

## - Senior's Gritty Finals Win

## - OFC Teenager Makes All Australian Team

- Plenty Of U/16 Talent Heading to Senior Club



## Cometh the Hour, Cometh the Kid

Saturday's Elimination Final against arch rival Upwey was nothing if not a dour and desperate struggle lit up by occasional acts of sheer brilliance- one of which pretty much decided the outcome of the game.

On a gusty day at the huge Healesville Oval only four goals in the entire match were scored against the wind.

Although OFC led by 16 points at the last break Upwey was coming home with that blustery wind at their back and it was only going to take a bit of luck, or a turnover, for us to open the door.

Sure enough the Tigers pounced on a rare mistake in the backline and reduced our

lead to 10 points, or two straight kicks.

Another goal to Upwey and the momentum might have got them over the line- but on the other hand one more major from OFC and the game would be killed off. The dramatic moment that finally decided the game was provided by youngster Ned Ford who somehow managed a spectacular "third man up" mark and then converted from 25m under extreme pressure. OFC celebrated, Tiger shoulders slumped.



Third in line- Ned Ford wills himself into the contest- the stunning mark was to prove the deciding moment in a grinding and tough encounter against Upwey.



Ned kicked truly from 25 metres then plugged into the moment. In the background James Royle- Young celebrates the crucial goal. (Pictures from the busy lens of Trevor "Muffins" Currie).

As we know Ned is one of four U/18 boys in our team- checking in with the others-

Isaac "Heaney" Tonkin -continued to provide options throughout the game and was among our best in the first quarter when the pill was red hot.



"Heaney" Tonkin- supplied plenty of run and gun plus - with this kick- an invaluable goal.

Luca Smith- played as a deep forward so didn't get a chance to display the complete tool kid. Remarkable ability to stand up in a tackle and, was we saw, would rather eat the football than turn it over.

Aden Bates- well, yep, he is still U/16. Speed to burn, poise under pressure. No turnovers. What more can we say about this kid- how about a highlight- giving a 15 metre start to an opponent then chasing him down and taking the ball off him! What a moment, what a hoot !!

We've chosen to focus on the kids here because it was their first senior final but also because there was such an amazing spread of top performances among the rest of the team it's difficult and unfair to pick out the stars.

Instead- here are some things that caught our eye-

- Frank Seal- was never beaten in a contest. Combined some extraordinary "in and under" possessions( how DOES he do that ?) with sure-handed aerial work and gut running.



Another " Seal Steal "- in the background you can clearly see Shep saying "how does he do that".

- Pete Lucas- the Shaggy Bull was at his rampaging best for long periods of the game.

Lachlan Taylor- if Ned Ford provided "the moment" of the match Lachie gave us the goal of the game with a 50m inspirational bomb in flukey wind conditions. It lifted the whole team- and the supporters.

Ethan Greenall- Botchy worked his way into the game and, particularly in the last half, provided his usual dangerous exits out of backline.



How good was Botchy travelling on Saturday- here he outmarks Cal Beattie and

#### Shep- Upwey's Carmine Pocara is the meat in the sandwich

## Sam Cuthbert- "Sure Hands" Cuthbert was good throughout the game but "great" in the last quarter as the temperature went up.

Pat Rosier- Pooch was thereabouts the whole game. He and Josh "J Wol" have three hearts between them.



Aden Bates and Pat Rosier (partly obscured) congratulate Josh Wallis on a crucial goal "against the wind" (one of our three at that end of the ground)

Noah Desta- is he EVER out of the contest ? KIcked a typically miraculous goal ( miraculous by normal standards but a regular offering from Noah). Interestingly one of the umps was asking after the match "who IS that guy ".



Noah's arc- with a huge wing span not many get away from ND.

Pat Seymour- yet again had the better of Dan Waters, a guy who's played 250 games and kicked 700 goals.



Pat Seymour - wearing Dan Waters like a bad fitting overcoat

Shep- what do we say ? Just an absolute pleasure and privilege to watch. Refer to previous match notes for his last 55 games with us. James Royle-Young- this was the game we knew he could play. We should nickname him "Diesel" because this guy is so Fast and Furious at the ball.



James Royle-Young attracting a crowd.

Interestingly there wasn't a weak link in the team- pretty much every guy had a highlight or two.

How do we rate the win? Well let's factor in the ladder position, Upwey was one place but THREE WINS above us.

Although the winning margin was only 10 points we did have five more scoring shots and looked generally the better team except for a few patches in the first and second quarters. (Upwey was up by five points at the main break, but scored just two more goals).

We go in as underdogs again this week against Wandin, but as we've seen twice this year there's not much between us and them (we don't don't count that blow-out last quarter at Olinda- it was contrary to the trend in the previous seven quarters we'd played them). AND the match is at Yarra Glen- a ground we've performed very well on.

