

## **U/12 Hawkesbury Saints Match Reports Season 2008**

### **Grand Final, Saints vs Penrith**

Saturday 6th September 2008 Hawkesbury Saints challenged the Penrith Swans for the 2008 Premiership, venue Gipps Oval Greystanes. The pinnacle of any inspiring young footballer to play and compete in a Grand Final. Win, lose or draw, a day long remembered as one of the greatest moments in ones memory. Hundreds of family and friends gathered to support and celebrate such an achievement, the stage was set unfortunately marred by the most atrocious weather conditions remembered in many years.

A gladiator's entrance from both sides, early nerves settled the Saints restructured midfield workman like as they began the opening term. Jack Wilson honoured with the captaincy cleared a congested midfield combining effectively with Daniel Crowe emerging from the bottom of the pack in a puddle more suited to a duck. Joshua Norton halted Penrith's forward momentum taking two strong overhead marks aided by Jacob Jansen with his first to the ball efforts. Penrith physically a much larger side able to take advantage of favourable weather conditions skipping away two goals clear ending the first term.

A rejuvenated Hawkesbury enthusiastic as we began the second. A determined centre half back line contributing, re-grouped and focused had eyes only for the football. Brendan Vielhauer's team lifting efforts not unnoticed playing with plenty of spirit, Lochlan Barlow's speed on a heavy track increasing his number of possessions while Levi Tynan valiant in the last line of defence. An interesting statistic however, Hawkesbury only receiving five free kicks in one half of football, players unrewarded despite their best efforts.

Play resuming the Saints reminded four quarters of football required, poor decision making contributing to Penrith scoring two quick majors, a second half demolition, Hawkesbury placing extra players into a defensive role after it was obvious we could not buy a free kick, only receiving one free for the entire term. Penrith continued to pile on the points only wayward kicking keeping the Saints in the contest. Liam Viegel persisted despite illness, Daniel McGregor made of cement, Penrith unable to penetrate his defence while James Dalgliesh Grand Final experience not wasted increasing his work load against his much larger opponent. Vulnerability as Penrith surprising the Saints extended an almost un-retractable lead in such poor conditions.

Characteristically the Saints never say die attitude continued in the fourth players sharing plenty of touches. Jack Wilson unrewarded, decision making leaving spectators scratching heads when marks were not even being paid. Johanna Neville received a rare free however after a push in the back allowing Jesse Jane to produce the teams first major kicking a water logged footy right between the posts. Named emergencies already having won the U/11 premiership given an opportunity all to little to late as the time keeper stood the realisation that such a successful season was over saddened a silent Hawkesbury crowd. Who knows, on a dry ground perhaps a different story, congratulations to Penrith however competitive right til the very end.

Not often does a coach have the pleasure when a team comes together merged by the efforts of so many. A star team that presented themselves all year willing to support each-other and reason why I can proudly announce and congratulate the U/12 Hawkesbury Saints as the Minor and Runner Up-Premiers for season 2008.

Congratulations to both the U/11 and U/14 Saints. Both sides finishing as Premiers. Not a bad result for Hawkesbury having two premierships and one runner up premiership.

Congratulations to Jacob Jansen recipient of the U/12 Greater West Regional Sportsmanship Award this week.

Many thanks once again to both Anne-Marie and Chris Crowe hosting last week's end of year function. Everyone had a fantastic day and your efforts were very much appreciated by all.

AGM this Wednesday 7.30pm Richmond Club. Presentation to be held 2.00pm Sunday 28th September Richmond Club. Please ensure all players wear team tracksuits on the day. Thankyou.

Last of all thanks to everyone for your assistance and support throughout what was a very successful and I am sure a long remembered year.

#### **Best Players**

Brendan Vielhauer, Daniel Crowe, Jack Wilson, Lochlan Barlow, Jacob Jansen, Daniel McGregor and Joshua Norton.

Dominoes Man of the Match Levi Tynan.

#### **Goal Scorers**

Jesse Jane 1.

**Final Score Saints 1.5.11 def by Penrith 7.15.57**

### **Semi Final, Saints vs Penrith**

Saturday 23rd August 2008 the Hawkesbury Saints challengers the Penrith Swans, Francis Park Blacktown. Ideal preparation for the Saints leading into today's game, enthusiastic training, great game play and a side back to full strength perfect towards a classic encounter between the two front runners in the competition.

Minor Premiers Hawkesbury determined to take the direct path towards this years Grand Final began strongly, Jack Wilson creating the first inside 50 metre opportunity running full speed clearing the mid-field, Lochlan Barlow capitalised providing a formidable target kicking his first followed by a deadly accurate drop punt from the boundary giving him his second. Brendan Low outplayed his opponent displaying skill and poise, the Saints taking advantage of the favourable weather conditions ending the opening term.

Saints produced a decisive second quarter surge producing many chances despite the Swans having the advantage of the wind. Jesse Jane unloaded lobbing the football like a grenade deep into the forward line. Joshua Norton contested the footy with deskPDF Writer Trial :: <http://www.docudesk.com>

Congestion causing many stoppages, determination however saw the Saints increase the margin by a further seven points leading into the main break.

An uncharacteristically quiet third term for Penrith, the Saints keen to lift a level. Brendan Viehauer cranked his defensive pressure able to shut down his opponent leading to a flood of turn-overs, Daniel Crowe working hard to clear congested play while Ayden Roache made the most of limited game time scoring his first major of the afternoon. A further seventeen points added by the Saints restricting Penrith to only one point.

A diamond standard of football as we continued the fourth, Penrith began fighting their way back into the contest posting the first three points. Maintaining commitment soon had the Saints playing four quarters of football.

Jayden Cass took specie like a veteran, Levi Tynan was strong overhead in the last line of defence strongly aided by Daniel McGregor while Hayden Wassall put the icing on the cake with a long drop punt right between the timbers late in the final term sealing a memorable 47 point win for Hawkesbury.

Another page in the history books the Saints fielding an A list line up rewarded with a first class ticket direct to the Grand Final. It would be an injustice for Penrith not to progress clearly setting the bench-mark all season, wishing you all the best next week.

Congratulations to Jacob Jansen who played his 50th game for the Hawkesbury Football Club close to a best on ground performance. Well done Jacob. Fantastic to see Jacob Grainger back this week after missing several weeks due to illness and congratulations also to the U/11, U/14 and U/16's all progressing to next weeks Preliminary Finals being held at Grey Gums Oval Penrith.

At this stage our Grand Final will be held at Dukes Oval Emu Plains on Saturday 6th September. Please arrive at the ground by 11.00am for a 12.00md start. Training will continue as normal all players are requested to attend.

#### **Best Players**

Liam Veigel, Jesse Jane, Jack Wilson, Lochlan Barlow, Daniel Crowe, Joshua Norton, Joshua Edwards  
Dominos Man of the Match Willem Smith

#### **Goal Scorers**

Lochlan Barlow 2, Jack Wilson 1, Ayden Roache 1, James Dalglish 1, Hayden Wassall 1.

**Final Score Saints 6.14.50 def Penrith 0.5.5**

## **Round 17, Saints vs Blue Mountains**

Saturday 16th August, forget the Olympics if there was ever an event for ovation's today was it when the U/12 Hawkesbury Saints challenged Blue Mountains at the picturesque Bensons Lane Richmond. Blue Mountains currently third on the ladder in previous matches have demonstrated a willingness to push until near exhaustion, their hardness and persistence certainly a hurdle for Minor Premiership, ideal preparation however leading towards the Saints finals campaign beginning next week.

