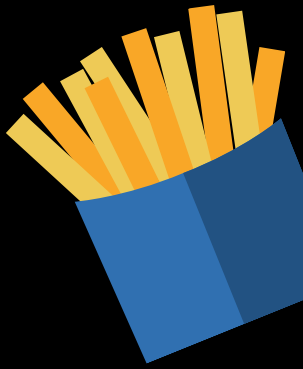


SEASON 2023 - ROUND 9

PANTHER CUBS NEWS

Official newsletter of Eltham Junior Football Club



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Our Fabulous Sponsors



PRESIDENTS REPORT

by Jodi Mitchell

Hello Members,

Friday night we hosted our annual Sportsman's night down at the rooms. Big thank you to Karlie and the social committee for pulling together another amazing event. From all accounts a great night was had by all.

The council have closed Susan Street for another week of games and training. We do apologise for any inconvenience and appreciate all members support while we make our way through the challenges and logistics of ground closures. We will be in touch with Team Managers advising of school holiday training schedules.

Team photos and the clubs major raffle tickets have arrived! Once collated they will be distributed to teams by Team Managers over the coming week. Our major raffle has over \$7,000 worth of prizes up for grabs so you must be in it to win it! A club email will be going out with all the prize details.

After this weekend's round 10 game we break for a week for the July school holidays. Round 11 on the 9th of July is Sir Douglas Nicholls round and in celebration of the indigenous round the club will be hosting several events so please keep a close look on club communications over the coming week for more information. Please get down to Central that afternoon to watch our U17 boys and U18 girls in actions wearing the clubs new indigenous strip, the players are looking forward to wearing it with great Panther pride!

Best of luck to all teams this weekend and GO PANTHERS!

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!
Sat 22nd July - 80's night**

All Abilities match report

This round we came up against Ajax. (St Kilda) We were missing a few players and they had 17. The two teams were reasonably well matched. If we had our 2 runners Marzy and Jace playing I think the result may have been different. Eventually we went down by 2 goals.

Lachie again was a wall down back. Ryan and Joe also were also fantastic and have found themselves as permanent defenders. Angus also had a go at full back and did very well!

Brian took the ruck duties for most of the game and was fantastic. Angus and Andy roved to Brian and had some nice link up play through the middle

Jye had some big moments with some chase down tackles. Opposition players are very wary of his presence.

Jamie, Zack and Ollie were able to get goals. Angus was able to kick a big goal under pressure. Rylan came close just missing to the right.

All in all we didnt get the win but had a fun time and all the boys contributed!

U9's match reports

Under 9 Red Eltham vs Montmorency

Who would have thought we are at Round 9 already, it has come around so quickly. Although, by looking at the improvement in our team, it does add up!

This week we suited up against Montmorency Black who are a well-coached side, so we knew we had to be concentrating from the very first contest.

Our training has been heavily focused on handballing with a 3 on 2 game scenario drill. So our message, along with some behavioural rules, was to look for a team mate with hand ball and move it on quickly.

With those messages along with Cooper K and Brax L as captains, our lads were raring to go.

The first quarter saw the ball in our back line more than we liked, however, Mont Black weren't expecting to have a wall to kick over. That wall being our 5 Backman. They were instructed to play in front and Hudson T and Josh B were terrific. If the ball was on the ground Jude W or Tyler R would hunt and then gather. Using great passing to keep the ball in our hands. Every high ball that came in seemed to be marked by Thomas S, who won the Montmorency best player medal. Along with great defence when Thomas was up forward he snagged an awesome goal. Which is great reward for a player who always does as we ask with a smile.

Mason P, Cooper K, Charlie N had aerial dominance in all zones they played. While Marcus P and Leo D hunted the ball all day and laid some tough tackles.

Archie L is continually learning to finding space and his teams mates are learning to look for him. While our little pocket dynamo Zac W seemed to be everywhere.

Another player who is improving each week is Josh O, he is getting stronger and stronger at each contest.

Late in the 2nd quarter Max M had a bad knee clash but this tough hombre gathered himself and kept playing including kicking a great goal.

