

Rd 9 vs St.Kilda City

Dingoes leave Peanut Farm shell-shocked

In the shadows of Luna Park, Dingley started promisingly enough, but halfway through the first they got on the Big Dipper, and it was all downhill from there. The floodgates opened in more ways than one, both from the heavens and on St.Kilda's scoreboard.

On the first really wintery football afternoon of the season, it wasn't just the on-field Dingoes that were undermanned. Not since the dark days of Casey-Cardinia has there been such a poor turnout by supporters, whose numbers could have been tallied on two hands. Those who had better things to do didn't miss much, however, as the Saints were far too big, slick and strong for an outfit decimated by the continued absence of at least six first-choice players, and with Dingley posting their lowest ever score in this competition, the final margin was almost identical to the result in last season's equivalent fixture.

It is unfair to be overly critical when a team is so expectedly and comprehensively outgunned. Better to mention players who ran and battled hard against the odds all day. Expect votes to go the way of Wonnacott, Lavars, Boyle and Andrews, with mentions to Morgs, Poppa and young Paul Diluvio, who showed promise and poise on occasions.

The coach was in no mood to be expansive in his thoughts on the day's proceedings post-match, preferring instead not to talk football at all. As other results filtered through, it became apparent that the Dingoes have now dropped to the second bottom rung of the ladder, with our next encounter in two weeks being against the only side with a worse record. A win at home over Springvale Districts now becomes imperative in order to give us some breathing space from the spectre of relegation.

COLTS MATCH REPORT RD 9

Saturday saw the half way mark of the season and also marked our second trip to the Peanut Farm and our second win there this season.

In a game where we welcomed Nick Grange for his first game and Chris Baxter back after a long break we started strongly and while wasteful around goal generally we had the bulk of the play. Our tackling was a feature with the forward line pressure terrific.

The defence was once again on top and most of our forward thrusts came from good work down back with Ryan Gordon having his best game of the year, Lucas Walmsley continuing his fine form and Jimmy Cullen once again shutting down his opponent and creating drive from deep.

Matt Ravenall and Leigh Moore both returned after 3 week stints in the ones and clearly benefitted from the experience and with Luke Bartholomew and Phil Ball on song it always felt like we were in control without getting total reward for our effort.

Mid field led by Adam Hickford and Tristan Potts supplied the forward line where Matt Moore capitalised with 4 goals and Andrew Bruce and Josh Pickford provided great pressure. Josh Ellis was again in good form as was Scott Buckland and Ben Watts who ran hard despite missing a week with a knee.

In an even performance where all players contributed we lead by 51 points at ¾ time, and despite being outscored by a point in the final quarter, overall it was a pleasing performance.

We now look forward to the second half of the season where we have 3 home games (2 against Skye and 1 against St.Kilda City) and 4 away games – not an easy draw and a bit messy through July in particular, we have a few players up for senior selection over the second half of the season and training will be varied to keep the enthusiasm up, we must maintain the momentum and continue to improve through the second half of the season. So far so good, but we still have work to do!

Final Scores **Dingley 15 13 103 to St.Kilda City 8 5 53**

Goal Kickers Phil Ball 4, Matt Moore 4, Leigh Moore 3, Andrew Bruce, Chris Daniels, Adam Hickford and Tristan Potts 1 each.