Co-ordinator’s report

The results from Inter-Col matches against Scotch on Saturday is perhaps a reflection on the distance we have to make our football program both viable and competitive. We have known that there would be no quick fix and that with the right processes that it will take two to three plus years for the benefits to become apparent.

Our win/loss ratio across the whole school football program this year was just under 45% with a number of our teams including the 1stXVIII finishing with about half and half results.

Our most important result this year is that we have managed to make our teams more competitive even in losing matches and I believe that our coaching has played a significant part in this improvement but an area that we need to keep developing.

I would like to thank all the coaches for the effort, time and expertise that they have given to the various teams this year and also to thank Nik Sacoutis and Richard Sexton for their support and Mark Barnett for organising umpires throughout the season.

Lastly, congratulations to all the trophy winners from Saturday nights presentation dinner and a thank you to all the parents and players who attended what was a most successful night.

Andy Miller
Football Co-ordinator

PGS 4:4 (28) v Scotch 26:20 (176)

Despite a promising start and despite the best efforts of our players, we were annihilated by a much stronger opponent, leaving us extremely disappointed, embarrassed and humiliated.

That is not to say that I am not proud of the players and of their efforts, nor is it to say that we haven’t had a relatively successful and enjoyable season.
At ¾ time and trailing by over 15 goals, I reminded the players that over the course of 2016, we have earned a lot of respect and admiration from a lot of people in the Pulteney community.

To allow ourselves to become an ‘undisciplined rabble’ in the last 25 minutes of the season (fighting, arguing etc) would have meant that the players had wiped away that respect and would let themselves, their team-mates, their school and their coach down.

Furthermore, I reminded them that they had a responsibility to set a positive example to the younger members of the Pulteney community who were at the game.

To the players’ credit, and despite being up against overwhelming odds, they continued to fight the game out and continued to show courage, discipline and respect.

For that I am genuinely grateful.

Typically, Ben Adams demonstrated his class during the presentation ceremony and spoke with dignity and respect, acknowledging the efforts of his team-mates, the superiority of the opposition, and the important role of the umpires.

We are all disappointed with Saturday’s result, but we can continue to be proud of the players who represented Pulteney Grammar School at First XVIII level throughout 2016.

Best Players: Liam Geddes-Ryan, Jarrod Miller, Ben Adams, Josh Wills, Jack White, Angus Sexton, Nick Laity

Goal-Kickers: Tom Baldock, Liam Geddes-Ryan, Nick Laity, Zac Sipek 1 each

Barrie Bryan
Coach

PGS 0:2 (2) v Scotch 30:13 (193)

Scores were irrelevant to us coaches. We lost by a lot. But we knew as a collective group that the odds were stacked against us. Scotch have roughly 50 or so players to select from spanning 3 teams with their top team frequenting the top of the ladder in Division 1. We as a group total 17 players in 1 team playing in Division 4.

What we were looking for was how our players carried themselves throughout the game and wanted to see unwavering desire from our group of boys, to try their hardest and give it a real hard crack. For the most part, we as coaches could not fault majority of the team.
We played with 1 less player on the field and aside from the first 10 minutes of the game, majority of the play was dictated by Scotch and we spent a lot of time chasing tail and trying to get the ball back, and when we did, we were tired and turned it straight back over.

Throughout all of this, the boys stayed positive and it was great to see them coming in on quarter breaks encouraging one another and commending individual efforts. Compared to how the group’s attitude was not that long ago is true testament to the playing group and their ability to follow the example we as coaches have been trying to get across.

A big THANK YOU to everyone, both players and parents for their support in what was Nathan and my debut season as coaches. We hope you have seen improvement in your boys and hope that we have instilled some values that you will carry on into your future football careers and possibly life in general. It has truly been a great experience and one we hope can look back on as the start of a successful career for us.

To the boys, year 9’s: you are now on your way to playing with the big boys. Good luck in your new team and try and remember what we have spoken about throughout the year. Continue trying to improve and work on your game. I am sure you will all do great. Year 8’s: you are now the leaders of this team. You know what is expected of you and whether Nathan and I are coaching or not, you should see this as an opportunity to put a feather in your cap and really take on this leadership role within the team. Take this off season to improve on your game and come back bigger and better ready for a big 2017 season.