The play of the day happened just after Max M had hurt himself. Tyler R gathered the ball on the half back line, sold some candy to two Mont players and drove the ball from 65m toward our forwards. With all our players leading up it went over their heads and through for a goal. Every Eltham player sprinted to Tyler to celebrate the team lifting goal. As they all jumped around in celebration, you could hear Tyler R yell out "That ones for Max". Tylers goal and fantastic performance for the day won him Eltham Spirit medal.

As coaches, we are so proud of our boys and their team first attitude, always caring and wanting the best for each other.



iSmile+

Under 9 White

U9's match reports

Just Play
HAVE FUN
ENJOY THE GAME



Under 9 Grey Eltham vs Diamond Creek

Sunday was a beautiful day for football. After a week off the boys were all jumping with excitement. They were reminded pre game that there are no excuses on a perfect weather day and it would be up to them to produce the goods. Each boys was asked to think about what they could do individually to help the team. We were lead onto the track by Jack and Sam, our joint captains for the day. It would become very clear the day would signify and real turning point for Eltham Grey in the way they have been approaching and playing the game. The in and under ground-work has infected the entire team and is a great to see all contributing, non better than Aaron who received the Panthers medal for his efforts over the four quarters. Another noticeable improvement is the boys ability to run to space and get the ball delivered to them. Ari was the recipient of a few very well placed kicks by the likes of Toby H and Ben O. Ben O was incredible all day with fierce tackling and hard ball gets. This was also noticed by Diamond Creek who awarded him their medal for the day. Ace was launching torpedos forward giving Taylor, Charlie W and Max G every opportunity in controlling the airspace with continual contested marks and contests. When they weren't marking the ball they were bringing it to the ground for Sam M, Liam, Charlie B and Isaac to swoop on. Great also to see these players dish out the handball to open the game up. Jack M and Toby P continued to show how well balanced they are within play giving little chance for the Creekers to get any clear handling on the ball. Up forward was great to see Cooper running to space, presenting a great target and contesting each contest. Massimo was strong in the packs and Coen was unstoppable around the packs, enabling him to kick a bag of goals and give the boys something to high five about. A great effort by the Greys. They are each contributing to the game plan and showing how far they have come over just a few weeks. Lets keep it going!!!

Under 9 Black Eltham vs Diamond Creek

It was a tale of two halves. An inspiring comeback that had it all!

It was near perfect conditions for our game against Diamond Creek Demons. Oscar was our captain and took up his role with energy. It was a tight tussle early on with both teams attacking the ball hard.

The demons were playing well and put on three quick goals to suddenly change the tempo of the match. To our credit we dug in with some goal saving efforts from Seb, Ethan and Josh J. Liam was lively in the middle and Jeremy was his usual self - attacking the ball and moving it forward.

The second quarter was similar where the game started tight then the demons kicked two quick goals. Jarrod and Riley were brilliant in the middle while Jedd and Harry looked dangerous in the forward line. Riley and Josh J were getting first to the ball and taking the game on.

It must have been the half time oranges but we looked like a new team in the third quarter. Liam and Charlie were inspiring to watch. Liam was everywhere in the middle with second efforts and Charlie took one of the marks of the year. He then later in the quarter snapped a tricky goal. Connor was having his best game yet with Riley and Jarrod contesting well. Jedd continued his hot form with some big marks and Kingston was moving well in the forward line. Seb took a diving mark on the siren - went back and jailed it! Game on and didn't the crowd go wild!

The midfield led by Liam and Jeremy moved the ball effortlessly with handballs and hard running. Josh A took a couple of contested marks and Alexander was tackling well. Ethan was pressuring the opposition and forcing errors which enabled Harry to take a courageous mark - he went back and snapped a difficult goal. This was quickly followed by a towering mark from Jedd who also capitalised. The second half was a real team effort and we played showed how good we can be. Everyone was running to space and sharing the ball around.

Liam was rewarded for his great game by receiving the medal from Diamond Creek while Charlie was given our player of the match for his marking and 'never say die' effort. Seb and Liam received awards for their determination and great teamwork.



