MATCH REPORT 8/4 v SANDRIGHAM DRAGONS

It was a valiant effort by the Cannons but were overrun in the fourth quarter to be defeated by 23 points, despite monstrous third quarter that saw us string together five goals in a row to give us the lead going into the last quarter. Tackling pressure was the theme of the day and Nathan Croft added 10 tackles to his large disposal tally. Browning and Baker also dominated the body and pressured most contests around the ground.

The Cannons left a lot to be desired in the height category with starting ruckman Cooper Lamb a very late withdrawal from the team. Westphal and O’Sullivan battled courageously in the ruck but we struggled to get first hands on the ball. The Cannons couldn’t win the centre clearances consistently and it took a toll on the defenders who were defending chaos balls’ from the majority of the centre bounces.

Nathan Croft and Mitch Podhajski led from the front for the Cannons, were both phenomena, whilst Doyle found plenty of the ball and space whilst marking the ball consistently. Pods was a clear standout in the second half and ended the game with 28 disposals, 7 marks, 5 tackles and 2 goals in an impressive showing.

The Cannons finished with 80 tackles on the day, a number which Coach Ross Smith was extremely impressed with.

The Cannons will look to bounce back next Sunday against the Greater Western Victoria Rebels in our second away game of the year at Mars Stadium.

Goals: Johnson 2, Podhajski 2, Ramsay 1, Firebrace 1, Mahoney 1, Evans 1, Gentile 1, O’Sullivan 1.