

The game is over but Player of the Match Krista Carpenter is still under pressure

A WIN FOR THE AGES

Underdog Olinda-Ferny Creek has taken the Outer East Football Netball League netball crown with a Grand Final victory in extraordinary circumstances at Gembrook.

In what many believe is the best game of netball since the League adopted the sport in 2005 OFC and top team Narre Warren were locked together at 36 all at the end of regular time.

They then went goal for goal in Extra Time as torrential rain fell and when the buzzer sounded it was the women in red and white who prevailed 44-43.



A Grade leading goal scorer- Hayley Howard- had a faultless first quarter and put scoreboard pressure on Narre.

During the season OFC and Narre Warren clashed three times with Narre, led by former Australian player Erin Bell, winning comfortably on each occasion.

However Olinda-Ferny Creek has an amazing history in the top grade of the competition winning every grand final since 2016 and taking home the Minor Premiership when there were no finals in 2021. The women in red and white had a crown, and a reputation to defend.

In the first quarter OFC made it clear they had come play and at times held a three goal lead.

OFC captain Krista Carpenter, a local schoolteacher, read the game like a Year One book and set up numerous scoring opportunities for Goal Shooter Hayley Howard and Goal Attack Taylah Werner.



Goal Attack Taylah Werner (right) - her two best games of the season were against top team Narre Warren

Two other mid court veterans, Madeleine Guz and Alice Paget were almost faultless with their ball movement and loaded up the pressure on the Narre "mids".

Narre Warren went to work in the second quarter and at times had their noses in front.



The Engine Room "running on all cylinders"- Maddy to Krista as another attack builds.

The top team looked to set-up a premiership victory in the third term with relentless attacks which OFC defenders Brodie Smith and Bronwyn Simpson worked overtime to stop being converted into goals. It was more of the same in the last quarter but the OFC veterans, some of whom had played in the Club's first flag way back in 2015, refused to buckle.



Brodie Smith cut off numerous attacks further up the court while fellow defender Bronwyn Simpson (partly obscured) worked overtime to neutralise star Erin Bell. Great coaching Brie !

Incredibly, with the scores locked together on 36 all and three seconds left on the clock, Erin Bell missed a goal in wet and blustery conditions sending the game into overtime.

It was then that the heavens opened up and the rain bucketed down drenching players and hundreds of supporters.

OFC and Narre once more went toe to toe with Howard and Werner repeatedly scoring clutch goals to keep the red and white in the match. When the final buzzer sounded it was the veteran team which prevailed by the most slender of margins. It was certainly a win for the ages.

Fittingly it was Krista Carpenter who was named Player of the Match. OFC President Michael Hill said post- match " we are so incredibly proud of this group of women, they have been the benchmark for Outer Eastern netball for the best part of a decade".

Hill said the final series had again underlined the incredible depth of

talent at Olinda-Ferny Creek "eight of our nine teams played finals and our Women's Football side made the Preliminary Final in the top division in just its second season. But the netball win is absolutely the icing on the cake."

OFC 44 Narre Warren 43.

Best Players- Krista Carpenter, Maddy Taylor (Guz), Alice Paget, Brodie Smith, Bronwyn Simpson, Hayley Howard, Taylah Werner

Goal Scorers- Hayley Howard 25 Taylah Werner 19



President Mick Hill with five time Premiership player Georgia Martin- " the netball flag was the icing on the cake for us".



Winning and grinning- coaches Chelsea Maher and Brie DeJong (head coach) are on the extreme left.

Some OFC Factoids- it was Krista's second Anita Woods Medal (for Best Player in Grand Final}. Her first was way back in 2015.

Georgia Martin, Maddy and Krista have now won FIVE A Grade premierships.

This was Alice Paget's FOURTH A Grade flag. Alice was also the Anita Woods Medallist in 2019.



Alice, Maddy, Georgia and Life Member Tim Scott.

It was Brodie Smith's THIRD flag. Brodie was the Anita Woods Medallist in 2018.

Taylah Werner averages 11 goals a game in A Grade. In the last two matches against Narre she has scored 23 goals and 19 goals.

Narre Warren and OFC played three times during the season-Narre won each game- by eight goals, 12 goals and five goals.





The Calm Before the Storm- literally- Michelle Tomlinson and granddaughter Elena Carpenter prior to the match- and the rain !!

MEANTIME-

- our women footballers have been asked to feature in a Toyota ad. and will be filmed on Wednesday 21 September between 5

pm and 7pm. at the ground.

-check out Channel Seven's "Sunrise" program this Friday morning and watch for OFC people enjoying the MCG festivities.

-and don't forget to watch for our Auskicker Grace Fernando when she hangs a premiership medallion around one of the player's necks on Saturday.



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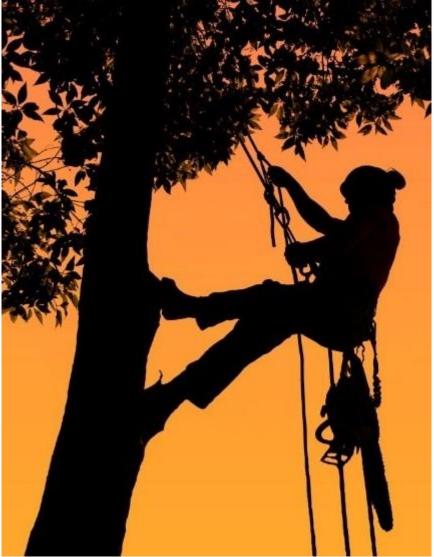


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