U10's match reports

Under 10's Red Eltham v's Mernda

The Eltham Red U/10 Boys team played host at the Eltham High School oval for our Round 9 clash against the Mernda Red team on beautiful sunny morning. It was only the second game for the boys in a month so the boys waited eagerly for their captains Ryle B and Alex S to take the toss of the coin so they could take their positions. Using the full ground there was going to be plenty of running and the Mernda team are always a tough opponent. Angus F was getting plenty of early touches and taking some valuable marks around the ground to help keep the opposition from scoring. Roy B was also having a great start to the game getting his hands on the ball early and giving out some valuable handpasses to help get some centre clearances.

Archie T was keeping very busy in the middle of the ground by reading the play well and taking some nice intercept marks. A strong second quarter from the boys and some great forward pressure saw Eltham edge in front. Two repeated kicks from Toby C to Alex S gave Alex two set shots at goal which Alex capitalised on with his trusty left boot to kick two straight goals for the quarter. Isiah G and Jake P continued their improved form for the season playing valuable role up back in what was a tight third quarter. Play of the day came when Angus F marked deep in the backline to then kick to Toby W who marked and kicked to Toby C who again marked and kicked to Jacob B who then carried the ball and bounced and kicked into the forward line. It was very pleasing to see clean footy and some good skills on display.

A lucky bounce left River O open as he then turned and kicked a goal.

The boys really fought it out until the end and a great goal from Jacob B before the final siren saw the game finish in the balance.

A great captain's game from Ryle B saw him awarded the opposition award for best Eltham player. There were two Eltham Red Player of the Day Medal's awarded, Alex S who continued his great form against Mernda Red and the season with his valuable goals and Roy B who also had his best game for the season gaining plenty of valuable possession around the ground.

Archie T's fantastic marks and Jack K continued pressure saw them both awarded the Maccas awards for the day.

Well done again boys, and with only four games remaining lets really finish off the season running by playing a strong team game.

Shane O Keeffe

Under 10's Black Eltham v's Mill Park

This week we played Mill Park Blue at Eltham High. Having played this team before we knew this was going to be a challenging game. The boys were led on to the field by our Captains Will and Luke who both played solid great games of footy getting a lot of the ball around the ground. They also showed great sportsmanship playing a quarter for the opposition who were short on numbers.

In the first quarter, Mill Park had the wind behind them which meant our backline which included Oli E and Maximus were under a lot of pressure. It was tough going in the middle, however, Rhys and Jobe still managed to get the ball from Henry in the ruck and clear then ball to our forward line on occasions. In the forward line Jaxton K and Seb were moving around well and managed to get their hands on the ball. The opposition managed to score four unanswered goals.

In the second quarter, the mid field boys were on fire with Maximus winning every ruck contest, tapping the ball to Riley, Finley, Lachlan and Tyler who sent the ball forward time and time again. The forward line was capitalising on the wind. We saw some great passage of plays including, Riley kicking to Lucas who kicked to Rhys who then kicked our first goal. Shortly after that Lucas kicked long to Henry who kicked our second goal. This was then followed by Lucas and Rhys both kicking additional goals. In total we kicked four unanswered goals.

In the third quarter, Mill Park ramped up their effort, Jaxton K, Ollie C, Sid and Seb were working hard in the middle tackling the opposition at every opportunity. The boys were under pressure all round the ground, however that didn't stop Will, Jarvis, Luca and Luke from getting into the action and handballing well to get out of congestion. Caleb was working hard in the forward line and also Finley who took a number of strong contested marks. Mill Park made the most of the wind and ended up scoring two goals for the quarter.

In the final quarter, the Black team ramped up their effort with Lucas, Jaxton K, Maximus, Henry and Oli E all working hard in the middle. In the backline Jobe, Cooper and Tyler stopped the opposition advances at the zone line. A highlight was when Riley kicked the ball long out of the centre to Josh who took a ripper overhead mark and then he kicked from way out to score a goal.

Our game medal went to Henry for playing a strong game, winning all of the ruck contests, marking and kicking well, he even managed to kick a goal. A second game medal went to Josh for his efforts playing another great game, which included marking, kicking and handballing well, he even managed to kick a ripper goal. Our game vouchers went to Harry and Luca who both contributed to the team play and were always in the action. The opposition awarded Rhys their medal for his great work around the ground which included kicking two goals. Well done boys!

