

SEASON 2023 - ROUND 8

PANTHER CUBS NEWS

Official newsletter of Eltham Junior Football Club



Winter



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PRESIDENTS REPORT

by Jodi Mitchell

Hello Members,

This week we saw the closure of our Susan Street oval not only for training but for games. It was certainly disappointing, however with the support of the council and the NFNL it was great to get Eltham High School up and running for game day. A big thankyou to Richie Bell, Trudi Smith, Ryan Williams, Michael Johnstone and Luke Sharpe for their support in making this seamless move happen. Please note that Susan Street will remain closed until further notice and we will advise what is happening for games in round 9 after the long weekend.

In my report last week, I spoke about investing back into our players with our self-development courses and the importance of doing this. Another part of our club is also supporting other charitable organisations that align with our values and club focus. I am proud to announce that our recent ladies' lunch with the EFC raised \$3,000 that will be donated to BCNA on behalf of both clubs. A great achievement by our Panther ladies and thank you to all the junior mums that attended! On Sunday night at our Family night, we also presented a giant cheque for \$1,250 to Glen Ferrarotto, President of the Eltham Monty RSL. The money was raised from our recent ANZAC Gunfire breakfast. We are so lucky to be surrounded by great members that donate generously not only to our club but to other organisations that are doing amazing work for people in our community. Thank you to BCNA and Eltham Monty RSL for your ongoing partnerships with the EJFC.

Thank you to Fiona and Katie from our Social Committee who again hosted another fantastic Panther family night. Was great to see so many new and regular faces down the club having fun! Thank you to those U12 and 13 families that pitched in to cook us all dinner.

A reminder there are still some sportsman's night tickets available, it is set to be a fantastic night on Friday 16th June. Tickets can be purchased online on our website in the merchandise store. Don't miss out and grab a ticket today! Enjoy the break this weekend for the long weekend and Go Panthers for round 9!

Kind regards,
Jodi Mitchell
EJFC President



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 free

family dinners - ALL WELCOME

next one - Sun 30th July from 5.30pm



Start thinking about your costumes



**Other Grown up events
book a babysitter now!**

Fri 16th June Sports Night

Sat 22nd July - 80's night

All Abilities match report

We came up against Mazenod at the high school. We had 12 players, Mazenod came with 26... They gave us six players to even up the contest but again we were playing a side with experience, mature players, and we really struggled to match it with them but after the mercy rule was activated our boys were able to enjoy some attacking football. We were very good once we had the ball in our hand, but when we had to play defensive we struggled a bit... Often we were drawn to the play, leaving free players free in the midfield.

Lachie was instrumental in the first half and he saved many goals on the last line of defence.

Jace was also fantastic linking up with Marius and Angus through the midfield. Angus, who usually plays forward had a go in the ruck and dominated giving us first use. Jamie was able to kick his first goal with us. Rylan also got a goal and celebrated as he does which brings everybody a lot of joy.

The game was played in good spirit, and everybody had a moment or 2 to put into practice the skills they have been working on at training

EJFC SPORTSMAN NIGHT

TICKETS NOW
ON SALE!!

SPECIAL GUESTS:
BRENDAN FEVOLA
GLEN ARHCER

FRIDAY 16TH JUNE @ 7PM
\$120 TICKETS

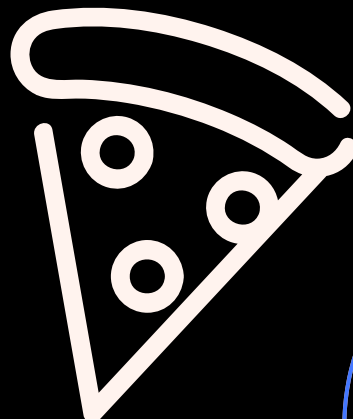
- UNLIMITED BEER, WINE & SOFT DRINKS
- BUFFET DINNER 'FRANCO & CO'
- LIVE AUCTION
- LIMITED TO 100 TICKETS



*This event is suitable for 18 years and over.



