

**Olinda  
Ferny  
Creek**



**Football  
Netball  
Club**

- **OFC's Grace Belloni Debuts For Hawks**
- **Aiden Bates Makes Senior Debut**
- **Young Netballers Start to Step Up**
- **Reserves- They've Got The Spirit**
- **All Stars Update- Zach Seal Steals The Show**



*Coming soon to a ground near you- David Noorda's 300th. In this pic Noords kicks a goal against Narre after receiving a pass from first game player Max Monkhurst- Max wasn't born when Dave began his senior career. (ed.- you can discern by the lack of animation from the Narre player on the mark that, such is the respect for Noords, he's already conceded it's going to be a goal).*

Checking some other player stats- Claire Hyett and Casey Seymour started the season with 41 games to their credit- both are on course to reach the 50 milestone .

Meantime Netballer Dana Millwood is on 143 games and is poised to play her 150th this year. With help from Liz Horner we've revisited some of the Netball Games Played on our website and we are confident Dana's 143 is correct.

Ironically she's poised to go past another of our favourite players on the Games Played list- Molly Rogers. Molly will drop one place to fifth on the all-time list. Molly's partner Dave Noorda is also fifth on the Men's Footy all- time list. Talk about a power couple !



***OFC "Power Couple" - Molly Rogers and David Noorda- both are in the top five on our all time "Games Played " lists.***

**THIS WEEKEND we host Pakenham- it's a huge Saturday for us- but note that the boys have a bye so action doesn't kick off until the netballers hit the court at 11.25**

**U/18s bye  
11.25 D Grade  
12.25 C Grade  
12.30 Reserves  
1.30 A Grade  
2.20 Seniors  
2.50 B Grade  
4.45 Women**

## OFC "kids" Excel At Elite Level

Well this is sort of a "once in a lifetime story" involving two OFC "stars".

2023 Premiership player Grace Belloni was picked up by the Box Hill Hawks last week and made her WVFL debut against the Saints on the weekend( at Wonthaggi !).

Coincidentally our former junior star ( and current OFC listed player) Stu Horner was playing his 50th game for the Hawks at the same venue.

Stu is the Hawks "longest serving contracted player" !

So yep, it was a good mix of old and new with a red and white flavour. But then things got really interesting because in both matches the Hawks came from behind to snatch victory in the dying seconds of the games. Incredibly the winning goals were kicked by Belloni and Horner !!

Stu and Grace were both listed among their team's Best Players.



*OFC's Stu Horner and Grace Belloni- both named in Box Hill's best in fairytale victories.*

A footnote to this story- Box Hill's women's team is captained by non other than our first netball premiership coach Tam Luke.

A second footnote to this story- another OFC player- our own Lily Carlin is also on





## OFC Hold Narre Warren Goalless !

So this article clearly started out as a tongue in cheek look at the latest chapter in the history of bad losses by our Senior footballers at Narre. But then it morphed into something else.

We did keep Narre goalless. restricting them to just four behinds in the third quarter. But as we drilled down a bit deeper into Narre's sensational form this season we discovered that it's the first time this year they've failed to kick a goal in a quarter, which from our perspective is not a lot to hang our hats on EXCEPT we managed to score 4.5 and completely out played them.

As we saw at times last year, and have seen again in 2024, our best can match it with the best.

OFC was close to reducing the three quarter time margin to under five goals so little wonder the Magpies remained in their huddle well past the starting time for the last quarter- then they duly came out and blitzed us with eight goals.



*Don't botch it- Ethan "Botchy" Greenall marks- and turns on to his raking left foot,*

**From the coach- Dyl Wilson-**

**"Pooch ( Patrick Rosier) gave it all he had, as usual, all day. Shep ( Matt Scharenberg) was strong at both ends of the ground. It was great to see 15 year old Aiden Bates debut at senior level and he showed he has the skills and smarts to perform at that this standard."**



***Eastern Ranges listed 15 year old Aiden Bates- prior to his senior debut (with dad "Bater" Bates)***

**Ironically this is the second week in a row one of our juniors has made his debut.**

**Tom Ford played against Monbulk the previous week and he must have turned some heads because he was duly selected in the Yarra Valley Grammar team (which means we lose him on Saturdays)**