Overall, the game was a close and even contest, it was great to see the boys turn their game around in the second quarter when we had the wind and then keep the pressure on the opposition for the rest of the game. The game was once again an example of the boys improving their team play which resulted in them only finishing down by only a few points (compared to last time when we were down by several goals). Keep up the good work boys. Go Panthers! Cheers Frank, Sam and Brendan

U11's match reports

Under 11's Red Eltham vs Mernda

We were up against Mernda at home in sunny conditions with Tom, Harry L our captains leading the way out onto the ground, reward for recent efforts that have shown resilience and a team first mentality.

The 1 st quarter Charlie was contesting hard, Jordy was great in the ruck and contests. Dayne laid a great tackle. We didn't play our best football into the wind and turned the ball over all too easily.

The 2 nd quarter Knox and Isaac were attacking. Billy and Belly were tackling strongly. Zach impressively followed up his own kick. Tiger popped up for a good goal. We struggled to get the ball forward cleanly but showed an increase of effort.

The 3 rd quarter, Harry C was doing a great job defending. Tom O J was battling hard to get the ball forward and Harvey was marking well. We defended well into the wind keeping the opposition goalless, giving ourselves a chance in the last.

The 4 th quarter Clyde Owen and Noah defended hard. Zac J took a good mark and goaled to put us within a kick. Harry Lord was involved in a big marking contest showing great courage. Time and a

determined opposition held us out to go down by 3 points. Awards for the day went to Owen in his first game back from injury and Jordy for a great 4 quarter effort. Special thankyou to Jax, Max from the U10's for helping out and giving 100%.

Go Panthers



Under 11's Black Eltham vs Yarrambat

What a fantastic display of teamwork by the blanks in a convincing victory over Monty. Everyone played well and it was perhaps our best 'team' performance for the year. Congratulations on a great game.

We started well out of the middle with Oscar dominating in the ruck. We exploded and had the ball in our forward line, and it was only errant kicking that kept the Monty boys close. We were 2 goals 9 in the first quarter to nothing.

From then on, it really was all in our terms. Jacob was dominant across half back and was a formidable wall. Hunter, clearly improving each game was also strong in defence and had his best game ever. Nate continued is dominant form, Jack played his best game for the year, and Mason, our skipper for the game, was also playing his heart out. Mason and all the Bannisters, have a wonderful holiday. Stay in touch.

We didn't have a bench, so everyone had a hard day out with little rest. Charlie H was marking everything and was everywhere. Liam again was reliable as ever and Kobi, as demonstrated in the photos, enjoyed a goal (*and a few points) or two. It is a real delight to see the boys play for each other and look after each other. Charlie G is showing real leadership on the field and reminding players where to be which is brilliant. Our voice was great, demonstrated well with Jack who marked a pass from Charlie then goaled. Well done, Jack.

Now for the final stretch. We have some work to do and have Yarrambat this week which will be the start.

Well done, Panthers, you played exceptionally well.



U12's match reports

Under 12's Red Eltham vs Mernda

The boys seemed a little bit off after the week's break and this showed in the first quarter. We seemed to fumble the ball a lot, dropped some easy marks and weren't hitting out targets by foot or hand. Although the endeavour was there, we shied away from previous weeks playing our brand of football. We soon found ourselves two goals down at quarter time.

At quarter time we asked for some improvement in holding positions not turning into play, manning up in defence and setting our structures up on opposition kick outs. This seemed to do the trick with some great team play particularly from defence with Ben and James E attack on the ball, in addition to Ryan dominating in the ruck and Luke B racking up the centre clearances, resulting in some good running goals from Rhys and Myles. Our defence being miserly keeping Mernda to one point for the quarter.

We headed into halftime only two points down. We reminded the boys how quickly things can turn around and instructed more focus on being composed with ball in hand. There were lots of momentum shifts for the third quarter, however no team could consolidate on the scoreboard. James H getting some reward for effort snapping a great goal stemming from some good second and third efforts by our mids and forwards. Mernda holding a slender three-point lead at three quarter time.

Going into the last quarter we instructed the boys to stick to our process and game plan and they executed very well, some of the best football for the season was produced. All the synergy we had been gaining from training together regularly and working on the key focus areas of holding your position, executing under pressure when being tackled, composure after taking a mark particularly in defence came together in one quarter. The boys showed enormous intent and did all the "team" things well. Gus scored two skillful goals for the quarter and our "team" defence restricting Mernda to one point for the quarter was a highlight.