Bensons Lane's heart, the centre circle is where we began, a persistent battle hardened Hawkesbury asserted their authority early when Jesse Jane cleared a congested pack penetrating forward allowing Willem Smith an early touch assisting towards the teams first major of the afternoon. Intelligent play from our midfield skipping away to an early advantage it did not take long however for Blue Mountains to respond having the advantage of the wind, squandering limited opportunities as the Saints powerful backline held true. Ending the first quarter Kangaroo's trailing by one goal only.

Evenly balanced the second term began with the influential Liam Viegel inspiring fellow teamsters with a brilliant solo effort from the midfield, Brendan Vielhauer continued to halt any forward momentum from our rivals while ever thinking footballer Brendan Low effectively disposed possessions to leading team-mates. Blue Mountains answer not surprisingly to closely man up on dominating midfielders and crowd our forward line. The security of knowing the Saints could not fall lower than second place ensuring a double chance come finals had little impact on their commitment to the football leading comfortably into the main break and able to increase the margin by a further four goals.

The third began, Jack Wilson received a deafening roar from the boundary displaying why the Sydney Swans have expressed an interest in his development this week. Jack kicked his 50th goal for the year Well done Jack. Levi Tynan playing in front able to out muscle his opponent while other back line players like Joshua Norton and Daniel McGregor displaying plenty of courage when attacking the football. Blue Mountains dash of persistence narrowing the deficit slightly, the Saints leading comfortably ending the third quarter.

The final term played defensively, quality midfielders spelled meant for an injury free starting line up next week Johanna Neville playing in front taking a low grab playing on to kick her first major of the afternoon, Jesse Jane continued to dominate centre clearances assisted by on-baller Lochlan Barlow while Daniel Crowe relished an opportunity for a run in the midfield returning from illness. Hayden Wassall provided a dominant marking forward through-out the final term ending with the Saints victorious consolidating Minor Premiership only having lost one game all season.

Fine individual performances today, competitive fire and good team-work. Great form leading into next week's semi-final. The Saints considered strong finals contenders when we challenge Penrith Swans 2.00pm Francis Park, Blacktown. Congratulations to our golden Aussies the Minor Premiers.

Daniel McGregor played his 50th game for the Hawkesbury Australian Football Club this weekend. Well Done Daniel.

The U/12 Saints attended the Swans Experience Tuesday evening rubbing shoulders with Spider Everitt, Paul Bevan, Jarad McVeigh, Ed Barlow, Jarad Crouch, Nick Malcheski, Jude Bolton hosted by Craig Davis. Fun night had by all thanks to the Sydney Swans Football Club.

Don't forget Sunday 24th August's get together kindly hosted by the Crowe's 2488 River Rd Wiseman's Ferry. Representative Presentation 31st August at Emu Plains Sporting Club further details to follow.

Club Presentation Sunday 28th September 2008 at 2.00pm the Richmond Club.

#### **Best Players**

Jesse Jane, Jack Wilson, Liam Vielgel, Daniel McGregor, Joshua Norton, Johanna Neville, Willem Smith  
Dominoes Man of the Match Levi Tynan

#### **Goal Scorers**

Lochlan Barlow 2, Brendan Low 2, Jack Wilson 2, Brendan Vielhauer 2, James Dalglish 1, Johanna Neville 1, Jesse Jane 1, Willem Smith 1 and Hayden Wassall 1.

## Round 16, Saints vs Blacktown

Saturday 9th August, an estimated global audience of four billion were treated to an epic display of wizardry during the opening ceremony in Beijing last night meanwhile approximately eighty enraptured fans welcomed athletes to Cook Park, St Mary's when the relatively young developing Blacktown team faced the daunting prospect trying to beat competition front-runners the Hawkesbury Saints. Despite some significant exclusions due to illness and injury the Saints on track heading towards our finals campaign, Blacktown debuting this season undeterred with their opponents recent form once again displaying enthusiasm playing superbly against the competitions best.

A re-structured mid-field for the Saints as we began both sides head to head competing the loose ball. Jesse Jane ever present around the packs got first hands quickly driving forward where small forward Lochlan Barlow contributed significantly registering the teams first major of the afternoon. Clever centre clearances and effective handballing repetitious while running elusive forwards contributed to a rapidly increasing total. The Saints purple patch only ending at the completion of the first quarter.

Saints ruckman arguably the most decisive player's midfield commenced the second term controlling ball ups with ease. Unstoppable roving from Jack Wilson supporting the efforts of Liam Viegel as the Saints once again accelerating the score-board. Brendan Vielhauer debutant in his first year ensured the ball remained the right end of the park while turn-overs under pressure and skill errors were non existent from the Hawkesbury side. Rapid ball movement assisted towards building a healthy percentage, the mercy rule once again enforced leading into half time.

The third quarter began with the Saints penetrating forward, a willingness to play on at every opportunity and great goal sense quickly increasing an already large total. Blacktown on occasion able to force the Saints wide allowing forward flanker James Dalgliesh to halt any challenge. Willem Smith presenting at full forward silenced spectators with his consistency when marking while Johanna Neville playing most of her footy in the top end of Australia demonstrated her capabilities making a contest from the pocket. An offer to even the contest Blacktown persevered bravely strengthened with seven players from Hawkesbury able to register two goals for the term. The Saints amassing an amazing one hundred point lead ending the third term.

Once a mercy rule is imposed and in the spirit of good sportsmanship, several players volunteered a quarter of football for the other side making for a better and more even contest. Unselfishly the team nominated Jack Wilson & Lochlan Barlow to remain Saints allowing an opportunity to reach fifty goals for the season. Daniel McGregor playing ruck rover again displayed his versatility away from the back line while Levi Tynan playing on the ball winning taps racking up possession after possession. Blacktown progressed forward late in the term thanks to some inspirational running by Ayden Roach, to little to late for the Power the score blowing out to a massive one hundred and sixty point victory.

Leadership has extended well beyond one player this year with a rotating captaincy policy evident in today's match as spectators observed a true champion side. Impressive, different players stepping up each week, all the makings of a star team. What was a pleasant surprise, the Hawkesbury Saints remain front runners for Minor Premiership after last weeks narrow loss against Penrith. With only one round remaining and our finals campaign about to commence players are requested to attend all remaining training sessions and arrive 45 minutes before each game. Thankyou for your co-operation.

Don't forget the Swans experience Tuesday, players must arrive and be on the bus no later than 4.00pm. One more thing, I was recently informed that Jacob Grainger has been seriously ill for several weeks. On behalf of the team would like to wish Jacob a speedy recovery. Your absence is surly missed and we look forward to your return. Hayden Wassall hopefully will be returning next week after recovering from a serious knee injury while the absence of Joshua Norton and Jacob Jansen should be a huge boost come finals. Get well boys.

### Best Players

Jack Wilson, Brendan Vielhauer, Lochlan Barlow, Ayden Roach, Levi Tynan, Liam Viegel, Johanna Neville  
Dominoes Man of the Match Jesse Jane

### Goal Scorers

Lochlan Barlow 7, Jack Wilson 7, Jesse Jane 2, Willem Smith 2, Brendan Vielhauer 2, Ayden Roach 2, Liam Viegel 1, James Dalgliesh 1 and from Power Jayden Arispie 1.