**Narre Warren 19.14.128 OFC 6.9.45**

**Best Players- Matthew Scharenberg, James Box, Peter Lucas, Patrick Rosier, Josh Wallis, Peter Gough**

**Goal Scorers- Rhys Cottam Starkey 1, Matthew Scharenberg 1, Patrick Rosier 1, Peter Gough 1, Sam Cuthbert 1, Daniel Toma 1.**





*Ruckman Josh Wallis gives away centimetres in height each week but compensates with a big heart- again among our best players.*

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## **Reserves- If We Could We'd Bottle Their Spirit**

If players are going to miss a game because of a nagging injury or work/family commitments it's generally on the Saturday we travel to Narre Warren. So lengthy was the "missing in action" list this week that we nearly had to forfeit the Reserves match.

But incredibly, with some help from juniors Zach Seal, Max Monkhurst and Sam Boyd and former junior Josh Yuki, we got a team on the park.

So it was no surprise that Narre slammed on four quick goals while we were still making sure our boot laces were tied-up.

However in a truly gutsy display the boys restricted The Magpies to just eight more goals for the game while we managed to score a couple ourselves.

The goals came to first gamer Zach Templeton and veteran Dave Noorda.



**Standing his ground- Jack Lucas was a pillar of strength in defence as he produced his best game of the season, just when we needed it most.**

**We place this awesome team effort against Narre alongside recent matches against Upwey ( a shock win against the ladder leader) and Monbulk (despite fielding a patched up side we almost stole it).**

**So what's happening with this team ?**

**Seems there's a core group of 10 or 12 regular players who don't know when to quit , or how to lose. We need to bottle their spirit.**

**We still think we can build a team around this group and makes finals.**

**Congrats to-**

**-coach Theo for keeping the candle burning.**

- Lachy Boyd for coming out of a brief retirement to add some steel to our defence.**
- Zach Seal, a junior player who is emerging as a real talent. Will he get a run in the Ones alongside brother Frank before the end of the season ?**
- the whole team, who refused to lay down against overwhelming odds.**

**Narre Warren 12.13-85    OFC 2-5-17**

**Best Players -Zachary Seal, Daniel Mcnaughton, Darcy Falkner, Jack Lucas, Angus**

**Nelson, David Noorda**  
**Goal Kickers- David Noorda 1, Zach Templeton 1**

**Meantime- what's happening here to Reserves coach Theo Zaharopoulos ?**



**A summit too far- Theo consults the Channel Nine doctor before being choppered out of the NZ mountains with kidney stones on day two of "The Summit" reality tv show. Hard to think of a worse time and place to get kidney stones!**

## **"Unders" Get A Break**

**It's a bye week for the Under 18s and it comes at a perfect time as some of their best players get "creamed off".**

**As we read above U/16 guns Tom Ford and Aiden Bates have had some time in the Seniors- which in Tom's case seems to have led to him securing a place in the Yarra Valley Grammar team- which means no more Saturday morning footy.**

**But despite losing two more important players to their vast credit the kids keep taking on each fresh challenge.**





*With more height and strength behind him Zach Seal's marking has stepped up a notch this year and he's become a potent weapon.*

From Coach Scotty- "for our boys this was to be the first time they've played on the large Healesville senior ground. Healesville are always a well drilled and hard team to beat at home and they play the big ground extremely well with their ball movement and carry, which our boys struggled with. In our first disappointing performance of the season the boys came up short when they were tested.

There's still plenty of upside with the group they just need to trust and believe in each other. Some positives- Max Monkhurst put in another huge performance in the ruck, Etienne Griersmith-Rowe was enormous down back and Zach Seal was a work horse up forward as he continually presented and provided a marking option. So, a bye this week and we reset then move into the next phase of the season."

**Healesville 8.7. 55      OFC 1.6.12**

**Best Players- Zachary Seal, Etienne Griersmith-Rowe, Max Monkhurst, Cassian**



Hine, Bon Sullivan, Charlie Hooper  
Goal Scorer- Charlie Hooper

## Netball- A Day For The Young Ones

It was always going to be a very tough visit to benchmark club Narre Warren, and there was some clear writing on the wall in the first 10 minutes when our best ranked team, D Grade, trailed the hosts 13-2.