Less than 2 weeks to go!
last chance to book

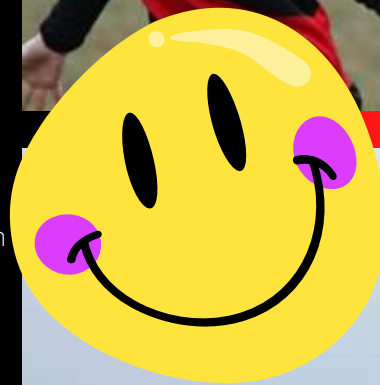


elthamjfc.com.au/product/ejfc-sportsmans-night-2023/

U9's match reports

Under 9 Red Eltham vs West Preston

Round 8 brought out our best team performance this year. We faced up against a formidable force in West Preston and our little champions did not take one step back! The coach's messaging was simple but effective, behaviour and effort everything else falls into line after that. Big Max M was the captain for the day and stood tall all day, leading by example with general play but more importantly four quarters of effort. Leo D and Zac W combined well through the midfield along with Josh O who showed some great strength over the ball. Mason P continues to improve and is really becoming a dominant player in the competition, he will be a player to watch. Both Cooper K and Jude W came into the game with soreness, visibly limping in the warm-up, however, these two superheroes' showed great courage to play the game out and both had terrific games. Josh B and Brax L were magnificent in our back line. Josh B reads the flight of the ball beautifully and would find himself at the back of pack with plenty of time to deliver to one of our boys. Brax L consistently played on an opponent bigger than him but that didn't deter him, he would tackle, chase, and inhibit his opponent for the entire game. Tyler R was his silky self this week, settling best in the backline and using his elite skills to bring teammates into the game. General play was very much a seesaw battle, the ever-reliable Marcus P and Thomas S would swing it in our direction whenever they had the opportunity. Heading into the last quarter, Charlie N, who had been brilliant hurt is finger. Again, Charlie N, like Cooper K and Jude W, showed really courage to continue his good game by taking some telling marks down back. With the last quarter front of mind, Hudson T had his best game for the year with some great marking and tackling. One coach announced that Hudson T has just stopped 11 goals this quarter alone. With that, Hudson was awarded the Eltham spirit award. Being a coach's son is probably the hardest situation for a player in junior footy. A player really has to bide their time before they get rewarded, and Archie L has done that. Each week this legend plays his heart out and this week was no different. Archie L kicked our first goal, and it inspired his teammates into action. Not forgetting his genal play and positioning throughout the day. So, it was fitting that West Preston awarded Archie L with their player of the day medal. To say the three coaches were super proud of their team would be an understated. They played their hearts out and enjoyed every moment. We are looking forward to our next game where we will continually improve our footy, behaviour, effort which equals FUN!



Under 9 White
BYE

U9's match reports

Thank-you to all the parents who put their hand up to help our kids play this game!



Under 9 Grey Eltham vs Greensborough

Sunday saw the mighty Greys take on Greensborough black at a Greensborough

We were down 3 players for the day so it would require the boys to run out the full four quarters.

Some goals for this match were to keep the pressure up to the opposition with man on man play, fierce tackling and constant run.

Joint captains for the day were Charlie W and Massimo.

The boys started the game in great style with lots of possessions allowing free entry into a forward line.

The 2nd quarter saw Greensborough fight back and provide a really good challenge. As per previous weeks the boys stuck to their guns and the game was a very even affair.

The 2nd half was very similar but the are boys were reminded of what we wanted to achieve and responded well.

We had some great performances throughout the day – Liam, Coen and Ari were fantastic up forward providing great positioning and converting effort into goals.

Cooper, Charlie B and Aaron were fierce in their contests with the head always over the ball pushing forward.

Toby P, Taylor, Massimo, Trenton and Charlie W were very well balanced in the defence, gathering the ball and launching it into our mids.

Toby H and Max G were fantastical all day with great contested contests picking up all loose ball gets and constantly pushing into the forward line.

Jack and Sam lead by example with their constant pressure on the opposition, fierce tackling and in an under at every single contest. They very much deserved joint recipients of the Panther award.

Max G was awarded the medal by Greensborough for his fantastic play.

Yet again the boys followed a few simple rules that we are trying to stick to in each and every game.

We sang the song loud and proud and the boys had a ball!!!!

Luke G

Under 9 Black Eltham vs Diamond Creek

They say a week is long time in footy – well it was for the Under 9 Black team. What a turnaround! It was near perfect conditions for our game against Diamond Creek Devils. Connor was our captain and took up his role with energy and pride. It was a tight tussle early on with both teams attacking the ball. To our credit we dug in with some great defensive efforts from Liam, Lachlan and Seb. Henry was lively up forward and fired a short pass to Oscar. He then went back and unselfishly passed the ball to Josh A, who capitalised. We were on the board and the momentum was finally with us. We then controlled the quarter with great efforts from Josh J, Alexander and Harry.

The second quarter was owned by Jeremy up forward. Lachlan and Liam were combining well in the midfield which allowed Jeremy to kick two goals. He could have had five had he kicked straight! He was everywhere and ably helped by Riley and Rory. Kingston also looked dangerous while Jarrod was controlling the ruck dual.