## Round 15, Saints vs Penrith

Saturday 2nd August, front-runners in the competition Hawkesbury Saints and the Penrith Swans faced off at scenic Bensons Lane, Richmond. Only one point separated both sides last encounter, today's result possibly determining minor premiership. With such high stakes today's contest had all the makings for a sensational game of football, evident as to why Australian Football is the most popular of football codes and highest attended spectator sports in Australia.

Certainly no lack of energy or enthusiasm from both sides as we began the opening term unfortunately marred by unfavourable weather conditions. Penrith with the advantage of the breeze had an enormous physical presence not deterred, Liam Veigel's aerial ruck work exemplifying leadership qualities while the competitive nature and the sole brilliance of Jack Wilson had the opposition keeping close. Backs from both sides playing solid defence making scoring difficult however ending the first term our opponents skipped away leading by three goals.

Tantalisingly close the second quarter began defensively for Hawkesbury. Joshua Edwards's physicality at half back slowed Penrith's running capabilities while the flamboyance of Jayden Cass running back with the flight of the ball left spectators gasping. The Saints soon had the ball forward thanks to James Dalgliesh's defensive efforts, this allowed several forward fifty entries. Encouraging was Johanna Nevell's attack on the football marking strong.

Precautionary measures in the third, extra players placed in the back line, instructions to keep the ball wide and slow the play making for increasingly harder shots on goal. Jesse Jane feeling un-well was moved to full-back bravely soldering on and using his body strength to rack up possession aided by Levi Tynan in the last line of defence. Frustrated the efforts of many players left unrewarded souring a tight encounter. Despite the Saints inability to pick up the ball cleanly they were able to minimise Penrith from taking full advantage of favourable conditions ending the third term still within striking distance.

The absence of Jack Wilson for one quarter of football made it increasingly difficult to play catch up football in the final term. A strong tail wind compensated some what however not favourable to our style of football. Consistency of delivery was effective with the Saints registering first points. Accurate drop punts, torpedoes and banana kicks all displayed at some point. Drop punts the most accurate of all passes is when the ball rotates in reverse in an end over end motion, Torpedo Punts spiral in the air resulting in extra distance and Banana kicks are used to curve the ball generally from an angle. Lochlan Barlow mastered a long drop punt kicking his first major after receiving a rare free while Brendan Vielhauer kicked his sixth for the season after being moved into a midfield role. The Saints ended the game strongly out-scoring Penrith in two quarters of football unable to narrow the deficit in the last however Penrith running out eventual winners by four goals.

Not making any excuses, certainly out played today by a more determined side but consider the fact that several players had school camps this week, athletic carnivals, illness and the absence of both Jacob Jansen, Jacob Grainger and Joshua Norton, all contributing factors for a surprising result. One things guaranteed the Saints will walk away learning from a loss and come finals expect a determined outfit seeking to reverse today's result.

#### **Best Players**

Liam Viegel, Brendan Vielhauer, Johanna Neville, Jayden Cass and Joshua Edwards  
Dominoes Man of the Match James Dalgliesh

#### **Goal Scorers**

Lochlan Barlow 1, Brendan Vielhauer 1 and Jack Wilson 1.

**Final Score Saints 3.5.23 def by Penrith Swans 7.7.49**

## **Round 14, U/12 Saints vs Blacktown**

On Saturday 26th July 2008, the Saints travelled to Cook Park, challengers Rooty Hill / Blacktown new to the Greater West competition. Our first encounter saw the Hawkesbury Saints convincing winners. Blacktown has several games since and with the announcement from AFL CEO Andrew Demetriou this week of a thirty million dollar sporting complex to be built in Blacktown by 2009, I was expecting a spirited and motivated group of challengers in today's contest.

Early season form continued for the Saints as we began the first term kicking the first major starting an avalanche of things to come. Star forward Lochlan Barlow let rip out muscling his opponent in a return to form performance while Hayden Wassall played man in front leading strongly and earning possession. Not deterred, plenty of enthusiasm from Rooty Hill as they defused many attempts unable to narrow the deficit however with the Saints beginning strongly kicking five successive goals.

The second quarter began when Liam Veigel's accurate rucking easy work for on-ballers to clear the centre. Jesse Jane got his hands on the leather driving deep into the forward line assisted by the brilliance of our roving pack. Jack Wilson continued to be unstoppable in the corridor moving closer to achieving fifty goals this season while Johanna Neville provided a formidable target forward displaying great defence laying on some strong tackles. Undersized and undeterred Rooty Hill never gave up displaying plenty of courage unable however to restrict the Saints from imposing the mercy rule at the half time break.

The second half began with Hawkesbury launching countless attacks amassing an amazing eight goals in the last term and looking to repeat that effort in the third. The consistent Brendan Viehauer moved to centre able to rebound many attempt by Rooty Hill as they refused to lie down, Daniel McGregor's innovative work around stoppages was encouraging while Willem Smith kicked accurately between the tall timbers after marking on the chest and receiving a set shot from the square. The Saints looked certain to register another record breaking win as we ended the third.

Fine tuning skills in preparation of next week's game against Penrith was the order in the fourth. Aided in defence Blacktown encouraged when several Hawkesbury players transferred over making for a more even contest. Knowing each others game a huge advantage and why some players remained in regular positions. Brendan Low and Daniel Crow continued to display skills far advanced for their age while Joshua Norton's height to difficult to handle on the flank. Effective handballing, spectacular and courageous marking and players supporting each-other, the type of form to take into next week's contest against our nearest competitors Penrith.

The Saints were able to break the game open early registering their fourteenth win for the season. Re-match next week against the in form Penrith Swans looks set to be another nail biter only one point separating both sides last encounter. Undefeated the Saints remain front runners in the competition, a title you can be assured everyone is trying to beat.

A combined Hawkesbury/Quakers Hill challenged Central West on Sunday. In a close encounter Hawkesbury Saints competitive against a combined Dubbo, Orange and Bathurst outfit. The team was narrowly defeated by Central West 52 to 44. Congratulations to Jack Wilson awarded Best on Ground.

#### **Best Players**

Daniel Crowe, Lochlan Barlow, Daniel McGregor, Joshua Norton, Willem Smith, Jesse Jane, Brendan Vielhauer.  
Dominoes Man of the Match Johanna Neville

#### **Goal Scorers**

Lochlan Barlow 6, Jack Wilson 4, Willem Smith 3, Brendan Low 2, Jesse Jane 2, Hayden Wassall 2, Liam Viegel 1, Daniel Crowe 1 and Daniel McGregor 1.

**Final Score Saints 22.18.150 def Rooty Hill / Blacktown 2.1.13**

On Saturday 19th July 2008, AFL's invasion of Sydney's Western Suburbs continued this week when the Hawkesbury Saints challenged the competitive St Clair Crows at Cook Park. The Crow's currently lying in fourth position would be seeking to reverse the result from our first round encounter meanwhile a win for the Saints would see us one step closer to clinching the double chance come finals, either way we were set for an entertaining game of football.

From the opening bounce the Saints spearhead asserted their authority on the match clearing the centre and launching our forwards immediately into action. Jesse Jane easily brushed aside his opponent breaking tackles, evading players driving the ball deep into the forward fifty where Liam Viegel capitalised registering the first two majors of the afternoon. The Crow's could only weather the storm for much of the quarter. Stacking our forward line only caused congestion and allowed the Saints easy entries inside fifty however their refusal to yield kept the margin to only two goals leading into the break.