The one way traffic was a hallmark of the day ahead but the biggest plus we take from the afternoon was the emergence of so many youngsters.

If 2024 is a season of rebuilding then we really need to see some young names in the "best player" lists and that's pretty much what we got.

This week we reset at home against Pakenham

D Grade Narre Warren 45 OFC 11

Best Players- Ruby Fleming, Emmy van Duuren, Matilda Brewster

Goal Scorers- Matilda Brewster 9, Samantha Mikulandra 2.



**C Grade- we started with more promise than the earlier match- just one goal separated the two teams at quarter time- but the horse bolted after that. Rhianne Fraser again stepped up with 20 goals and has proven she can compete with the very best at this level.**

**Narre Warren 42      OFC 24**

**Best Players- Sarah Kennedy, Charli Merrett, Rianne Fraser**

**Goal Scorers- Rhianne Fraser 20. Mickey Balzereit 3, Aleisha McKay 1**



**B Grade- well this was a chance for Narre to put it's extraordinary depth of talent on display and it was a steep learning curve for the OFC youngsters in this team. Mera Pringle threw 14 goals and bookended a great fortnight at this B Grade level . She threw 15 the previous week against Monbulk. That's an excellent return against top class opposition.**

**Narre Warren 66    OFC 26**

**Best Players- Melanie Thomas, Cate Anderson, Emily McCall**

**Goal Scorers Mera Pringle 14, Melanie Thomas 12.**



A Grade- Narre is a juggernaut at this elite level and the results were similar to the defeats other teams have suffered at their hands this season so we can take a small



amount of solace from that.

Another plus was the form of young co-captain Ella Grigg who has stepped-up this season. Ella's form and leadership really met expectations on Saturday when faced with a huge challenge. Well done Ella.

**Narre Warren 67    OFC 33**

**Best Players - Ella Grigg, Molly Argoon, Eloise Argoon**

**Goal Scorers - Molly Argoon 20, Harper Scott 13.**



**Womens Footy- Heaps Of Positives.**

**From Sacha Sullivan-**

Olinda Women's team had a win within a loss against undefeated Healesville away on Saturday morning, going down by 21 points but playing easily their best football of the season so far.

Healesville smashed The Bloods in round 1- on the scoreboard 18 shots to 5, physically (one of Olinda's Dynamos sent to hospital and out for 2 months), and verbally.

Olinda would go into Saturday's game with a severely weakened spine, missing their starting full back, centre half forward and full forward.

Grand Final hero Grace Belloni had a bye at Eastern but was snapped up by The Box Hill Hawks for her debut VFLW game. Ruck maestro Chelsea Wilson and prodigy Mackenzie Bourne would have been available but are a week or two away from recovering from injury.

Healesville on the other hand were stacked with talent, regaining ruck star Paula Pavic from VFLW duties and Ishka-Belle Stock from Eastern.

The mood in the warm up was subdued, and Olinda's Coaches were rightfully nervous about how the upcoming match would unfold.

To the immense credit of the players, and delight of Coaches and supporters, the team put on a 4 quarter display of hard running pressure football.

The younger, smaller team showed no signs of being intimidated. On the contrary, they even gathered en masse to remonstrate with the opposition after some rough treatment of one of their teammates. It's the first time the team has flown the flag in this way, and bodes well for the synergy of the side.

If the game were broken into 2 halves, Olinda had the bulk of possession in the first and last quarters, but would lead that time by only 2 points. While the second and third quarters were even on possession, Healesville would outscore Olinda 3 goals to 0, effectively the final result. 2 goals in 2 minutes to a Healesville player were particularly telling.

Every OFC player can hold their head high after the gutsy effort, and hopefully enjoyed being a part of such a connected team performance.

**Some special mentions:**

**Lily Carlin.**

Miss Football Lily Laser has received her fair share of plaudits in the match reports so far this year, so dominant has she been. Word is that The Box Hill Hawks VFLW team, where she has been training, have been taking notice of these match reports.