The third quarter saw Liam and Lachlan combine for three goals. The midfield led by Jarrod (who took a courageous mark) and Jedd moved the ball effortlessly with handballs and hard running. Lachlan and Liam were unstoppable with three goals between them and a few near misses. Josh J chipped in with one of the goals of the year and we were up and about. The crowd was cheering for more as the siren sounded to end the quarter.

The last quarter started with Harry, Kingston and Henry placing pressure on the opposition which resulted in turnovers. Josh A chipped in with a nice tackle then quick shot on goal that just missed. It was a real team effort and our best game thus far. Everyone was running to space and sharing the ball around. Jeremy was rewarded for his great game by receiving the medal from Diamond Creek while Lachlan and Jarrod were given our players of the match for their tackling and effort. Riley and Josh J received awards for their determination and near say die attitude.



U10's match reports

Under 10's Red

AWESOME!



Under 10's Black Eltham v's Diamond Creek

This week we played a strong Diamond Creek team for the second time in a few weeks. The boys were led on to the field by our Captains Josh and Jarvis who both played great games of footy getting a lot of the ball around the ground. In the first quarter, the midfield boys were working hard to clear the ball, Maximus was rucking well getting the ball to Lucas and Riley who cleared the ball numerous times. Oliver E, Finley and Luke were getting to the front position and out marking their opponents which enabled us to move the ball forward. In the forward line Caleb and Sidney were tackling well and getting the ball to Jarvis and Jaxton K who were always running forward with the ball. In the backline, Rhys, Jobe and Henry were reliably stopping the opposition advances. It was such a close contest with the ball moving to both ends with neither team managing to kick a goal. In the second quarter, Henry, Jaxton T and Rhys were controlling a lot of the play in the middle, with Jobe marking well and kicking the ball forward. The forward line was on fire running around finding space, on one occasion Finley managed to kick to Lucas who kicked our first goal. In the next passage of play, the ball was cleared and kicked to Maximus who took a strong mark and then kicked our second goal. The backline boys were strong with Lachlan marking right on the goal line to save a certain goal. Henry, Jarvis and Jaxton T were all manning up and marking well in defense.

The third quarter, the tight contest continued with DC moving the ball forward a lot of times which kept our backs Oliver E, Finley and Lucas busy, they still managed to intercept numerous advances. In the Middle Lachlan and Tyler were playing well getting into the contests ensuring that the opposition didn't win the ball. The tackling from Rhys, Jarvis and Riley was fantastic. A highlight was when Finley took a mark in middle and then kicked to Jaxton T who then kicked long to score our third goal. In the final quarter, the DC team ramped up their effort, this kept our backline boys Will, Oliver C, Josh and Jobe and our midfield very busy and under intense pressure. The forwards Tyler, Harry, Sidney and Luke still managed to get their hands on the ball by moving around and finding space on such a small ground. Our game medal went to Lucas for playing a ripper game across all of the ground, he was on fire in the midfield clearing the ball, down the backline he was intercepting the ball a lot of times and he managed to kick a goal down the forward line. Our game voucher went to Rhys for his continuous efforts going after the ball, tackling well and moving the ball to his team mates. The opposition awarded Maximus their medal for his great work in the ruck, tackling and overhead marking. Well done boys! Overall, the game was a close and even contest, we really pushed the DC team compared to when we played them last time, it was great to see our boys managing to get in front of this strong opposition and pushing hard right to the end. Our teamwork improvement is fantastic and it was even commented by the DC Coach at the end of the game. Keep up the good work boys.

Go Panthers! Cheers Frank, Sam and Brendan

U11's match reports

Under 11's Red Eltham vs Greensborough

Greensborough hosted the U/11 red boys for an early morning game at Anthony Beale Reserve. After two recent losses the key focus for our boys today was contested footy. We spoke at length about getting numbers to the contest, first hands on the ball and protecting your teammate. Defensive acts such as tackling, spoils and smothers were also strongly encouraged. Led by our captains Isaac and Dan we started well in the first quarter, attacking the ball with the intensity that had been missing in recent weeks. Jordan was contesting in the ruck and tackling hard, Billy was skillful below his knees, Cooper attacked the ball in the air, Harvey read the play beautifully and Zach's second efforts were impressive. The boys continued to work hard and press in the second quarter, but couldn't quite convert this into any scoreboard pressure. Mason started to dominate in the ruck, Dan was tackling and smothering, Charlie was rewarded for some great leads, Knox was excellent by foot and Tiger showed everyone what second, third and fourth efforts looks like. Going into half time we were 11 points down but there was a real belief amongst the group that by continuing to work hard together, they could win this game. Things started to turn our way in the third quarter, with our newly found contested style of play stacking up well. Clyde repelled Greensborough's attacks, Harry Lord saved a goal with an amazing spoil, Noah laid some strong tackles, Matt found plenty of the ball in space and Tom O.L attacked both the ball and opposition ferociously. The boys were fired up at three quarter time and headed onto the field full of confidence that they could overrun Greensborough. Mitch marked everything in the last, Dayne was dangerous up forward, Harry C kicked the ball long inside 50, Isaac used his pace to advantage and Zac dominated in the air. The boys got home by 8 points in a memorable win. Overall, the coaches and parents are extremely proud of our group of young men. After working their way up to blue division, they have responded to the challenge and produced their best game of football to date.