A tight tussle in the second as our defenders sprung into action. Jacob Jansen's ability reading the game was evident winning possession against his opponent assisted by Daniel McGregor as he valiantly aided in defence. Brendan Vielhauer's block-aide at centre half back continued to cause headaches for our opponents while missing in action, some of our regular U/11 players returned to this week's line up strengthening a defence which has only conceded fourteen points per game on average. Despite this the Crow's were able to expose our back line briefly, quickly capitalising registering their first point of the afternoon, a few positional changes had the Saints right back on track as we entered the main break with a four goal advantage.

The third quarter began with the league's most potent side starving the opposition of the footy. Finding space out wide and stringing together some brilliant passages of play the Saints capitalised when Hayden Wassall attacked the footy followed by a deadly accurate drop punt right between the tall timbers. Brendan Low proved to be the danger-man up forward taking strong grabs registering his third major of the afternoon while Ayden Roach celebrated modestly kicking his eighth goal for the season. With a finals spot up for grabs the Crows tried valiantly to narrow the margin Hawkesbury however able to increase the half game buffer by a further four goals narrowly missing imposing the mercy rule by one point.

The Saints quickly extinguished any hopes of a St Clair revival early in the fourth when Daniel Crow getting down and dirty cleared the centre to a leading team-mate. Jack Wilson kicked an inspirational running goal after receiving a well directed pass from fellow team-mate Lochlan Barlow while Levi Tynan moved to wing finally saw some action having spent most of the game in a lonely fullback position. Improved defence and some favourable decisions in the dying minutes including two fifty metre penalties and another free kick immediately after a goal being kicked boosted the Crow's intensity, all to little to late, the Saints able to post another comprehensive and confidence building victory.

Congratulations to our representative players who participated in the Hunter Invitational Shield last weekend. The Greater West competed the second final convincing winners against Mid North Coast finishing third place. Once again on display the depth of talent from the Hawkesbury Football Club.

Sunday 27th July a combined U/12 Hawkesbury & Quakers Hill side compete against Bathurst in Bathurst. Game time 11.00am. RSVP please contact team managers now. A bus is available if required.

Thanks this week to Joshua Cass and Nick Crow. Both boys have been kept busy as the team's runner over several weeks and doing a great job. Thanks boys.

#### **Best Players**

Liam Viegel, Brendan Vielhauer, Daniel Crowe, Jacob Jansen, James Dalglish, Brendan Low and Ayden Roach  
Dominoes Man of the Match Willem Smith

#### **Goal Scorers**

Brendan Low 3, Jack Wilson 2, Liam Viegel 2, Hayden Wassall 1 and Ayden Roach 1.

**Final Score Saints 9.13.67 def St Clair Crows 3.1.19**

## **Round 12, U/12 Saints vs Emu Plains**

On Saturday 5th July 2008, Hawkesbury Saints challenged Emu Plains at the picturesque Dukes Oval. The Lions came into today's game needing a victory to be considered a chance for finals. Our first encounter saw the Hawkesbury Saints comfortable winners and we were hoping that today's game would be another percentage booster. The Lions, last years third place getter's had other ideas however, once again proving you should never underestimate the opposition.

The playing surface perfect the game began with the Saints midfield under immense pressure, slow out of the blocks. Emu Plains hunger made it difficult at first, persistence however soon had the Saints forward and registering points. Jack Wilson's athleticism provided a dominant marking target at centre half forward while Brendan Vielhauer directed traffic across half back ensuring all opponents were kept on a tight leash. The Lions belated charge narrowed the deficit slightly, by the end of the first quarter the Saints had accumulated a two goal advantage.

Early signs were promising at the commencement of the second term when Saints big-man Liam Veigel competitively contested the ruck against his much taller opponent. Our trio of little engines in the midfield became more effective meanwhile the Lions never gave up trying valiantly to dissolve the deficit. Leading into the main break, Saints 10.6.66 to Lions 3.0.18.

Teams re-emerged from the half time break rejuvenated ready to do battle once again. Jacob Jansen's run out of defence ignited our running game, Daniel McGregor glued himself to his opponent while Levi Tynan controlled the tempo in the last line of defence. In the midfield Jesse Jane continued to offload long to the square where Willem Smith playing in-front shrugged off his opponent and was able to keep the scoreboard ticking over. The mercy rule imposed, officially 84 to 24 in favour of the Saints.

A few positional alterations and we were underway in the fourth. Despite the relative lack of height the Saints challenged every contest. Hayden Wassall's ability to keep the game flowing was like watching a river in flood, James Dalglish found plenty at forward flank while Lochlan Barlow's deadly accurate disposals provided many scoring opportunities. Match experience proved invaluable for our new players, tactically and technically the Saints did very well against a difficult opposition. Our young brigade of U/11 players continue to do well every week. Your efforts contribute to the team's success and are appreciated very much.

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Sunday 13th July, U/12 Greater West Representative Side compete in the Hunter Invitational Shield, Newcastle. Six Hawkesbury boys have been selected and we wish them all the best. First game commences at 9.00am against the Mid North Coast if anyone would like to attend.  
Sunday 27th July invitation for a combined U/12 Hawkesbury and Quakers side to play Bathurst at Bathurst. Game time 11.00am. Bus is available if required. RSVP to team manager required ASAP. Further information has been sent via email.

#### **Best Players**

Hayden Wassall, James Dalglish, Jacob Jansen, Lochlan Barlow, Liam Veigel, Daniel Crowe, Brendan Low  
Dominoes Man of the Match Ayden Roach

#### **Goal Scorers**

Hayden Wassall 9, Lochlan Barlow 3, Willem Smith 3, James Dalglish 2, Jack Wilson 2, Brendan Low 1, Jesse Jane 1, Ayden Roach 1 and Jayden Cass 1.

**Final Score Saints 23.15.153 def Emu Plains 6.1.37**

## **Round 11, U/12 Saints vs Hills Lions**

On Saturday 28th June 2008, on a perfect day for football the Hills Lions challenged competition leaders the Hawkesbury Saints. Last encounter was two weeks prior when the Saints finished convincing winners. One thing was guaranteed, a rival more disciplined and determined in what was set to be another classic encounter between both sides.

The first quarter began with the Hills side restricting the Saints from playing a running game with man on man defence. Beginning strongly the Hills appeared to had done their home-work. Our competitors registered the first major of the day followed by another forward fifty entry. The Saints looked rattled and it took a little time to get going eventually winning contested possessions. Breaking clearances allowed forwards valuable breathing space as they became goal scoring machines midway through the term. Jack Wilson nailed his first driving long from centre half forward while Hayden Wassall found some room to move on the flank. The Hills side rebounded out of defence on several occasions minimising the damage however at the end of the term the Saints had accumulated a healthy 27 point lead.

After the break the Saints resumed with the Hills side again making it difficult congesting most contested play, hard at the footy and tight in defence. Saints unable to clear eventually used body on body contact to win possession, Jesse Jane started to win possession, Brendan Low continued to make good field position while Jacob Grainger was creative off half back. To their credit the Hills Lions midfield continued to press us however at half time the Saints had once again been able to add a further four goals to the lead.

The third term was an opportunity to fine tune certain skills not always practised on training nights. Players were instructed to spoil, shepard and switch play. Spoiling is when a player is caught behind his opponent in a marking contest and punches the ball from behind. Sheparding is when you place your body in the direct path of an opponent enabling a team-mate more time to pick up and clear and switching play is when you change direction disposing the football to a team-mate who is clear rather than kicking to a contest. All three skills were executed perfectly at some point in the term once again evidence of the Saints willingness to listen and learn. The Saints had imposed the mercy rule at the end of the term with the score reading 102 to 6.