Player awards for the day went to Will, who's willingness to follow team instructions is first class and never stops trying, and James H who contested well for marks up forward all day and bringing others into the game with his second and third efforts.

All in all, after a slow start a great team effort. We look forward to continuing the momentum with five rounds to play and it's pleasing to see the belief building.

Nathan/Keith/Richard

Under 12's Black Eltham vs Mernda

Near on perfect conditions we hosted Mernda at Eltham High. With our past 2 games on very heavy grounds we saw this as a great opportunity to produce some quality footy from some hard work on the training track. Leading us for the day were Speedy who's game has gone to a new level and Darcy who is our on field enforcer. Both boys produced quality games as leaders.

It was also a big day for milestones, with Bryce and Johno playing their 50th games for the club. Fantastic effort from both in today's game and the season thus far.

Kicking into the breeze we needed to start strong and the boys certainly did that. With the mid field controlling the clearances via some classy ruck work from Speedy we were able to pile on 4 goals and restrict Mernda to just 1 kicking with the breeze. The backline held up well with multiple forward entries from Mernda. Harley backing himself to take marks, Sticks working hard on the last line of defence and Ben working off half back ensured scoring was hard for the opposition. Moving to the second quarter we asked the group to lift the intensity a little higher. It was more of an arm wrestle played between the 50m arcs. Both teams finding it hard to score with both mid fields working overtime to create opportunities. With just one goal scored by both teams, we knew that the game was going to be a full 4 quarter effort.

The third quarter back into the breeze and to our surprise we were able to score 3 goals to 2 with Yorke putting himself in line for goal of the year snapping brilliantly from the pocket. It seemed to really spark the side into action. The ball movement has improved remarkably over the past few weeks which has enabled the side to control the ball and not have to be in that contested situation constantly. Going into the final quarter we knew Mernda would throw everything they had at us. But once again the boys stood tall. Laying a tackle, providing a shepherd for a team mate to run on or simply backing back into a contest to effect a spoil enabled us to finish really strong and again outscored Mernda by 3 goals to 2.

The work load was spread right across the entire team today. Multiple goal scorers was something we haven't done all year. Jake 3, Balin 2, Dane 1, Blake 1, Yorke 1, Jackson 1 and Bryce 1 all proved to be a handful for the opposition defence.

Ben off half back provided us with plenty of opportunities, Caleb, Fletcher and Harley taking telling marks in defence, Balin's work around the packs, Speedy in the ruck and Sticks holding firm in the backline was pleasing to see. Hendrix playing his role of stopping the oppositions mid didn't go unnoticed, Jackson and Dane marking up forward and creating goals was fantastic. The willingness of the team to create a contest was the best they have produced this season which reflected in not being outscored in any quarter, something we hadn't achieved this season. Again the boys have set a new level of footy that we couldn't be more proud of today.

Congrats again to Johno and Nugget!!

U10/12's girls match reports

Under 10's Girls

Under 12's Girls

As we let our own
light shine, we
unconsciously give
other people
permission to do
the same.

U13's match reports

Under 13's Red Eltham vs Laurimar

This week was a great opportunity to knock off Laurimar, once again. We had a strong team, clear skies, no excuses really. We knew that they had a few players missing last time so it was going to be a challenge.

Fifty-gamer Ethan Neal won the toss and we chose to kick with the wind. Our boys started very slowly, the opposition we're fast and ready and won the quarter.

We held them back in the 2nd and then took control. Our boys had awoken and we then kicked on and took the lead into the last.

A vocal opposition goal umpire might have missed a few in our favour which potentially cost us a win by 3-points. Too right!

Great game by all of our boys. Go Panthers!

Under 13's Black

Determination personified.

Great win at Central.

Our best game for the year by a country mile.