Under 11's Black Eltham vs Yarrambat

A good reminder and perhaps a wake-up call for the Blacks, as we endured our first loss for the season. Yarrambat are a strong, well drilled team and we gave them a 3-goal head start from the first quarter and couldn't catch it up. They outtackled us, out talked us, and strategically played better than us.

Our first quarter was not our best. We forgot to man up, didn't chase nor tackle and had one shepherd for the quarter. The efforts, or lack thereof, are easy to observe and the scoreboard shows this. We had to remind ourselves of the efforts that are required to win a game of footy against quality opposition and our second quarter was significantly stronger. Jude again, was desperate at the footy, ably supported with Noah, Charlie and Felix. Hunter was having a crack and Harrison was showing us that he can be quite the defence. Well done Harrison, very strong. We lost our way a little in the 3rd quarter and whilst we had all the ball in our forward, we couldn't convert as we clogged it up. It is crucial we remember our positions and play accordingly. We can't chase kicks.

Yarrambat scored two goals in the last 30 seconds of two quarters, and we had two pointers. Had these gone the other way, we would have been successful however this is football. We were outplayed however and have work to do.

Sports is a great life lesson. You get disappointed as we all like to be successful, therefore win – however you learn from your losses and improve rather than dwell which I am confident did..

A great game played by Max who had special someone to play for. Your team, club and mates have your back. We wish you and your family well. We support each other in this club.



U12's match reports

Under 12's Red Eltham vs Epping

This week we faced Epping at Eltham High, which provided a much drier surface compared to Susan St the week previous and a glorious sunny day. This week as the milestones come thick and fast this year, it was Paddy Davies turn playing his 50th game for the mighty Panthers. The boys got around and formed a guard of honor as Paddy ran through the banner to lead us onto the ground. Our Captains for the day were James and Luke who won the coin toss and eagerly choose to kick to the change room end.

The boys were on from the start of the game today and fort hard to keep the ball at our scoring end with Jed kicking the only goal of the 1st quarter despite our dominance. Rhys was winning the ruck over his taller opponent giving our midfielders first use of the ball. The mid's clearance work this week was great to watch moving the ball swiftly to give our forwards great opportunity to score.

The Coaches were extremely proud seeing the boys deliver on the things we have been working on at training. Taking the contact and keeping arms free when being tackled and getting the handball off and shepherding and blocking the opposition to allow our players clear access to pick the ball up and advance it forward.

The 2nd quarter the boys capitalized on their hard work and the goals started flowing with 4 for the quarter. Goals to Benny G, Aidan S, Hayden and Riley and we were on the march and a result of the efforts of denying Epping the ball up the ground. The boys all got around and celebrated some 1st goalkickers for the season which was pleasing. The Epping crowd were a bit vocal and restless at our domination by half time. We asked the boys to focus and keep playing the ball as they had done all day and they delivered in spades. Aidan S kicked his 2nd for the day in the 3rd quarter and it was clear the boys wanted to bring the victory home.

We entered the final quarter and Ryder, James Eva and James Hegarty kicking goals to seal the win. The back line was solid all day not letting Epping score and repelling any Epping attacks forward and rebounding the ball straight out of defense. Great all round team performance and effort by all. Players of the day were Riley Drysdale-Hall and Reid Lewis who worked tirelessly all day and consistently followed the instructions. The boys sang the song loud and proud. Enjoy the week off boys and keep getting out for a kick and handling the footy.

Keith, Rich and Nathan

Under 12's Black Eltham vs Montmorency

"On what was a great day for football, Eltham Black travelled to Montmorency for our game against their Under 12's team. With Mitchell and Jake leading from the front as captains for the day, the team was tasked with continuing to focus on our physicality, work rate and contested ball work.