The Hawkesbury side switched on in the final term, head over the ball, winning free kicks, allowing many forward entries. Johanna Neville playing her first game for the Hawkesbury Saints capitalised kicking her first goal despite loosing half her boot while Ayden Roach was electric in the last line of defence. The defensive pressure of Jacob Jansen and Brendan Veilhauer continued to raise eyebrows while Daniel McGregor spent the last quarter playing ruck rover able to clear the midfield. The Saints running out eventual winners with a performance I considered a bit of a walk in the park. Our biggest margin however against the Hills side having played on three separate occasions. Remember that finals are just around the corner and although many of our games have ended with the mercy rule imposed Penrith and Blue Mountains are breathing down our necks.

We have a new player this week. Welcome Johanna Neville and her family who join us all the way from the Northern Territory.

The slow boat from China arrived this week, worth the wait, tracksuits look very professional.

Next Saturday night several families are meeting at Seven Hills, travelling by train to the Swans vs. Collingwood match at Telstra Stadium. Anyone interested joining the group contact Darren or Anne-Marie for further details.

#### **Best Players**

Jacob Jansen, Jack Wilson, Jesse Jane, James Dalglish, Hayden Wassall and Brendan Low  
Dominoes Man of the Match Daniel McGregor

#### **Goal Scorers**

Jack Wilson 7, Jesse Jane 4, Daniel Crowe 2, Brendan Low 2, Hayden Wassall 2, James Dalglish 1, Ayden Roach 1, Johanna Neville 1.

**Final Score Saints 20.19.139 def Hills Lions 2.0.12**

## **Round 10, U/12 Saints vs Quakers Hill**

Saturday 21st June 2008, wet weather training Thursday night in preparation of today's match proved invaluable on a heavy track when the Hawkesbury Saints faced the Quakers Hill Bombers. The absence of Liam Veigel and Jayden Cass was of some concern however the Bombers would have to be in scintillating form if they were to mount any challenge in what promised to be an enthralling duel.

As the first quarter unfolded it became quickly apparent that the Hawkesbury Saints were a team on a mission. The starting midfield combination of Levi Tynan, Daniel Crowe, Jesse Jane and Brendan Low put on an awesome display as they used the centre square like a playground. Fast direct power football had Hawkesbury register three unanswered goals. Great teamwork, effective handball and accurate kicking continued through-out the entire quarter.

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little effect. At the end of the term the Saints had jumped to a 4 goal lead.

Things looked ominous for the Bombers at the commencement of the second as the premier forward combination went on the attack. The only saving grace for our opponents was some way-wood kicking which saw the Saints register twelve behinds for the term. Jack Wilson finally broke the drought with a nice running goal, Willem Smith unselfish style of football continued to create goal scoring opportunities while Brendan Vielhauer provided a strong presence when moved to centre half forward. The Bombers defence were brave able to deny Hawkesbury from having it all their own way restricting the margin to only 47 leading into the main break.

A few positional changes and instructions to steady when kicking at goal proved effective in the third. Jacob Jansen one of a trio of reliable back line players was able to rebound continuously, Jesse Jane played a physical and tireless running game while James Dalgliesh was able to find space up forward. Quakers valiant attempt and desperation resulted with their team registering their first points however were unable to halt the Saints kicking seven goals three behinds for the term.

The mercy rule now imposed and all remaining reserves placed on the park the Saints restructured midfield immediately went into attack. Daniel McGregor who loves his footy and is as red white and black as they come displayed his versatility around the ground unselfishly offloading to a running team-mate, Brendan Low's inspirational banana kick curled right between the sticks while significant inclusions from the U/11 side proved once again invaluable as they stamped their presence in the contest displaying skills far advanced beyond their years.

Unfortunately today's win was soured with the news that Daniel Crow's brother Nick broke a collar bone in a very physical encounter against Camden. Nick was recently selected for representative football "Stars" We wish him a speedy recovery as they march closer towards finals.

On a lighter note congratulations to six of our U/12 Saints were selected in the Greater West Representative Side. Jack Wilson, Hayden Wassall, Lochlan Barlow, Liam Veigel, Brendan Low and Daniel Crowe will compete in the Hunter Invitational Shield on the 13th July. Good Luck boys, I'm sure you will make the club proud.

Tracksuits have arrived from China and are currently being embroidered should be available to players in the next week or two.

#### **Best Players**

Jacob Jansen, Daniel Crowe, Willem Smith, James Dalgliesh, Brendan Low, Brendan Vielhauer

Dominoes Man of the Match Jesse Jane

#### **Goal Scorers**

Lochlan Barlow 3, Jack Wilson 3, Brendan Low 3, Willem Smith 2, Ayden Roach 1, Jesse Jane 1, Brendan Vielhauer 1.

**Final Score Saints 14.25.109 def Quakers Hill 0.1.1**

## **Round 9, U/12 Saints vs Hills Lions**

Saturday 14th June 2008, speaking pre-match to the Saints players and a sharp training run Thursday night I knew that today's game would produce something special. The Saints undefeated at this stage of the competition completed their final warm up appearing enthusiastic ready to face the highly respected Hills Lions.

The intensity was present from the opening minute despite kicking into a very strong head-wind. The Saints almost unstoppable midfield inspirational able to move the ball swiftly through the corridor. Jessie Jane provided a strong presence in the middle while the hardness and tackling pressure of Daniel Crowe continued to cause headaches for the Hills who's never give up attitude limited to Saints to just one major at the end of the first term.

The Saints seized control early in the second when the winning combination of our forward structure pounced.

Brilliant attacking football allowed our forwards to gather possession time after time. Lochlan Barlow was devastating his speed and agility proving too difficult for his opponent while Jack Wilson's aerobic running kept the opposition under immense pressure. Hayden Wassall provided another strong forward option on the flank along with Brendan Low who managed to find room in a crowded forward line registering two majors. The Saints were able to kick a record ten goals in one quarter of footy, which is almost unheard of at this age level. Leading into the main break the mercy rule was imposed with the official score-line reading sixty nil in favour of the Saints.

Relentless physical onslaught, the Saints continued to dominate most of the play in the third despite once again kicking into the wind. Hills Lions were happy to leave the sides the same, lifting their work rate but unfortunately unable to penetrate forward, still making it increasingly difficult however with their never say die attitude. Joshua Edwards returning from the happiest place on earth was able to pick up right where he left off rebounding many attempts by Hills to narrow the margin while Liam Veigel's height proved effective at most stoppages. Hawkesbury battled hard in the trying conditions increasing the lead by a further five points.

The final change field positions were altered, players were mixed allowing for some well earned fun time on the park. Showing up with his kicking boots on Willem Smith made the most of time at full forward with two strong grabs while Daniel Evans, a rising star from the U/11's proved he could mix it with the older boys. Brendan Veilhauer exhibited courage when attacking the football while Jacob Grainger who is becoming more involved every week took a screamer at centre half forward. The Hills finally got on the scoreboard receiving a fifty metre penalty registering their first followed by another fifty giving them two goals for the term however all to late with the Saints receiving applause and the respect of both players and spectators after a brilliant display of highly skilled and free flowing football in telling conditions. Well done.

Congratulations to Brendan Veilhauer who in his first year of AFL received the U/12 Saints Rising Star Award for season 2008. Keep up the good work Brendan.