To that end Lily was horrible. She was late to the game, hungover, missed the warm up to eat a hot dog, and was disruptive in the rooms and the Coach's pre-game address.

On the field she shanked every kick, fluffed every handball, spilled every mark and shirked every contest. Lil gave away a swag of free kicks, abused the umpires and her teammates. Lil even unhooked one of the goalpost pads at one stage and used it as a pillow to lay down and have a snooze!

Ok, sorry Lil. Of course the opposite is true (Don't tell The Hawks!). Lil is in the form of her life and is impacting every contest she gets near, and she is getting to a lot of contests!

One massive highlight, and it was surely a personal highlight for her, came in the second quarter. Lily and Healesville ruck colossus Paula Pavic descended on a loose ball at centre half back. Lily and Paula are teammates at The Hawks, and Paula is the regular starting ruck in the Outer East team of the year. Paula has been getting games at The Hawks while Lily Laser is yet to debut. Lil scooped up the ball and delivered a fierce "don't argue" to her bigger, stronger opponent, sending her to the ground, while executing a slick handball on her left to a teammate. Take that!



*Lily runs away with the ball after fending off the Healesville ruck star.*

The “Thelma” to Lily Laser’s “Louise” is Olivia (The Weapon!) Edwards, and the pair have been equally dominant. Liv is Olinda’s “Miss Fix-it” in the contest, and will bob up on the ground wherever she’s needed, although she’s the Competition’s best small forward. It would be a luxury to keep Liv deep forward, as she is Olinda’s leading goalkicker, and the only goalkicker on Saturday. Liv’s strong marking and creative ball use is too valuable to be squandered , and she constantly grinds herself to impact up the ground and then sprint back to her forward home. Maddy (MadDog) Collins is Olinda’s “ Sargeant at Arms” and is a brutal force with or without the ball. The team walks taller when Mads is around them, and she was sorely missed at The Bloodyery last year.

Healesville’s best player in Round 1 was centre half back Cassy Wilsmore who was intercepting Olinda’s forays forward every time. Mads was moved onto her to nullify her influence to little effect. The tables were turned on Saturday when the two went



head-to-head for the whole game, Mads coming out the clear winner. This shapes as being a rivalry for the ages!

Saturday saw a return to form of young gun Kyah (The Missile) Barry. The Missile is a massive talent, having placed runner-up in the B&F in Olinda's 2023 Premiership year as a 16 year old. She is in Eastern's squad but it is to their detriment that they haven't used her so far. All the better for Olinda, because Kyah is a rally car...small, fast, and strong! The Missile's run, intercept marking and hard tackling on Saturday was a highlight.

Olinda's best in the all-conquering 2023 year has also returned to form in the last couple of weeks. Captain Courageous Claire (Bear) Hyett was back to her hard running fearless (almost reckless!) best. Generally when Claire's on song, so is the team, and Saturday she led strongly from the front.

The snake "I"s Illyah (Chopper) Reid and India (Bruiser) Griffiths have been a breath of fresh air for the team this year. The "Sisters from another Mister" are incredibly bubbly off the field and even on it. In the contest though the two are vicious. Their nicknames weren't exactly drawn out of a hat !! They're the kind of players that will knock you over and apologise to you before you hit the ground, which has been the Olinda way since day one! Both are lightning quick and can get to contests before most others. The "I"s had great games on Saturday.

There are 3 certainties in life.... Death, taxes, and Anna Hughson playing a solid game at half back!! Anna rarely loses a contest, and delivers well, especially by hand ( the Assistant Coach maintains she is the best handball in the comp!).

Jacqui (The Giant Slayer) Ring earned her nickname by beating the Competition's best ruck in a game last year. Paula Pavic is a VFLW level talent, but suffice to say she would hate playing on Jac. The Giant Slayer saves her best for Healesville and Saturday was no exception.

Charlotte (Webby) Edwards wore the brunt of Healesville's aggression on Saturday. Olinda's smallest, youngest player, Webby was battered from pillar to post but kept fronting up to be among Olinda's best. Webby has had stints at Montrose and Mt Evelyn but is at her true home as she has "Bloods Culture" running through her veins!

