

Anzac Day weekend saw Dingley travel to Dunlop Reserve with high expectations but ending up losing a battle that can most appropriately be tagged "Best We Forget". Knowing they were already two-up on us the opposition stole a march early and went out to a seven goal to one lead, a position from which we were never going to recover.

Home-ground familiarity allowed the hosts to exploit the vagaries of the oval far better than the Dingoes could, knowing exactly which way to run the ball out of defence, precisely when to switch play, and which pocket to be in when shooting for goal. The exaggerated convexity of the playing surface meant for an interesting sidelight, when viewed from the pavilion wing only the players' torsos were seen on the far (creek) side.

Dingley persisted with a frustrating short passing, handballing game in the sadly mistaken belief that they possess the necessary skills to execute this AFL-style tactic successfully. Add to that the number of tackles that appeared to be able to be broken with ridiculous ease by their opponents, and it was little wonder they were facing such a sizeable deficit by half time. And whilst coaches teach, preach and sing the praises of ambidexterity, some of our players actually appeared ambisinister (equally clumsy on both sides of the body).

Admittedly things did improve markedly after the long break. On the field the Dingoes were trying to throw the Combine off their game, off the field spectators were throwing combinations in an unwelcome and uncalled for altercation. Meanwhile, with renewed intensity from Lavars, Boyle and Wonnacott, the players clawed their way back. A couple of timely goals from Timmy Ford saw the lead whittled back to an unlikely 3 points with six minutes left and some optimists dreamed the unthinkable (and ultimately undeserved). A questionable decision against Dazza led to a goal and another soon after put the final nail in the coffin-Tooronga by 15 points.

Another unconvincing performance which leaves both the coach and the playing group with some work and thinking to do. There were positives in the performances of Tony, Josh and Lee, while Chris Morgan improved markedly on recent outings and Pitty and Timmy (with 3) were our most productive forwards.

The Colts remain unbeaten, as do the "Reverses". Let's hope they don't go backwards for the rest of the year.

If rumours doing the rounds have any semblance of veracity, the Mordialloc side we face up to at home this week may be somewhat depleted by injury. That being the case, the opportunity exists for a repeat of last year's historic triumph in the corresponding fixture, albeit without the fanfaronade of jumping castles and skydivers. Failure to win this game will result in all thoughts of participation in this season's finals to be defenestrated.