From the first siren the intensity and physicality were more than apparent. Despite playing against some sizable opponents in the middle of the ground, it was the likes of Seb, Ben, Joe and Yorke who tried hard to generate some forward momentum from the stoppages. However, the Montmorency midfield were also determined and our backline, once again lead by Johnno and ably supported by Tom, Blake and Ethan, worked hard to repel their repeat inside 50's. When we did get the ball forward Jake yet again provided an excellent target and impact on the scoreboard.

As the game progressed, the backline continued to do its best to keep Montmorency at bay. With Big Nugget taking on the role of defensive stopper we were able to limit their scoring and generate some excellent forward momentum led by the run and kicking of Ben. When Johnno hit the scoreboard late in the 2nd term, we had closed the margin to 10 points and were well and truly in the contest.

Kicking to the scoring end of the ground, Montmorency pressed hard in the 3rd quarter. Again, despite playing against physically bigger opponents, Tom, Darcy, Blake and Nugget worked well in minimizing their scoreboard impact. With the intensity and physicality being raised to another level, we were proud to see our boys as a group raise their effort and teamwork accordingly. Playing on a very heavy ground for the second week in a row started to take a toll and despite Speedy's dominance in the ruck we were unable to capitalize and create some scoreboard pressure when needed. Whilst the scoreboard favored Montmorency at the end of the game by 32 pts, it belied the closeness of the contest.

The boys continue to listen during the week and in turn are trying to implement the tactical and structural changes that are asked of them. Montmorency were an impressive and physical team so the willingness and determination to maintain our attack at the contest throughout the game and not back down in the face of this challenge was impressive.

As we head into the long weekend and a few weeks break we will get a chance to rest up some tired and sore bodies, as well as continue to work on some of our basic marking, kicking and groundwork skills that need to remain a focus for our team as we head into the back half of the season.

From 2 very proud coaches – thank you.

Russ and Matt"



U10/12's girls match reports

Under 10's Girls



Under 12's Girls

Eltham vs Diamond Creek

With Susan St closed, the girls were happy to be able to play on Eltham High Oval for the first time. We were provided with a nice dry deck that allowed the girls to use their skills and speed.

Coaches and players were all extremely excited to celebrate Willow's 50th game. With the girl's competition still relatively new, to achieve 50 games in U12's has been a great achievement. And in the way that Willow approaches the game, we hope she continues on to 100 and beyond.

Having lost to Diamond Creek in our previous outing, the girls were keen to show the improvement and progression they have made in their game. As a coaching group, we also looked to try a few different strategies in how we structure the team on the field and what we ask players to do.

Daisy was given a good run in the ruck and she was dominant in the air and on the ground. Strong attack on the ball from Charlie, Willow, Ruby, Olivia and Imogen provided some real dominance around the contest and an ability to move the ball to the outside.

A core focus was for the wings to own their space and not be drawn to the ball with their opponents. And that they did, all day long. Jess, Teia and Charlie all had major impact on the game playing the wing and setting up "the wall". Hearts were in our mouths as Olivia M found herself in space and having a shot on goal. It wasn't to be but her efforts learning the game are admirable.

As the game rolled out, we found ourselves 3 goals to none at half time and playing well. The penny clearly dropped for a lot of the girls and as promised for several weeks, the reward for effort did come. Overall the girls managed at least 1 goal in every quarter, which was a great achievement in itself and ran out winners 5.6-36 to 0.1-1.

As per normal, the girls finished the game with a smile on their face and again got to sing the song with pride. Charlotte and Asher had very strong games and were deserved recipients of the awards for the day.

The girls really are setting themselves up to shake up the competition as they continue to develop every week.

GO PANTHERS!!

Brendan, Matt, Cam & Stu

Congratulations

U13's match reports

Under 13's Red Eltham vs Whittlesea

Great to be back at Eltham Central for a home game against Whittlesea. With almost a full compliment of players we were able to lay some plans to make it difficult for one of the top teams.

The focus of the day was to man-up, play tight and fast break. Our boys followed the plan beautifully and kept them down apart from one small #2 who kicked a couple.

We matched up with the #2 and their #32 who looked the most pesky. Koby annoyed the #2 beautifully and Sam Cook followed #32 but had plenty of his own ball too.

Both of our boys played a smart game along with many others. Baxter played his 50th, well done. Also Koby and Sonny captains tried all day.

Judd almost snagged a goal and tried to set up another. Great game. Harry and Tex were solid aswell.

Evan, Jimmy and Paolo were playing at another level. A real show of confidence.

We had so many on today but managed to leak a few late.

Great effort team!