Cult hero Anja (Onions) Hulston was back to her harassing, annoying best, going head to head with Healesville's villain from round 1 and squaring the ledger!

(Swiss Miss) Carol Schenk will be talked about for years as a "what if?". Carol is heading home to Switzerland after next week's game. On the football field she is an absolute wrecking ball. Carol is staying with cousins Phoebe(BigDog) and Maddy

(MadDog) in her stay in Australia. It is perfectly apt that we bestow on Carol the honorary title "Bulldog" because that's how she plays. Let's get around Bulldog on Saturday night as we try and see her off with a win.

Overall, every player contributed to an excellent team performance. Olinda faces 2023 Grand Final opponents Pakenham at home this Saturday twilight, and will be primed to avenge their Round 3 loss.

## All-stars update

There was a serious "Zach Attack" this week with U/18 young gun Zach Seal winning top votes in the match against Healesville and then, believe it or not, being named "best on" in the Twos match at Narre. With Jack Lucas and Mel Thomas also in the votes "Franks Fighters"- owned by the Lucas Clan- are up there yet again.



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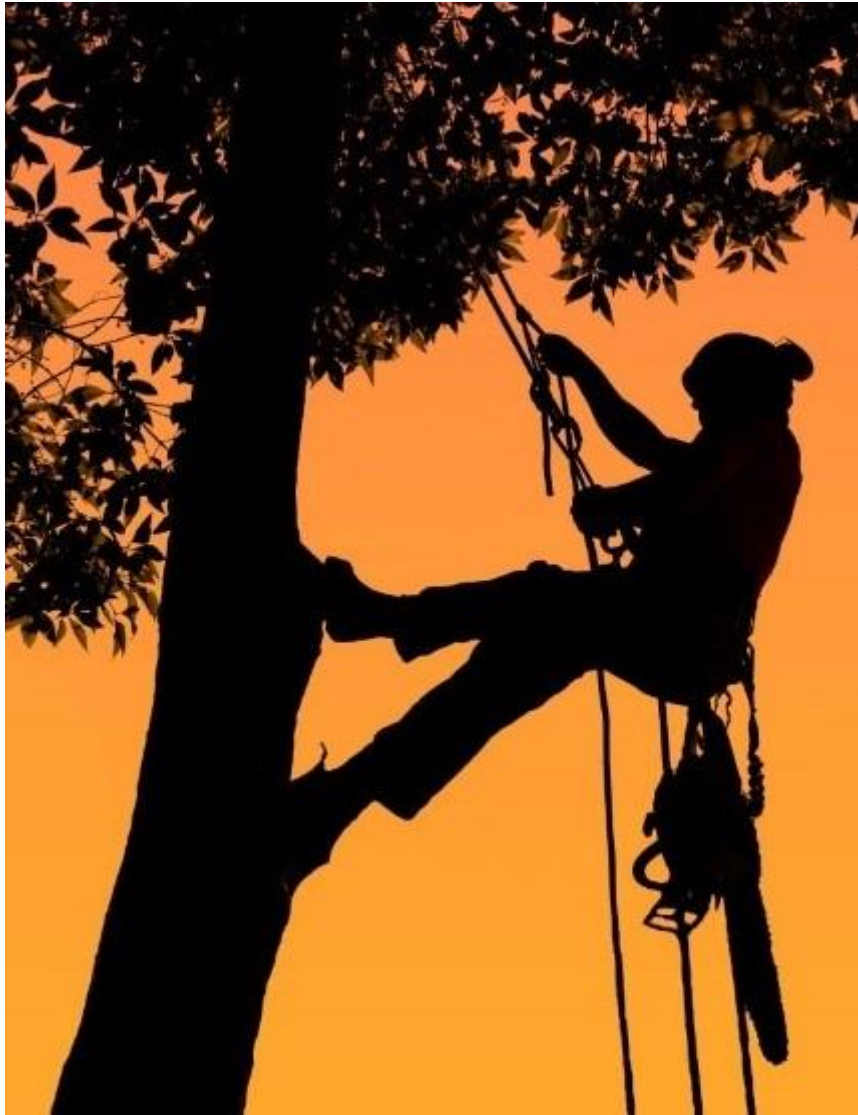


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