

Gone with the wind. That was the sorry tale of Dingley's season as early as quarter time in Round 4 when the scoreboard read Mordialloc 6.0.36 to our 0.0.0. And frankly my dears, I Do give a damn because the Dingoes are now consigned to a battle of avoiding the relegation zone rather than pursuing the lofty dream of contesting finals. Sure, we marginally outscored the Bloods for the remaining three stanzas, but, just like in the novel, there was no fairytale ending.

Due to some unforeseen delays earlier in the day, the game started over half an hour late. Unfortunately, exactly the same can be said for the Dingoes, who were shellshocked by Mordi's early domination and unswerving accuracy with the aid of the breeze. Dingley failed to capitalise when it was their turn to use it, in fact their best quarter was the third when they kicked 3 into the wind. That left the door just ajar enough at three quarter time for some optimistic supporters to think there was a faint hope in the last with the wind advantage, a thought that was quickly snuffed out.

Dingley's mini-revival was fuelled by other than the usual suspects. Jack Ades' endeavour was, as usual, exemplary and he gathered countless contested possessions. Just a pity the execution of his foot skills leave a little to be desired, but then he is not alone in that area. Daniel Tunik played his best game since joining the club, finally showing glimpses of his undoubted talent. "Poppa" Feehan was given a bit of latitude by the coach rather than being stuck in his customary role deep down the back, and seemed to relish it with a great, hard running performance. Darren Andrews battled manfully in the last line of defence, as usual doing the job his coach has come to expect of him. One cannot help thinking that Dazza harbours a longing to one day be let off the leash, to fly for the spectacular grab of which he is capable but which his current role doesn't allow.

Others to stand out in patches were Frosty, Tony Lavars, Fordy, Boyle and Wonnacott. A much improved overall team effort will be required this week to avoid embarrassment at the hands of a rebounding St Pauls at McKinnon, who are coming off a bit of a hiding against the Heighters, the team now being touted as most likely to challenge St Kilda City's supremacy.

All is not gloom in the camp, as both the Reserves and Colts sit undefeated atop the ladder. Both of them face their sternest tests this week however, as they take on the also unbeaten teams immediately below them.