

## **Rd8 v Chelsea**

## **Dingley fail to scale the Heights**

An inauspicious start against a big and well drilled outfit saw the Dingoes five goals down before they had even troubled the scorers, and a drubbing of brobdingnagian proportions was on the cards. To their credit, our boys lifted their work rate, and by game's end a ten goal loss to the current ladder leaders was at least palatable.

We knew at selection on Thursday night that to add to the season ending injuries to Pitty, Clausen and Bret Lavars, that we would also be without the services of Luke B, who has elected to play out the rest of the season with the Colts. Some sobering news pre-game (and anything sobering is anathema to Dingley supporters, especially those on the Hill) was that Timmy Ford, Alex Falkiner, Rohan Watson and Stefan Feehan had also pulled out late with various niggles. That left a very depleted and different looking side to try and stem the tide against the "Withering Heights". Spudda had to be recalled from obscurity for his first senior game in two years, and we welcomed back Tim Yeowart for his first try of the season.

The absence of Watson meant Chris Morgan had to go back where he belongs, and he hardly missed a first touch in the ruck all day. Centre clearances were certainly not the worst part of our game, and our containment of the opposition after their scintillating opening burst was in no small part due to Spudda, Lavars, Wonnacott and Boyle feeding from Morgs' sometimes dominant ruckwork. Brooksy, Frosty and first gamer Kevin Atkin found space for some telling marks, so the movement was not all one way after the first fifteen minutes. Unfortunately, every time it did go their way, it inevitably fell into the hands of their powerfully built full-forward Smith, whose final tally was eleven majors.

The dominance of Chelsea's spearhead may have been a factor in the move of "Dazzalenko" Andrews forward of centre. I'm not privy to the coach's way of thinking. But what he did was free a player from the shackles of being a negating puncher, restoring his greatest asset, allowing him the freedom to display his high-flying prowess. That's what I've been talking about! And who said he couldn't kick?

Having reached the time of the season where expectations of finals are unrealistic - some would say the task is Sisyphean - the time for experimentation is nigh. Blood some more juniors to join the well-performed Leigh Moore and Matt Ravenall, throw Dazza up forward, take heart from the great promise shown by young Daniel Tunik up the front half this week. And let's see all the supporters at the Peanut Farm this Saturday!

## **Colts Rd 8 –versus Chelsea Heights**

Round 8 marked a milestone of sorts, with it making the stage of the season where we have played every other team. Although we are undefeated we still have some work to do and there is no doubt there is improvement to come.

Saturday's game never reached any great heights with the first half in particular being flat and although it went up a notch in the second half it wasn't the type of game we need to play and know we can play.

There were some positives to come out of it including a Best on Ground performance from Phil Ball who is in a really good patch of form at the moment and continues to present and work hard and is being rewarded. Matt Moore kicked another 6 to continue on about that average per game, Pottsy was good as was Jimmy Cullen who provided a last quarter highlight with a long awaited goal. Adam Hickford continued his consistent season. We welcomed back Luke Bartholomew and look forward to Luke showing his class at Colts level.

This week we are back to the Peanut Farm and with Leigh and Rav back from excellent periods in the seniors we should be nearing full strength for what will be a terrific challenge against St.Kilda City

**Final Score ; Dingley 24 25 169 to Chelsea Heights 2 3 15**

**Goal Kickers:** M. Moore 6, P. Ball 5, C. Daniels 2, R. Gordon 2, J. Pickford 2, J. Cullen , L. Bartholomew , S. Williams , A. Hickford , A. Bruce , L. WALMSLEY , T. Cooper