14's match reports

Under 14's Red

Under 14's Black Eltham vs Mernda



This week we played Mernda at central, for the second game in a row we had a full team of 18. Luckily we had the u13's playing before us and we're able to get Tom to sneak in for his second game for the day and he wasted no time getting himself involved up forward kicking a brilliant goal on his left foot, well done Tom and thanks for helping us out.

The focus of the day was to play our style of football and stick to it which may have been tricky against an opponent who wasn't quite at our level, much to the boys credit they did exactly that which resulted in a very open high scoring game which Mernda found difficult to stop.

One of the big highlights of the game was a goal from Rory who gathered the ball in the backline steadied to hit a target then followed up the play running though the middle to receive a handball and run inside 50 then slot a goal, massive effort mate we'll done!

Overall another very impressive team effort, we'll done boys.

Go panthers Ryan ,Vic and Ange.



U14/16's girls match reports

Under 14's Girls Eltham vs Epping

First home game for a while and our first time playing at Eltham High School. The girls were upbeat after coming close against the top side last weekend and were clear pregame that despite coming up against Epping who haven't won a game they were going to be switched on again from the start. Captains Kylah and Chloe won the toss giving us the breeze in quarter one and the team took full advantage scoring 6 goals. The girls went on with it in the second scoring 4 goals into the wind. They repeated the dose in quarters 3 and 4 with another ten goals leading to easily our highest score for the season. Pleasingly the goals were spread across nine individual players with five girls scoring multiples. Highlights included a beautiful roving snap from Charlotte B who's been playing up forward the past few weeks and got reward for multiple weeks' effort. Mae and Amy scored their first goals for the season while Addi and Charlotte M snagged 4 each. Tilly, Sadie, Abi, Charli also hit the scoreboard. Chloe was unlucky to miss a goal after having a drop kick disallowed and her game overall was great. Terrific contributions as well from Karah at centre half back and centre half forward. Eliza U was great again off half back. Addi won the ball wherever she was positioned with excellent reading of the play and Portia took on a full back role and won the position well. Gabby backed up her ruck effort last week with another dominant performance. Our girls are starting to read her excellent taps which are getting into space and opening up contests. A week off will be welcomed before we commence the serious run into finals.

Under 16's Girls





U15's match reports

Under 15's Red Eltham vs Mernda

Under 15's Black

Two of our true panther stars played their

100th games on Sunday against Mernda at Eltham High School Liam and Jack.

A home game with lots of family and friends for support.

Whilst we didn't take home the points the boys played with determination, pride and true leadership.

Well done boys on a fantastic milestone.









U16's match reports

Under 16's Red Eltham vs Kilmore

Everyone loves a road trip...except when it's to Kilmore at 3.15pm on a Sunday... and its raining.

When the floodlights came on halfway through the first quarter, it was clear that this was not your normal Sunday afternoon matchup.

Both sides would have been looking forward to this clash in their calendars. Having both endured tough seasons, it was an opportunity to get that much desired victory that was the carrot.