Just a reminder that tracksuits arrive at the docks on the 26<sup>th</sup> June then need to be embroidered. Please be patient they are on the way.

Names of players attending the Swans Experience Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August are now required. Please inform either your team manager or coach as soon as possible.

#### **Best Players**

Lochlan Barlow, Liam Veigel, Hayden Wassall, Jack Wilson, Brendan Low, Daniel Crowe and James Dalgliesh

Dominoes Man of the Match Hayden Wassall

#### **Goal Scorers**

Jack Wilson 4, Lochlan Barlow 3, Willem Smith 2, Brendan Low 2, Liam Veigel 1, Brendan Vielhauer 1, Hayden Wassall 1 and James Dalgliesh 1.

**Final Score Saints 15.21.111 def Hills Lions 2.2.14**

## **Round 8, U/12 Saints vs Blue Mountains**

Saturday 31st May 2008, the Saints challengers, Blue Mountains at Tom Hunter Oval. The Saints have enjoyed stunning on-field success undefeated at this stage of the competition, today's rematch however would be compellingly closer than the final score-line would finally suggest.

The Saints confirmed their favouritism in the opening quarter kicking the first two unanswered goals of the game. Productive midfielders and experienced defenders were particularly damaging able to defuse many attempts by Blue Mountains to steady their side. Star ruckman, Liam Veigel dominated stoppages providing a good service to on-ballers while James Dalgliesh displayed what a strong option he has become up forward with accurate goal kicking helping to inspire fellow teamsters. Blue Mountains rallied when it counted trailing by only one goal at the end of the term.

Early season form continued in the second when the Saints were able to once again register first points. Positive decision making proved effective in the midfield when Daniel Crowe continued to offload to leading team-mates coping a black eye for his troubles. Brendan Veilhauer focused on being first to the footy injuring his arm in the process while the tall combination and the battle to regain rhythm from Blue Mountains prevented any chance of a mercy rule leading into the main break.

The motivated Saints appeared to have the game under control in the third quarter despite one sided decision making in favour of the home side. Jacob Jansen is fast becoming one of the teams biggest improvers, Jayden Cass high percentage of possession continued to build confidence in his first year in the U/12 age group while Levi Tynan's return to form after injury proved invaluable. Blue Mountains coaching tactics were effective crowding the forward line however the Saints ability to tighten defence and build a wall at centre half forward proved far too effective. At the end of the third the Saints had increased the margin by four goals.

Going into the last change, the motivated Saints continued their rise as major challengers for the flag when Jesse Jane stormed down the wing earning him a well deserved kick, Brendan Low took some nice grabs and snapped a brilliant left foot goal while Jack Wilson demonstrated his fitness with an inspiring running goal. Blue Mountains could only witness however continue to improve as the season progresses. Definitely a team to watch come September.

A much improved performance in front of a good size crowd. A harder work load and finding their passing game the Saints showed what serious contenders they are becoming after today's return to form despite no decisions going their way. A good win.

Congratulations to Liam Veigel who was scouted and asked to try out for the U/12 Greater West Representative Side. Seven of our players will commence trials Wednesday night. We wish them all the best as they endeavour to play representative football.

Don't forget our pie night this week. 5.30pm Thursday, all parents and players invited to attend. For further details contact Anne Marie Crowe, Steve Low or Darren Barlow.

Just a reminder that chocolate raffle money is now due. Please forward to Anne Marie as soon as possible.

Players wishing to attend the Swans experience night 12<sup>th</sup> August also need to inform Anne Marie so numbers can be finalised.

### **Best Players**

Liam Veigel, Jacob Jansen, James Dalgliesh, Jayden Cass, Brendan Low, Brendan Veilhauer

Dominoes Man of the Match Levi Tynan

### **Goal Scorers**

Jack Wilson 6, Brendan Low 2, James Dalgliesh 2, Liam Veigel 1, Jesse Jane 1.

**Final Score Saints 12.10.82 def Blue Mountains 7.8.50**

## **Round 7, U/12 Saints vs Blacktown**

Saturday 24th May 2008 the Hawkesbury Saints played host to the newly developed Blacktown Club. This being the first time that both sides had met, several players absent due to representative commitments and holidays, we went into today's contest knowing very little and had no idea what to expect.

The game commenced in similar fashion as other weeks with the Saints dominating early. Jessie Jane showed he has something to offer receiving plenty of touches while Brendan Low's determination was highlighted with some excellent marking and accurate disposals. Solid defence and enthusiasm from Blacktown prevented the Saints from imposing the mercy rule early however by the end of the first term the Saints had accumulated a healthy 48 point lead.

In a sign of great sportsmanship several of our boys volunteered to play for the undermanned Blacktown side in the second making for a more even contest. Blacktown seemed to be encouraged responding enthusiastically to their new look line up. Hayden Wassall continued to wow the home crowd with his running ability and long kicks on goal while Ayden Roach added further pressure with his agility on the forward line. Leading into the main break saw a huge deficit in favour of the home side.

With the mercy rule now imposed teams were mixed and we had an opportunity for a little more competition.

Daniel Crowe clashed heavily putting body on body contact on his opponent while Jayden Cass demonstrated his running capabilities outpacing some of his fellow team mates. Jacob Grainger was effective at full forward kicking his first major of the year while Declan Amos took advantage of extended game time racking up his total. Third quarter Saints led 133 to 19.

The final term was an opportunity for players to be positioned in areas unfamiliar to them. The idea was they would then have a better understanding of how the game is played and be given more time on the ball. Brendan Veilhauer took advantage when placed at centre half forward showing his versatility as a back and forward in the



player. Watching Lochlan Barlow have shots on goal was like watching two magnets being drawn together meanwhile Jacob Jansen was relocated into the forward line where he also contributed to our already massive total. Encouraging signs for the new Blacktown side whose enthusiasm and willingness to learn was a pleasure to watch. We wish them all the best in their first season and look forward to meeting them again later in the year. Well done boys.

Thankyou, many of the U/11 side for your support. You all played very well and we welcome you to have a run any time.

Congratulations to Daniel Crowe who played his 50th game of Australian Football for the Hawkesbury Australian Football Club this week.

Thanks to all our mums and dads who have helped in the canteen over the last several weeks. Your help is very much appreciated, also very necessary towards maintaining a successful and financial club.

#### **Best Players**

Lochlan Barlow, Jacob Jansen, Brendan Low, Daniel Crowe, Ayden Roach, Willem Smith and Liam Veigel.

Dominoes Man of the Match Brendan Veilhauer

#### **Goal Scorers**

Lochlan Barlow 8, Hayden Wassall 4, Brendan Low 3, Willem Smith 3, Ayden Roach.2, Daniel Crowe 1, Jessie Jane 1, Liam Veigel 1, Jacob Grainger 1, Daniel Evans 1.

**Final Score Saints 25.17.167 def Blacktown 3.1.19**

## **Round 6, U/12 Saints vs Penrith**

Saturday 17th May 2008, the clash between the two front runners in the competition. The challenge, to beat last year's premiers. After a positive start to the season I was quietly confident of a favourable result. What was required, the team's best efforts, as it turned out today would be their toughest challenge in what would end in a cliff-hanger.

The umpire blew his whistle and the game was underway. The Saints kicking into a strong head-wind were hugely disadvantaged in the first term. Hard checking midfielders and man on man tactics saw a competitive and fairly even start. The intensity lifted when the Saints registered first points of the day. Levi Tynan's body on body contact allowed him to register the first major while James Dalgliesh who at forward flank picked up possessions by leading into space. The Saints ended the quarter slightly ahead.