Keep it up boys. Loving your ball movement and galvanised camaradeship



U14's match reports

Under 14's Red Eltham vs West Preston

After a very tough game last week it was a reset and start again moment for the boys, with a renewed focus on effort and contesting the ball, the boys produced their best effort of the year. led by Josh in the backline, our effort at actually competing and winning the ball in contested situations was far and away our best all year. Tackling and pressuring was superb. Sam and Josh formed a formidable duo in the backline to continually repel the ball, Ollie, Hays and Oskar kept the ball moving forwards all day. Big Ollie competed one out in the ruck against 2 all game, doing an admiral job in not only denting their height advantage, but getting a lot of the ball himself. and a special mention to Lachie who played the best I have seen in the last 2 years, well done.

the boys should be thoroughly happy with their performances in this game.



Under 14's Black Eltham vs Whittlesea

Today we traveled out to whittlesea and were met with some very wet slippery conditions. For the first time this season we had our full quota of boys on the park which was exciting although we had a 10:30 start which is a bit earlier than most of our games so far.

The boys seemed to be still waking up at the first bounce and whittlesea took full advantage kicking the first goal of the game but that was where it ended for them as our boys clicked into gear and with some very impressive team football. As the game went on our boys played what looked like dry weather football in tricky conditions creating plenty of scoring opportunities and holding whittlesea to 1 goal for the game, incredible effort boys well done!

All the boys contributed above and beyond and played our style of football which was an absolute pleasure to watch. A big congrats to our NFNL rep boys, Joel, Ned, Xavier, Xander, H, Aidan, Owen, Albi and Jack who all gave their best and represented the Eltham Junior FC over the long weekend, super effort guys and well done.

Once again we played fantastic team football which you should all be very proud of.

Thanks again to Neil McNutt who runs the boundary every week and had to get wet socks in the first 5 minutes on Sunday, you're braver than us coaches standing high and dry in the coaches box! Thanks mate.

Go Panthers
Ryan , Vic and Ange



U14/16's girls match reports

Under 14's Girls Eltham vs Whittlesea

A trip to Whittlesea to play the top side. A tough assignment on a Sunday afternoon. Lost by 5 goals last time we played them so a great chance to get a read on our team improvement through the season. Nil all at quarter time was a win because they kicked with the breeze. Nil all at half time meant both sides defence was working overtime. Whittlesea got the break in the third with a goal while we peppered the sticks into the breeze grabbing a couple of behinds. With the wind in the last quarter we had our chance and scored an early goal to get the lead. Whittlesea hit back and in the end we fell short by 3 points - even the opposition coach thought we were the better side. Great performances from Gabby in the ruck - barely lost a contest all day. Amy was a tackling and ball winning machine out of the back pocket. Eliza U straight lined the ball from the half back flank time and time again. The result gives the girls hunger and belief that they can do it which of course they can. We've improved a goal a week for the past five weeks - how much better will we be come finals time. Most pleasingly the girls are playing for their mates. An immediate group huddle after the siren said it all as they got around each other. Three-week road trip done and dusted - looking forward to being back at home next Sunday. Well done girls, you're getting better all the time.

Under 16's Girls Eltham vs Montmorency

Round 9 saw the U16 Girls take on Montmorency. We had many things stacked against us, for instance the condition of the ground and the late out of our captain Charlie. We also had some very positive influences. We welcomed back Dom from a lengthy period on the sidelines. Dom was amazing she received an early knock to the head, which was very concerning and rattled Dom understandably. However, this however did not stop Dom. Dom reset herself and played an amazing game. Georgie was primed for the game and played very hard all game in the 3rd quarter Georgie's bump was textbook and sensational. The coaches wish we had it on video. Amelia in her second game played out of her skin constantly driving the ball forward and thwarting Monty's attack. We asked Charlotte to back herself in and she did! Charlotte was very hard at the ball throughout the whole game, and this was proven with the amount of mud Charlotte had on her at the end of the game. Eleri and Freddie were strong in both defence and attack. Though the conditions of the ground did not suit the running games of Jade and Joss this did not deter either of them both played very well. We lost Yuri early in the second quarter after she injured herself with an amazing tackling effort. Tiah was tireless rucking most of the game. Eloise was her sensational self, an amazing player with a magnificent attitude. Dani played out of position and was amazing never backing down and enjoying the experience. Lily, Riley, and Paige were very physical and hard at the ball. Ella's positioning on the ground was sensational and nearly kicked the match winning goal. Fitzzy was a thorn in Monty's side winning contest after contest. This led to Monty going the player rather than the ball. Jaida, Shaelee, and Georgia played most of the game in defence and were pivotal in keeping the scoring down. Whilst we had opportunities to win the game sadly, we did not take them. Having two points that were signaled by the goal umpire to be overturned by the field umpire and giving away 3 x 25 metre penalties (one from the coach), was not a good situation. We have a lot more in our arsenal and tank to offer. Take this as an opportunity and put the fire in your belly girls. Can't wait to play them again.