Under 13's Black Eltham vs Montmorency

Best shepherds: Xavier, Luca,

Best tackling: Joey, Jacko, Ollie, Kobi, Eden, Patrick

Best run and carry: Ash, Riley, Darcy

Best handball to the 3m: Oscar,

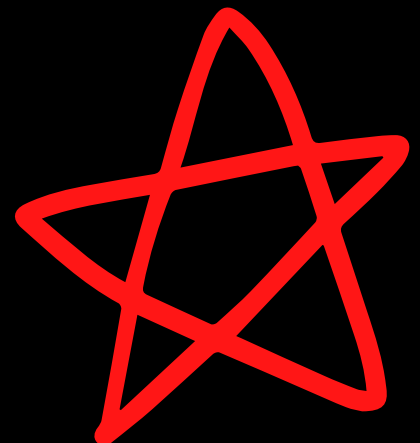
Best leading to space on the 45 - Xavier, Tom C.

Best kicking to the 45 - Joey, Giacomo, Brooksy, Max, Jacko, Ollie, Kobi.

Goalkickers: Jaxsen, Cash, Jay, Luca, Angus

Best Players: Jacko, Jaxsen, Tom R, Xavier, Ash, Darcy, Joey, Riley, Liam B.

A big hearted effort. Best game for 2023 together. Getting stronger at the ball every week and kicking to our team plan. We look forward to playing our next game against Mernda at Central after the Kings Birthday break. 3,2,1 Panthers.



U14/16's girls match reports

Under 14's Girls Eltham vs Darebin

U14 girls travelled to Preston to take on the Darebin Women's team on another boggy surface (at least it was open for business). A cool morning greeted us but by the fourth quarter, we were bathed in sunshine. It was a sunshiney day for the Panthers as we recorded our fourth win on the trot prevailing by 10 points. We had a number of girls out again through illness but that wasn't enough to weaken the resolve. A strong start saw us up 2 goals to one at quarter time with Addi scoring one on the run and Sadie sending a long set shot through. We held a 3 point lead at half time and by 3 qtr time we'd stretched the lead to 10 points with a great set shot from Maya B. Despite Darebin scoring an early goal in the last we held strong with a sealer coming from Charlotte M in the last few minutes. It was a strong show of belief again from the Panther girls with the ball spending long periods in our forward line throughout the day. We were tough in defence and particularly on the half-back line repelling any of their advances. While the list of good players was long we got great service from runners Addi and Ash across the middle and half back as well as a terrific all day effort from Paige B who swung from back to wing to forward throughout the day. Top marks for the performance of Kenadee W who was asked to ruck all day given we had a few tall players out. She worked tirelessly and was still winning taps to advantage late in the game. We get a well-deserved rest for the long weekend before getting a crack at top side Whittlesea after the break. Bring it on.



Under 16's Girls Eltham vs Wallan



U15's match reports

Under 15's Red Eltham vs Greensborough

Just another beautiful day for footy. In what some would say impossible to win, this game would prove to be our most challenging yet. With some notable absentees, Oli (sick); Jack (MMA) the boys welcomed in Masyn Lee, first gamer for the year. The first quarter turned out to be a real slugfest with both teams producing good numbers for inside forward entries having 5 for us to there 7. James being the first to bag a goal in front. With some excellent rebound by both Lucas'. Some fierce tackling from Diesel gave the boys a sniff at Qtr time. Trailing only by 9points. Coach Chris pointed out that our opposition didn't like the pressure. To our advantage that hard work was paying dividends as Greensborough started fumbling & notably rushed their kicks too much, getting us back in the game. Jacob, Noah & Cooper E holding the backline together and providing support for Jake, Xavier & Matty our talls created more opportunity. With much needed pace from Liam & Rhaine. Our spread from the wings was at times breath-taking and tackling fantastic to watch. The boys finishing the 2 nd Qtr only 3points down. At halftime Coach Chris again had full praise for the boys as the fighting spirit showed through. It was time to take the game to a new level.

In the 3 rd Qtr our boys took some risks some worked, others didn't. But the effort and aptitude were showing. With some smart short kicks coming out of the backline, followed by using the centre corridor. With some crafty work from Fin & Alex, the boys produced one of the most exciting quarters of footy to date. With the lead changing several times, the boys finished the qtr, 6points up. What more could Coach Chris ask for? With the start of the final qtr. Saw Greensy kick away with a good lead, only for us to come back again and narrow it down. The effort shown by the boys clearly tells we can match it with any team in the competition. Sadly, the boys lost by 1 point. But Coach Chris was extremely proud of all the boys. And as a simple reminder, the boys lost to Greensy by 10 goals the previous season. It just goes to show how much our boys really have improved. A very special mention to Mr FIX IT, Matty Tyrrell for producing one of the best games of the season. And our first gamer Masyn Lee kicking 3 goals.