What can only be described as a battle, the second term began with the Saints being denied any chance of playing a natural running game. The Swans were continuous in their defence which made it very difficult to take advantage of a favourable head-wind. Nathan Egan, Joshua Edwards and Jayden Cass continued to halt any forward momentum and were supported by Daniel McGregor in the last line of defence. Half time, Saints 3.2.20 to Penrith 2.3.15

The third term began with the Saints having a difficult job containing the Swans, who had the breeze at their backs. Instructions were to kick wide and control the damage on the scoreboard. Our backline were outstanding in trying conditions, again able to halt most drives forward and slow the play. The work rate of Penrith's midfield increased, able to out-score the Saints, finishing the term leading by three points.

It takes a champion side to come from behind and that's exactly what the Saints were able to achieve in the fourth. With favourable weather and determination player's lifted as they hit the lead. The Swans were denied any chance of a comeback, being starved of the footy. The Saints meanwhile performed all the competitive things that a team requires on a field. Jacob Jansen played a man in front type of game earning him bragging rights while Daniel Crowe played similar to Sydney Swans Brett Kirk burrowing into packs and closely tagging his opponent. Team tactics were executed perfectly ensuring no chance of a Penrith revival.

Once again the Hawkesbury Saints move closer towards minor premiership, unbeaten at this point in the competition and outright leaders. Next week we face the Greater Wests newest edition to the competition, Blacktown.

Congratulations to Levi Tynan and Jack Wilson who played their 50th game of Australian Football for the Hawkesbury Australian Football Club this week.

A big thanks to Kathy Barlow this week who is capturing on camera all those spectacular highlights from the season. A preview will be premiered at our pie night in coming weeks. All parents and players are invited to attend.

#### **Best Players**

Brendan Vielhauer, Brendan Low, Levi Tynan, Daniel McGregor, Joshua Edwards and Jayden Cass

Dominoes Man of the Match Daniel Crowe

#### **Goal Scorers**

Lochlan Barlow 1, Jack Wilson 1, Hayden Wassall 1 and Levi Tynan 1.

**Final Score Saints 4.8.32 def Penrith 4.7.31**

## **Round 5, U/12 Saints vs Hills Lions**

Saturday 10th May 2008, the weekend we celebrate 150 years of Australian Football and the week the Saints celebrate top position on the ladder equal with the Penrith Swans. Four wins from as many starts the Hawkesbury Saints came into today's match full of enthusiasm and confidence, ready to play football after a very convincing win last week.

Immediately, from the opening bounce the Saints came alive when our midfield broke through the pack to register the first major of the day. Liam Veigel excelled in most rucking contests while Brendan Low put his small frame on the line never hesitating to off load to a team mate and demonstrating great field position. At the end of the first term the Saints led by 39 points.

An eye catching second quarter, Jacob Jansen stood shoulder to shoulder against his opponent, meanwhile Jessie Jane won the applause of the crowd constantly making the ball his first priority. Despite the best efforts of some

very good footballers in the Hills side, the Saints were far too strong imposing the mercy rule at this stage of the game.

The versatility of our team was again displayed in the third quarter when players were rotated, allowing our back line some time on the ball. Dedication at training proved to be paying dividends when Jacob Grainger took a terrific mark playing in front, Joshua Edwards showed what a young talented footballer he is turning out to be while Nathan Egan upstaged the opposition displaying hunger and determination when gaining possession. The score at the end of the term 93 to nil.

A brave attempt from the Hills defenders made for a very good contest in the fourth however the Saints stamped their authority on the match when Daniel Crowe, Jayden Cass and Brendan Low kicked their first for the year while Levi Tynan returning from injury also contributed to the massive total. At this stage it was all over rover with another impressive victory.

The U/12 Hawkesbury Saints made a premiership statement today having now won five from five, affirming their status as major challengers for the unbeaten Penrith Swans who we are up against next week.

Congratulations to Lochlan Barlow who played his 50th game of Australian Football for the Hawkesbury Football Club.

A big well done to Daniel Crowe, Hayden Wassall, Jack Wilson, Lochlan Barlow, Brendan Low and Jessie Jane who have been selected to try out for the U/12 Greater West Representative team.

Thanks to everybody for your support selling chocolates this week. Just a reminder that money is to be handed to team managers in two weeks.

Thanks also to all mums and dads for your continued support running water, boundary and goal umpiring so far this season.

#### **Best Players**

Hayden Wassall, Joshua Edwards, Liam Veigel, Jayden Cass, Nathan Egan and Jacob Grainger  
Dominoes Man of the Match Brendan Low.

#### **Goal Scorers**

Lochlan Barlow 3, Hayden Wassall 3, Daniel Crowe 3, Willem Smith 2, Jayden Cass 2, Brendan Low 1, Levi Tynan 1, Brendan Vielhauer 1 and Jack Wilson 1.

**Final Score Saints 17.10.112 def Hills Lions 1.0.6**

## **Round 4, U/12 Saints vs St Clair**

Saturday the 3rd May, the U/12 Saints would travel to Cook Park to challenge the highly respected St Clair Crows. The Crows, currently on top of the ladder have had two victories from as many starts whilst the Saints remain undefeated at this stage of the competition. After a very sharp training run Thursday night, today's prediction, a very close and entertaining game of football and that's exactly what the boys delivered.

From the opening bounce the Saints were ferocious, the ball being delivered by our midfield direct and accurate to our forwards who were able to capitalise on the scoreboard. The Crows tried hard and gave a good contest. At the end of the term the Crows trailed only by 15 points.

The second quarter can only be described as Champaign football. Jack Wilson's aerial work was entertaining to watch while Lochlan Barlow played an amazing game displaying his ability to kick left and right, dominating the forward line. St Clair's response was to place an extra player in their back line, this however had no effect and by half time the Saints led by 38 points.

Our backline saw a bit of the action in the third term. Daniel McGregor played in front of his opponent while Jessie Jane pushed back despite tired legs from school cross country this week. Ayden Roach kicked his first goal for the year while Daniel Crowe again gave another strong performance playing in the midfield. At the end of the third quarter the Saints narrowly missed imposing the mercy rule by 3 points.

The fourth term Brendan Vielhauer's fresh legs provided strength in the centre while James Dalgliesh inspired his team mates with a flashy run and bounce at forward flank. Hayden Wassall enjoyed time back in his favourite position while Willem Smith made a contest against a very tall fullback. An amazing result today and a great game of footy to watch Well done boys.

Many thanks to Jayden Cass, Joshua Edwards, Nathan Egan and Daniel Evans who backed up after playing in the U/11's.

Congratulations to Jessie Jane, Jack Wilson, Jacob Jansen, Daniel Crowe and Lochlan Barlow who not only backed up in the fourteens but kicked two of their goals contributing to a very exciting 5 point win.

Many thanks this week to Anne Marie Crowe who is doing a terrific job as manager. Your efforts are very much appreciated by all the boys.

#### **Best Players**

The whole team made the best players list this week.

Dominoes Man of the Match went to Lochlan Barlow and Jack Wilson.

#### **Goal Scorers**

Lochlan Barlow 4, Jack Wilson 2, Ayden Roach 2, Hayden Wassall 1 and Willem Smith 1.