U15's match reports

Under 15's Red Eltham vs Laurimar Teal

Well after a well-deserved break, we headed up to Laurimar for what would be considered a make- or-break game for the boys. Having 2 great nights at training things looked off to a good start only to bare witness to the size of the Laurimar team. And 1 notable player being the size of Tony Lockett, the boys looked a little rattled. The pre-game address from our Coach was to take our footy to a new level. So, with the late withdrawal of Alex, the boys started the game with 5 on the bench. And with a freezing light breeze, off they went. The first qtr was some what of a doozy with only 1 goal to their 3 goals. Not really to the level or standard. At the first change and at the look of Coach Chris with steam coming out of his ears the boys were told to lift their games with more talk, more teamwork and more desire to win the contest! So, with the start of the 2 nd qtr we witnessed first hand what they can do when they come together and play as one. With our little fellas leading the way and with Abe and Owen going in hard; getting the pill. Lucas E and Diesel putting on the After-Burners the boys came back in electrifying form. With our big fellas leading the way with Jake, Xavier and Matty. The wings were set alight by speed and flair by both Rhaine, Jack and Liam. The boys would finish the qtr kicking 5 majors to Laurimars 1. Heading back into the rooms for halftime, the boys looking a little deflated but Coach Chris was full of praise for his young platoon. The boys were setting the tone for something special. So, with the help of Scotty and Dave the boys got gee-ed up, to again take our footy to another level as kicking against the breeze would determine our fate. With the start of the 3 rd qtr we saw Cooper K and Noah getting good ball use as well as Fin, Angus & Jackson. Our defence held tight with Jacob and Lucas B taking some great contended marking as well as Big Oli. The boys would finish the qtr 3 goals to Laurimars only 1 point for rest of the game. Coming into huddle the boys looked tired, but knowing full well they had the wind in the last qtr, Coach Chris again asked for another big qtr. So the boys started the qtr in sensational style with Masyn setting the field alight with flair and driving the pill forward into the clutches of Archie and James (poster boy) Kent. The ball occasionally went into Laurimar's forward line only to be pumped back out by Cooper E. At one time Tony Lockett went to take a mark at full forward only to be beaten by Sam in a contest. As the final siren sounded the boys had produced another important scalp for the season and a step closer to playing f-n-ls. Won't write the word yet as we need not get ahead of ourselves. On another note, however is that our boys seem to have that SHINBONER SPIRIT!

Written by Shelly on behalf of Chris, Goose, Dave, Sharon and Beer O'clock Ed.

WELL, DONE BOYS

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

Under 15's Black Eltham vs Diamond Creek

The sun was shining in what will be our last home game of the year. Coming up against the improving Diamond Creek side the boys were keen to respond after a disappointing game against Montmorency in the last round. Despite the effort being high and controlling a lot of the footy in the first ¼, the boys didn't quite get the rewards on the scoreboard. Despite the scores close to level, the message at ¼ time was to stick to the plan and with the same effort and execution of the game plan the rewards will come. Brian going into the ruck provided the mids in Logan, Rohan, Jack, Archie F and Alex with first use which was followed up with some quality mid craft. Axton and Will were providing a quality target down forward, with Phenix and Cooper at their feet crumbing cleanly and slotting a major some majors and with the mids in Jack, Rohan and Logan chiming in with some majors the boys went into the half time break with a strong 38 point lead. The second half saw the back brigade get to work and return to their miserly best, only letting one goal through for the game but just as importantly rebounding strongly with some quality lateral switches and dynamic run and carry to take the game on with some flair. Archie F played one his best games of the year with four quality quarters and despite playing his first game for the year after an early arm injury, Phenix looked like he'd played all year, relishing the opportunity to get back on the park with the boys. Another big test against the inform Yarrambat and a chance for the boys to put on a show under the Saturday night lights.