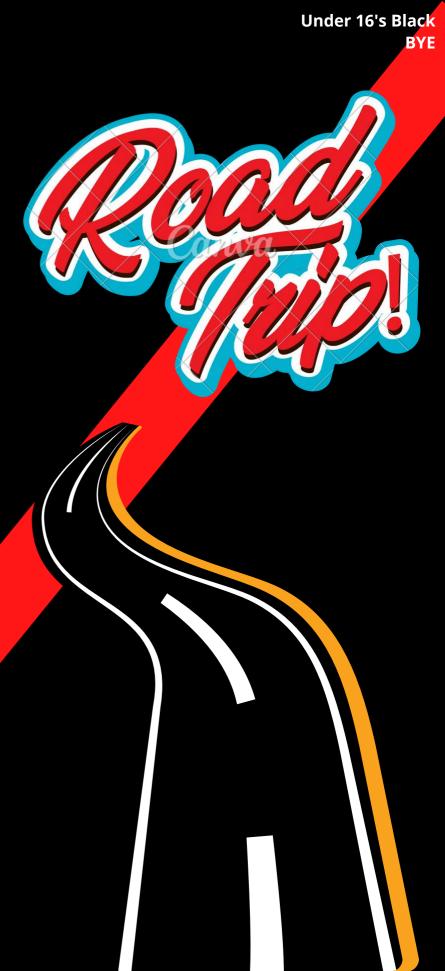
After some positive pre-game reflections and a joke or two thrown in, the players started the match in great fashion. Although we hadn't got forward of centre a whole lot, our defence was holding strong and our opponents queried whether we were playing some 'smokies' in our squad, given Eltham Black had the bye. Unfortunately, our team was hit with some injuries at crucial times throughout the match, which took the wind out of our sails. Injuries to our prime movers through the middle of the ground, gave Kilmore the opening they needed and they put enough scoreboard pressure on during the middle quarters to squash any hope we had of turning things around.

At three quarter time, the players were directed to lift their heads, show us their true character and stand for something, because life will have its way with you if you go meekly into the night. Under the circumstances of the day, it was a proud response from our boys that they fought their way back and won the final quarter, staving off an inevitable mercy rule finish.

Xavier S, in just his 2 nd game, played one of the finest games you could possibly imagine, dominating in the ruck, collecting possessions at each end of the ground, and kicking 2 goals. A bright future awaits.

Lucas R did everything in his power to keep our injury hit midfield ticking along, and showed great leadership. Ethan A was really aggressive down back and took a great pack mark which set the early tone. Lachy S was assured by foot and continues to find ways to have an impact. Aussie N & Diver N were great in their one on ones around the wings and flanks, and should be pleased with their performances.

We wish Sammy H & D all the best in their recoveries. We ask our players to be physical and put their bodies on the line without fear, and to their absolute credit, they do so each and every week regardless of the outcome. See you all after the break. Simon, Jason, Brendan, Gary & Clint.



U17's and U18's girls match reports

Under 17's





Under 18's Girls Eltham vs Whittlesea

"Anywhere, anytime" are the words of Alistair Clarkson, but he never travelled to Whittlesea at 8am on a 6 degree Sunday morning. The Eltham girls embraced Clarko's philosophy; out on the track early, warming up, setting themselves for a win that's been coming for a while now. We won the toss and we kicked with a handy breeze, and we hit the scoreboard, three goals in opening qtr. and a 20 point lead. It started out of the middle, Cass & Days, Jess winning the ruck contests, our smalls doing the clearance work and BANG! it was in our forward line. On the rare occasion Whittlesea did go forward our defence was tight, stopping the charge and rebounding. But how influential was the breeze and what could Whittlesea do with it? We were about to find out. The second qtr. was tough, Whittlesea had plenty of it and they made our defenders work hard, but we were up for the challenge and we kept them scoreless for the qtr. At the other end we managed to sneak a valuable goal against the breeze increasing our lead. The girls were buzzing at the major break, for the first time this season we were well in front at half time, with players on the bench and the game was ours if we wanted it.

A strong 3 rd qtr. would set up a win, and whilst we did play well and dominated play we only advanced our lead by a further goal, leaving the door open if Whittlesea's were good enough.

The final qtr. was similar to the second, although we had more of the ball in our half, the result of our girls work rate and hardness. We had our chances to kick goals, and whilst Whittlesea did sneak their first goal with 90 seconds to play, the win was deservedly ours. Every player played their role today and it may be a cliché, but it wins football matches. Special call out to Itzy who shut down Whittlesea's most dangerous player, Itz kept her goalless after she kicked 4 against us earlier in the season. Also a call out to Jess playing her first game back since Rnd 1 due to injury, we've been eagerly awaiting your return and you killed them today. Congrats girls, great win, so happy for all of you! Onwards & Upwards - Craig, Dave, Alannah & Jane.

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