**Final Score Saints 10.17.77 def St Clair 0.3.3**

## **Round 3, U/12 Saints vs Emu Plains**

On Saturday the 26th April the U/12 Saints would meet Emu Plains, our first home game of the year. A terrific start to the season which has seen two very good wins. This week facing the traditionally strong Lions who narrowly missed a Grand Final birth last year.

A week of rain, training cancelled and school holidays all contributed to a slow start for the Saints this week. Emu Plains kicked the first two majors of the game but like most champion sides it did not take long for our boys to respond. Jesse Jane again with a terrific mark in the centre of play, an excellent ruck and a drop punt that would even impress Collingwood's Anthony Rocca while Ayden Roach played his first official game of footy continuously attacking in the forward line creating many scoring opportunities. The Lions,

determined and courageous continued to be competitive however good centre clearances, unselfish play and great team work soon saw the Hawkesbury side trailing by only one point at the end of the first term.

What is very pleasing to see from a coaches point of view is when a team can lift its intensity when asked, as was the case in the second. Great defence, with our back line sticking to their opponents like glue. Jacob Jansen, Jacob Grainger and Joshua Edwards were outstanding when contesting the footy, able to rebound any forward momentum by the Lions. Our younger players like Jayden Cass and Daniel Evans constantly won possession against some very tall opponents. At the half time break the Saints led by 29 points.

Generally the third term is when a game can either be won or lost. Fitness plays a major role and the game begins to open up allowing our running players to have a bigger impact. Small in stature but a giant killer on the field, Brendan Vielhauer worked hard in the midfield while Liam Veigel dominated the ruck and provided a tall target around the ground. A hard slog in hot conditions, tired legs appeared to have no impact on the game with the Saints keeping the opposition scoreless for the term, increasing the margin by a further twenty points.

The fourth quarter was again sensational. Great team work and a willingness to share the ball. This was demonstrated by the seven different goal scorers in the game. Brendan Low unselfishly looked for his team mates when gaining possession while Willem Smith was able to read the play and bagged a couple of goals today.

Another good performance, unfortunately marred when Daniel Crowe's eyes only for the football attitude meant an early exit and a trip to hospital after an accidental head collision. Every one was relieved to here that Daniel's OK and will be back next week when we meet the St Clair Crows who are currently in first position on the ladder by percentage.

Congratulations to Lochlan Barlow, Daniel Crowe, Jacob Jansen and Jesse Jane who played in the U/14 age group prior to our game. All four boys were very competitive and gained many possessions mixing it with much larger opponents and contributing to a very good win.

A big thanks to all Mums and Dads for your help so far this year. It takes a team of people to get the boys on the park each week and your efforts are very much appreciated.

#### **Best Players**

Brendan Low, Jesse Jane, Brendan Vielhauer, Daniel McGregor, Ayden Roach and Jayden Cass.

Dominoes Man of the Match Award to Liam Veigel.

#### **Goal Scorers**

Jack Wilson 3, Lochlan Barlow 2, Brendan Vielhauer 2, Daniel McGregor 1, Liam Veigel 1, James Dalglish 1 & Willem Smith 1.

**Final Score Saints 11.13.79 def Emu Plains 3.1.19**

## **Round 2, U/12 Saints vs Quakers Hill**

On Saturday the 12th April the U/12 Hawkesbury Saints travelled to Francis Park, Blacktown for another encounter against the Quakers Hill Bombers who we had previously met in a friendly only two weeks prior.

With only eight players at training due to school camps, illness and the beginning of school holidays I thought that today's match might be a tough challenge, particularly after observing the bombers impressive midfield in a recent trial game.

The first quarter began strongly for the Saints. Liam Veigel dominated most rucking contests while Daniel Crowe won the hard footy in crowded play, allowing our forwards to rapidly increase the total. At the end of the first term the Saints led by 30 points.

The Saints team work was excellent in the second, moving the ball quickly and effectively. Disposals were accurate and forwards found plenty of room to dazzle the crowd. Lochlan Barlow showed his potential on the forward line kicking a bag of goals while Jack Wilson provided a strong target around the ground demonstrating why he was selected for Sydney West this week. Half time score Saints 53 to 0.

In the third, players were moved allowing our backs to see more of the action. James Dalglish won the battle against his opponent with a best on ground performance while Brendan Low added spark to an already impressive forward line. At this point, the game was mercy ruled meaning that once a side is leading by sixty points the scoring discontinues. Three quarter time score, Saints 13.13.91 to 0.0.0.

The fourth term Bombers fielded three extra players and five midfielders while we reduced our midfield to three. Brendan Vielhauer was given a run on the ball gaining many possessions while Joshua Edwards was able to halt any forward momentum by heavy tackling and great defence. Someone once told me that a star team will always beat a team of stars and I think we have a star team. Every player is demonstrating their versatility in different positions and showing terrific motor skills so early in the season.

Thankyou to Joshua Edwards, Jayden Cass, Joshua Beattie, Declan Amos, Connor Moore, Nathan Egan, Daniel Evans and Lachlan Haines who have assisted each week from the U/10 and U/11 side. Big effort boys and I look forward to your contribution in coming weeks.

Congratulations to Jack Wilson who was selected for the PSSA Sydney West Schoolboys side. Jack will compete in Coffs Harbour around May and wish him all the best.

#### **Best Players**

Jack Wilson, Daniel Crowe, Lochlan Barlow, Brendan Low & Daniel McGregor

Dominoes Man of the Match Award to James Dalglish.

#### **Goal Scorers**

Lochlan Barlow 5, Jesse Jane 3, James Dalglish 3, Willem Smith 2, Jack Wilson 2, Hayden Wassall 1 & Lachlan Haines 1.

**Final Score Saints 17.19.121 def Quakers Hill 0.0.0**

## **Round 1, U/12 Saints vs Blue Mountains**

On Saturday the 5th April the U/12 Hawkesbury Saints began their season with a convincing win over a determined opponent.

The first quarter showed a team that looked like they had been playing together for years with strong centre clearances & handballing by our mid-field players. This allowed our forwards to kick the first three goals of the game. Blue Mountains responded with two goals of their own and at the end of the first term the Saints had a 9 point lead.

The second quarter was a low scoring affair. With both sides marking strongly, our boys battled hard to move the ball quickly. When they did manage to move the ball, they displayed enormous potential and again out scored Blue Mountains in the period. Half time Saints 5.4.34 to Blue Mountains 2.3.15.

The third term was again another even contest. Jacob Jansen was strong at back flank & Brendan Vielhauer started racking up his possessions on the wing. Willem Smith proved an effective full forward kicking two goals. At three quarter time the score was Saints 7.6.48 to Blue Mountains 3.3.21.

The fourth term was impressive. Most of the play was in our forward line. It was hot, windy and we battled against a much larger opponent who flooded our forward line in an attempt to narrow the score line. The Saints had nine scoring shots to Blue Mountains three. Liam Veigel was impressive at ruck in his first year of AFL while smaller players became more effective late in the game as tired legs started to set in.

Every player showed a lot of ability today and gave 100% against a team very determined to do well. A very good challenge for us today. Well done team.

**Best Players**

Brendan Vielhauer, Liam Veigel, Hayden Wassall, Willem Smith & Jesse Jane  
Dominoes Man of the Match Award to Jacob Jansen.

**Goal Scorers**

Jack Wilson 3, Willem Smith 2, Hayden Wassall 2, Lochlan Barlow 1 & Jacob Jansen 1.

**Final Score Saints 9.14.68 def Blue Mountains 5.4.34**