Under 15 Black Coaches, Support Team and Parents.



U16's match reports

Under 16's Red Eltham vs Epping

A sense of optimism swept across Central Park today, almost taking over the dim-sim aroma that wafts through, so tantalisingly, each week from the Canteen. Having almost toppled Epping last time we met, it was hoped that we could find an extra gear and see what damage we could cause. It also coincided with the best small forward in the Valley, Kallum L, playing his 100 th game. After coming across from Epping 5 years ago, Kallum has made an artform of the forward pocket, kicking the ridiculous and the miraculous on a regular basis. The footy field is so much more colourful when Kallum is playing. It was entirely fitting that Kallum got us going in the first quarter, unlucky not to have had two goals to his name at the first break.

That pre-game optimism seemed justified at quarter time, as we held our first lead for the year and moved the ball quickly and with purpose. If not for some skill execution errors, most notable with our marking, we could have been further in front.

The boys were justifiably pumped and got some deserved praise from the coaches, however, we couldn't replicate the momentum in the second quarter and got monstered in the ruck and in the clearances from hereon in. It felt like one team just wanted it more, and Epping were hungrier in the contest for longer. They certainly had a few classy types that made life difficult for us, but overall, it was the immeasurable things such as our tenacity and our desire to compete which doomed us after quarter time.

Tom D was valiant and brave for four quarters and showed the way for his teammates. His voice and enthusiasm is infectious and definitely worth catching.

Ayden K & Sam Mc showed glimpses of their old selves at times, and both can have an important part to play in our final month.

Joel B put another two on the board and is a model of consistency in the forward half. Fin B & Henry C got us off our seats with some accurate kicking in the second half.

Reece F & Sammy H were willing to throw themselves into contests and not worry about their own safety, which makes the coaches smile, but also puts fear into the opposition, more importantly.

Next week is our Grand Final in a sense – a road trip to Kilmore awaits. Anything is possible if you believe you are worthy of achieving it.

Simon, Brendan, Jason, Clint & Gary.

Under 16's Black



AMAZING

U17's and U18's girls match reports

Under 17's

Eltham vs Diamond Creek

It was a Top of the Table clash between Eltham and Diamond Creek. Two teams who particularly don't like each other. The first quarter started in sunshine and like wrecking balls smashing into a derelict building, the two teams were hitting each other hard, and the pace of the game was Vin Diesel like – The Fast and Furious!!!

Eltham kicked the first goal and had plenty of opportunities to put scoreboard pressure on Diamond Creek but could not capitalize. Letting the Creekers take a 7-point lead into quarter time.

The second quarter began the same way the first did, Fast and Furious 2. We had players running everywhere, defending their territory, and leaving no man behind. With all the running and pressure, we still found ourselves 5 points a drift at the main interval.

The third quarter was Tokyo Drift, you watch the movie in anticipation it will deliver, being in a big movie franchise, but sadly you leave disappointed. That's how our 3rd quarter played out. Glimpses of special effects, some great chases and skill, but no impact on the board.

The 5-point half time deficit blew out to 13 by the last change. So began the last, Fast and Furious, we kicked the first goal to cut it back to 7 and then a couple of stolen cars we got it to 5, but as usual the bad guys came in with a sneaky one-two punch to ice the game from the boys.

Like big budget movies, there is more to come from these two teams. Hopefully 2 more blockbuster games of football. With each blockbuster we learn a little more about the opposition and a whole lot more about ourselves.

Thanks to all the "extras" that helped this weekend.

Regards,

Dwayne Johnson, Paul Walker, Jason Statham, John Cena, Tyrese Gibson & Michelle Rodriguez.

Under 18's Girls

BYE

RICHELIE'S JOKES

- What falls, but never needs a bandage? The rain.
- I was going to tell you a joke about boxing but I forgot the punch line.
- I'm not a fan of spring cleaning. Let's be honest, I'm not into summer, fall, or winter cleaning either.
- Why did the egg hide? It was a little chicken.
- What did the dirt say to the rain? If you keep this up, my name will be mud!
- Why couldn't the sunflower ride its bike? It lost its petals.
- What's an egg's favorite vacation spot? New York City.
- I ate a sock yesterday. It was very time-consuming.

TEAM

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