WELL, DONE BOYS

Written by Simon on behalf of Chris, Scotty, Dave, Sharon & Ed



Post game feed and debrief



Under 15's Black

U16's match reports

Under 16's Red Eltham vs South Morang

We have been fighting the tide of numbers for quite a few weeks now as we valiantly hold the line waiting for some of our teammates to recover from injury and illness. Today we entered the field of battle with only 17 players, 3 of which played the night before for Eltham Black under lights. It is an extremely tough ask to demand too much of our boys when they don't have the luxury of a bench to rotate through.

So, in light of that, the team did pretty well to remain competitive right to the final siren. We didn't rely on the mercy rule to fuel our scoring today, with our scoring chains coming mostly from general play. It was particularly pleasing that we were only outscored by 3 goals after half time when most of the boys could have easily used tired legs as an excuse.

It was a momentous occasion for our vice-captain, Josh W, whom played his 100 th game today. Having started way back in 2015, this quiet unassuming young man got a bit of 'me time' today and deservedly so. He is a very team orientated player and an absolute pleasure to coach. Never complains, never turns his toes up. It is great to see him becoming a more well-rounded player, balancing his inside and outside game much better. A second effort run through the middle of the ground was an example of his footy maturity, and shows his desire to stay involved in games for longer. Our captain, Cotts, played his best game of the year in defence, taking each contest on its merits and never shirking the one-on-one battles. You would hate to play on him, because he makes you earn every single possession. Calais & Olly N also held up well against the tide and can be very happy with their efforts. As a defender, it's not about how good you look, it's about how desperate you are. I think we are lucky to have a bunch of defenders who have a bit of pride in themselves and their performance. Joel B kicked another 3 goals today, with some round the corner specials and some bananas for good measure. Given the limited opportunities in attack each week, he is really showing how dangerous he is in front of goal. Maybe we can employ 'Joel's paddock' in the next few weeks and see what he can do.

Joey M's tackling was a feature today and he should gain a lot of confidence from that. That needs to be his focus for the rest of the year. When talent and hard work combine, it makes for an awesome package.

Simon, Brendan, Jason, Clint & Gary.

Under 16's Black Eltham vs Yarrambat

A big crowd, Saturday night under lights, and fine conditions, the perfect chance to get redemption against Yarrambat on their home ground. After last weeks great win the boys confidence was up and we were expecting an improved showing than last time against Yarrambat. Unfortunately the boys were jumped early, 4 goals before we got our first on the board.

Despite Nates dominance in the ruck once again, we were unable to capitalise, the run and skill of their smalls was putting the boys on the back foot. A 15 point deficit was a lucky one, as the boys gained a bit of control late in the first quarter. The second quarter was a bit more even, with Luke and Aiden working hard on the wings, our half backs in Nick, Tom and Hutch repelling the ball and our forwards competing well, a 4 goal to 3 quarter our way was a bit better. The coaches saw the need for a rev up at half time. The fumbly football in the slippery conditions was putting us under immense pressure, and so cleaning this up as well as getting some centre dominance through Luca, Nick, Ollie and Ashton, our running in numbers game kick started. Eddie and Bondy shut down their damaging forwards, Max was as reliable as ever, and our forwards cashed in on repeat entries, providing scoring opportunities for Lucas,

Jack and Henry. A 5 goal to nil third quarter showed the boys character, and a 22 point lead at three quarter time should have been enough. The closeness of the top 4-5 teams in this comp means the game is never over, and Yarrambat to their credit continued to come. They kicked 5 goals to our 2 in the last, but it was our poise

and maturity in the closing 5 minutes that locked the ball in our forward line and secured a win by the barest of margins. What should be a character and confidence building win, as well as a huge learning experience, but we will need to improve on finishing off games in the second half of the season. Handy week off now to allow

everyone to get fully fit and healthy before we head north to Kilmore. A big thanks to Will, Sam and Tom from Simons team who along with a full list of our boys to choose from gave the coaches a big task rotating 6 boys off the bench, a good problem to have! Well done boys, enjoy the break and we look forward to cracking into

the last 5 games leading up to finals.

Go Panthers, Cheers, Steve, Byron, Chris, Rab and Martine.



Congrats!

