

Round 4 v Mitcham Yellow – 24 May 2016

We travelled to our first away game to play Mitcham Yellow at Hawthorn. Again, we got a nice morning albeit a bit of wind to the western end. Well done to Mitcham for a nice ground and tasty bacon and egg rolls and good coffee. This is very important for the parents at 8.30 on a Sunday morning.

Hugo won the non toss and we were kicking with a good breeze. Harry G, Hugo and Josh controlled the midfield and sent the ball down to our forward line of Will T, Ethan and William. Multiple goals to Will T and a single goal to Ethan were the result of some nice passing and leading to space. The backline of Leroy, Harry N and Harrison had a quiet quarter due to Mitcham kicking against a strong breeze. No comments to be made of the goal umpiring Rhys!

In the second quarter, the midfield of Harry N, Leroy and Harrison got into the game and battled well on the ground to take possession and move it on to the forward line. The forwards were sharing it around well which resulted in Hugo with a goal (biased editor but bouncing then handballing to yourself and kicking it on the full from the handball to goal was an unusual one), Josh with a goal and to the great excitement of his teammates, Harry G got his first goal after many good possessions in the first half. A really good effort against the wind with Mitcham playing well with a few forward entries but our backline did a great job keeping them to a goal. The highlight of the quarter was the midfield all handballing to each other, a nice kick to Hugo who then handballed to Harry G for a goal. That was 5 players touching the ball without the ball hitting the ground and a goal was the result.

While we had the wind in the third quarter, Mitcham played a nice quarter and it was a tight tussle with Harry N and Ethan both kicking nice goals. Again, the passing from the backline through the midfield was a highlight.

The last quarter was against the breeze and we threw William, Leroy and Harrison to the forward line with the coach encouraging them all to have a go at kicking their first goal for the club. Mitcham did well with the wind and for their limited number of entries, kicked 2 goals including a brilliant snap from the pocket from a Mitcham player. Hugo, Josh and Ethan battled against some enthusiastic play from their opponents and Leroy got his hands on the ball regularly but was unable to hit the scoreboard with a goal. Harrison also battled hard in one of his best games for the club. Highlight for the game was William who had a few earlier handballs but was awarded a free after going hard at a ball in the goal square. The crowd all held their breath as William calmly potted it straight through the big uprights for his first club goal. The crowd went wild!! Hugo finished the game off nicely with a goal from the midfield (again the unbiased editor had to mention this!).

Coach Justin praised the players for one of their best games with great passing, handballing and great team play including encouraging their mates.

Another highlight was for the second week in a row, we had 7 individual goalkickers.

Best player was Will T for his three goals and great sweeping in defence and kicking to position. 2nd best to Harry N really improved this week on his passing and also won the Best Team player for this work. 3rd best to Captain Hugo who played a strong game with lots of marks as did 4th best Ethan who took many marks in space and battled well. Harry G was fifth best for getting into space and calling loud. Josh also played a good game. Justin noted that Harrison, William, Harry G all played their best games for the year.

Encouragement Award to Harrison for his very solid game and Special Achievement to William for his first goal and great attitude to the contest.

Boys finished with the song but tip for next week – don't give out the snakes until after the song as it sounded a bit muffled with mouths full of snakes.

Here are the words for the Sturt song.

*It's a Grand old flag, Its a high-flying flag
It's the emblem for me and for you
It's the emblem of the team we love
The team of the old Double Blues
Every heart beats true for the old Double Blues
As we sing this song to you.....what do we sing?
Should old acquaintance be forgot
Keep your eye on the old Double Blues*

Captain Hugo had this to say about the game

"The best thing about the game was that everyone shared and got a touch. It was great to see William and Harry Go get their first goals. I liked that our players looked for people and for leading and getting in front"

Here are some great photos from our resident photographer Salli and don't forget to scroll down for Coach Justin's comments for every player.

Josh showing his silky skills with the left boot. All up for a mark!!



Will T did a great job looking for a teammate in the clear.



Good standing the mark Ethan



Catch Hugo if you can!



Great positioning Harry.



The crowd went wild – well done William



The boys exerted great pressure when Mitcham had the ball.



Gotta love the facial expressions – nice tap Hugo.



Leroy got plenty of touches in the last quarter.



Good game, good game, good game....



Listening intently to the Coach.



Good support Oscar



It's a Grand Old Flag...how does it go?



COACH JUSTIN'S COMMENTS FOR EACH PLAYER

Leroy

A bit unlucky on Sunday Leroy. After a great game last week your first attack at the ball was really good but unfortunately you hurt your hand. Great effort to come back on and get a lot of the ball in the last quarter.

Harrison

Your best game so far Harrison. Like Hudson you are starting to gain confidence in your skills which is making you feel more confident with the ball in your hand. Good to see you calling for the ball and running hard to the contest. Well done.

Harry G

One of your best games Harry! Your leading to good space and reading of the play was outstanding. You also used your pace to win a couple of really important contests and set up your teammates with some great handballs. Please get Dad to do some work on his goal umpiring.

Hugo

Great Captain's game Hugo. I really liked the way you passed the ball into the forward line, lifting your eyes and looking for the best option. Great team play setting up your mates for an easy goal. Got the votes for best rendition of the club song!

Harry N

In many ways this was my favourite game from you Harry. As always you were very strong at the contest and used your pace to get yourself in the clear. Particularly happy with the way you looked when you had the ball and often short passed to a teammate in a better position.

Hudson

Another improving game Hudson. I have seen your football improve a lot over the last few weeks. Your skills are getting better every week and I can see your confidence growing. Good to see you calling for the ball and running hard to the contest.

William R

I was really pleased with your game William. You are gaining confidence every week and I thought you competed well for the ball. This resulted in you winning an important free kick and all your practice paid off with a beautiful goal. Well done!

Josh

Well done Josh. You are consistently a great performer for the team and played really well again this week. You have been training hard and your skills are excellent by both hand and foot. Keep looking to set up your teammates every time you get the ball.

Ethan

Probably your best game so far Ethan. You are starting to read the play really well and taking some great marks. I really like the way you set your teammates up with some excellent handballs. Remember to run hard to space when your teammates have the ball.

Will T

Excellent game Will. You again showed your fantastic team attitude. Lots of great running and excellent reading of the play resulted in some terrific marks. I love the way you keep your feet, explode when you get the ball and then look for a teammate with a quick handball or kick.

Oscar

2 to go! Great to see you out at training last week Oscar.