OFC 8.9.57 Upwey 7.5.47

Best Players- Matthew Scharenberg, Patrick Rosier, Lachlan Taylor, Francis Seal, Ethan Greenall, Patrick Seymour

Goal Scorers- Lachlan Taylor 2, Ned Ford 1, Josh Wallis 1, Noah Desta 1, Peter Lucas 1, Isaac Tonkin 1, Mathew Scharenberg 1

CONFIRMING- THIS WEEK- FIRST SEMI FINAL OFC v Wandin, Yarra Glen 2.20 pm



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#### **OFC Teen Makes All Australian team**



What can we say about the exciting youngster Grace Belloni that hasn't been said before ? Well, how about this- our 2023 premiership player is now an All Australian. Grace was a member of the Vic Metro team which recently went through the U/18 National Championships undefeated,. This is how the doyen of young talent assessors, the AFL's Kevin Sheehan, summed up the young OFC prodigy-

#### Centre Half Forward

#### Grace Belloni

Victoria Metro/Eastern Ranges/Olinda-Ferny Creek Date of Birth: 09/09/06; Height: 175cm

Mobile forward who also pushed up into the midfield and used her athleticism and footy nous to consistently win the ball. Is strong overhead and shows a touch of class around goals, kicking seven majors for the Championships to go with her average of 18.3 disposals and 4.7 marks. Was a dominant player in wins over the Allies and South Australia, with her creativity and team-first attitude also features of her play.

### **Welcome To The Senior Club**

Congrats to the U/16 boys who will be graduating to U/18s next season. Scott Tonkin's kids finished fourth in the League's top division . Only a handful of our current crop of Under 18s will be too old next season so we're already looking forward to seeing a competitive junior unit in the field.



From left- Liam Jennings, Lenny Barry, Lachlan Tonkin, Aden Bates, Ry Tudor, Harry Brooks, Mitch Hirst and James Dixon

#### A couple of things jump out at us as we look at this pic-

fifth from the left - Ry Tudor- is the son of Cam who of course is a dual OFC Best and Fairest winner ( Juniors 1985 and Seniors 1994).

Missing from the pic- Rio Neish and Tommy Ford- because they're U/16 again next season! Rio sent a buzz around the place in the final round when he helped the

U/18s beat Upwey-"who IS that kid ?" people were asking. Watch this space. Tom ? Well we've seen him in action and there's plenty to like- seven U/18 games and three times in the Best Players <u>and</u> even two games in the Reserves as a first year U/16. Yep, that's pretty impressive.



U/16 Best and Fairest- winner of the Tim Scott Medal- Aden Bates

Tim Scott Medal Voting-Aden Bates 154 Tom Ford 134 Lachlan Tonkin 88 Lennix Barry 76 Rio Neish 49

A huge welcome to the boys joining the senior club and good luck with your footy and (more importantly) the careers you build for yourselves as you prepare to enter the adult world.

#### Yes, More Storms

Our thoughts this week are with former President Mick Hill (and Judy) after their house suffered serious tree damage on Friday night. Just 48 hours later former OFC favourites Pete and Sandra Gates were fortunate to escape uninjured when a tree

demolished their house in Mt Dandenong. Strapper and Gator- just reach out to us if we can help with ANYTHING.

### **PRECINCT UDATE**

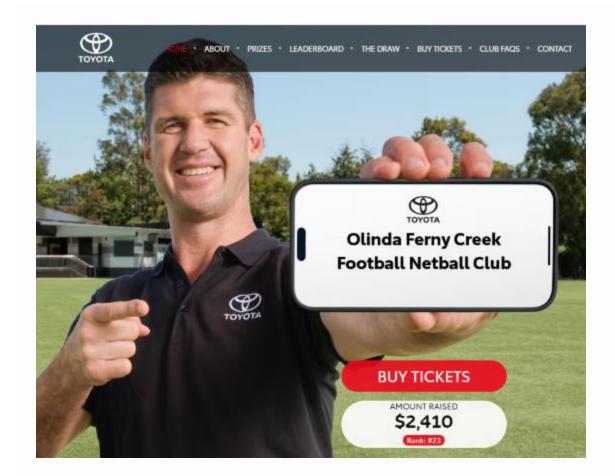
Shire of Yarra Ranges is currently weighing up the costs of extra asphalting and drainage at our Reserve.

Our successful Tiny Towns Grant will pay for asphalting from the start of the new netball court to the northern edge of the pavilion. SYR want to extend the asphalting to the driveway entrance and install three drainage pits. Meantime- the Solar project is powering our lights but not the big ticket items ( fridges etc). Phase Two and Three are running off the mains circuit until the contractor can work out what keeps "tripping" the system. If, like me, you have very little idea of what this all means then ask Pooch or JWol ( our sparkies).

## Time's Up !!!

Toyota's Good For Footy raffle is due to end in the next week- so if you haven't bought some \$5 tix yet get on board right now !! All money is returned to the Club AND there's a chance to share in nearly \$300k of prizes. Just follow this link-

https://toyotagoodforfooty.raffletix.com.au/olindafernycreekfnc?v=1&sref=gxu8n7xs



Former player Loz Healey is opening up her gym this Saturday morning (before the footy) for a free coffee and workout-



Please check out all our business partners below in case there's some way they can help you-

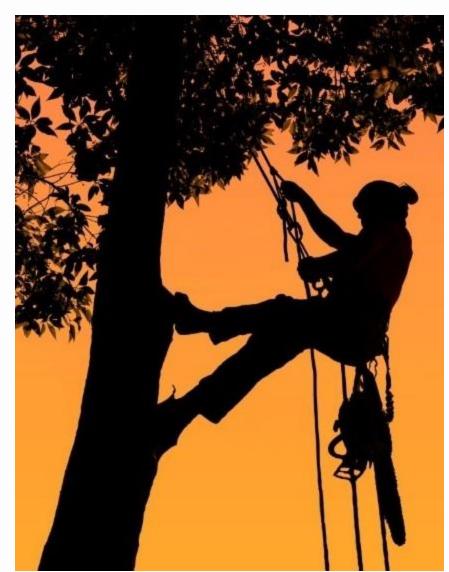


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