U17's and U18's girls match reports

Under 17's Eltham vs Epping

It was a perfect day for football, little to no wind and a nice sunny, but crisp afternoon. Crossing the bridge, you never know what you are going to get when you arrive at Epping.

The day started well with MIA Red Vest making a rare, some would say "celebrity" appearance.

Anyway, back to the footy game. The first quarter started well for the boys as Epping could not get it past centre forward. The boys had multiple shots at goal, and it seemed that there was a magnet pulling the ball left at every shot we took. We finally scored a major, then two more before Epping struck back with two of their own. We went into the quarter time break kicking 3.10 to Epping's 2.1.

The second quarter was tight affair with both team struggling to kick goals. Both backlines were playing close to the forwards making it hard for them to break free, while the midfielders were running hard all over the oval, like baby ducks following their mum crossing a busy intersection.

In the third quarter, the coach decided to make some positional changes. With the canteen

now stocked up after the half-time break. With the smell of dim sims, chips and potato cakes being deep-fried in 3 week old oil there was a mushroom cloud hovering, that some said had looked like a nuclear explosion occurred over Epping Recreation Reserve (Main Oval). This seemed to give Epping an extra man.

Epping suddenly found their mojo and opened with a goal in the first 5 minutes of the quarter. It looked like our boys were struggling with the

pollutant smell of the deep-fried oil. A strong mark and goal from "Champs" helped the boys breathe easier and they piled on 5 goals for the quarter, to Epping's 2.

The last quarter, the coach put it to the players to kick more goals than points for the game. Whoever said 16/17-year-old boys don't listen were right. The team went on to kick 4.9 in the last quarter. Even one of the most skilled players in the team had a "Harry McKay" moment and missed from the goal square after attempting a snap when directly in front.

Thank you to all the parents who assisted on the weekend.

Enjoy the week off for the long weekend and see you all in two weeks.

Go Panthers,

Zach Merrett, Harry Sheezel, George Wardlaw and Darcy Moore.

Under 18's Girls Eltham vs Diamond Creek

On a cracking day for football we started just as we finished last week; full of effort and with a strong spirit.

We went forward early and looked threatening but just didn't have the polish to kick those elusive goals. Both

teams were strong around the contest and it was an even first qtr. Diamo had a bit of luck scoring a goal

well after the malfunctioning siren failed to sound.

Again the second qtr. effort was strong and it was a pretty even contest. The highlight of the second qtr.

was without doubt Ruby's first goal in (aussie rules) football. Ruby debuted with us this season after a

number of seasons of soccer. It's a huge thing to take up aussie rules at this age but Ruby has embraced the

challenge and hasn't stopped smiling and laughing since she arrived. It's not all about kicking goals, but

who doesn't love a goal, well done Rubes!

We committed to throwing everything at the 3 rd qtr. and it worked. We kicked a couple of early goals and Diamo

were worried; could little old Eltham topple the giant?

We dominated the qtr. at one stage narrowing the gap to 5 points. At 3 qtr. time it was game on!

We tried hard in the last qtr. but again no bench had taken its toll and our girls couldn't quite maintain the

running, but we didn't give in and again limited the scoreboard damage. Thanks backline.

We are seeing a really even team performance now, sure we have a best 5 or 6 each week but all players are

contributing, doing the jobs asked of them, that's making a difference, and we see it on the scoreboard.

Today we celebrated Hazel 50 th game. Hazel came to our 'come and try' preseason sessions and started in 2018,

and has grown as a footballer every season since.

There is no substitute for hard work, and her hard work has seen her move from the pockets and flanks into the

midfield where she is now a key member of our midfield group. It's been a pleasure to watch Hazel develop and

all credit goes to her. She is on an exciting trajectory and we look forward to watching her continue to grow

and be rewarded.

No chocolates (again) but we love the effort and the spirit girls, keep it up.

Onwards & Upwards - Craig, Dave, Alannah & Jane.

SUNDAY

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Building a new affiliation!

Hotondo South Morang are proud to become major sponsors of the EJFC for the 2023 season. Living locally, Darren & Kate have been part of the EJFC for 3 years now, with a son currently playing in the Under 10's age group. They appreciate and have seen firsthand what a positive impact a local club like Eltham has on families and the community, which is why they happily joined the contingent of sponsors for this season.

Darren has over 30 years' experience in the local building industry, and the team prides themselves on working with each client to understand their needs and preferences so that the perfect outcome can be achieved. "We can provide plenty of ideas for your build, both practical and to suit your own unique family needs. We take pride in giving clients the flexibility to modify our designs to suit their lifestyle" says Darren.

We hope that you show your support and look no further than Darren, Kate and the team to build you the perfect home.