This is us signing off. Have a great summer everyone!

Go Pulteney!

Nathan Risatano & Justin Bollenhagen
Coaches

Pulteney 1:2 (8) v Scotch 6:4 (28)

We welcomed a number of players back into the team this week and there was a very positive ‘feel’ amongst the players before the game. The boys were enthusiastic about representing their school community on ‘Intercol Day’ and were looking forward to the challenge ahead.

The passage of play that resulted in Pulteney scoring a goal in the first quarter was one of our best for the year!

**Ned Bryan** took a mark in defence, the ball was worked forward, **Charlie Pearson** cleanly gathered an ankle-height loose ball, kicked instinctively and accurately to **Seb Brett** who passed the ball to **Rory O’Callaghan**. As Rory is instructed to do each week, he ran with the ball and kicked yet another classy goal, his 11th for the season in our 11th game of the season.

At quarter time, we trailed by only one point.

Scotch kicked clear in the second quarter, a quarter in which Pulteney players fumbled the ball a lot, dropped a number of relatively simple marks, and for one of the first times this season, our tackling wasn’t up to standard.
These issues were ‘addressed’ at half-time and our ‘leaders’ were asked to lift to ensure we remained competitive.

Not for the first time this season, our leaders including Matt Adams (who was superb all day), Seb Brett, Rory O’Callaghan and Austin Brooks committed to lifting their work rate and to finishing the season off by providing the best possible example for their team-mates.

Consequently, Scotch was held to only 1 goal for the quarter.

Unfortunately, during one of his typical dashing runs through the midfield, Rory O’Callaghan strained a hip-flexor midway through this quarter and took no further part in the game.

Pulteney finished the game strongly with 2 scoring shots in the final quarter to Scotch’s 1.

As mentioned earlier, Matt Adams played well throughout the entire four quarters and Seb Brett battled hard all day as well.

Rory O’Callaghan was playing well until injured and Ned Bryan played his best game for the season, gathering a number of possessions and saving a number of goals as a result of his desperation and determination.

Other good players included Austin Brooks, Patrick Winter and Jayden Wanzek, who always looked dangerous in front of goals.

So, despite losing this game, I was once again very pleased with the players’ efforts, determination, team spirit, positive attitude and enthusiasm; as usual, the boys did themselves, their families and their school community, proud!

**Well done, Boys!**

Sincere thanks to the players for their commitment throughout the season and to their parents and families for their support. Particular thanks to our regular goal umpires Mr Luksich and Mr O’Connor and to our Runner and Assistant Coach, Mr Winter.

Thanks also to Mrs Winter and Mrs O’Callaghan for organising our ‘orange roster’ each week.

The team won 3 games for the season, were very competitive in a number of other games, and kicked 34 goals for the season.

From a coach’s point of view, it was particularly pleasing to witness the improvement of individuals and of the team over the course of the season, and to work with such a terrific group of boys.

I wish them all the very best of luck for the future and look forward to following their fortunes in the years to come.

**Best Players:** Matt Adams, Seb Brett, Rory O’Callaghan, Ned Bryan, Austin Brooks, Patrick Winter, Jayden Wanzek, Logan Holman, Jack O’Connor, Alex Candy

**Goalkickers:** Rory O’Callaghan 1

Barrie Bryan
Coach
Pulteney 5:5 (53) v Highgate 6:4 (40)

In what felt like a finals like intensity, Highgate kicked a goal with 5 seconds remaining to end a remarkable match for all involved. Despite the score, our Pulteney players had every right and deserved to leave the ground feeling like champions after the effort, determination and perseverance they all put in.

At three quarter time, with Pulteney down by 3 goals, I asked our players to each do something 'special' in this final term which would lift our team and have them reflecting back on their game changing moment for years to come. Whether it be a magical goal, a desperate second effort, a huge pack mark or a silky passage of play...the team came together and played their hearts out for each other in the last quarter with brilliance that will be remembered by all involved for a long time.

It was very unlucky that after such a comeback with exciting and enthusiastic football, we just fell short. I explained after the game how proud each player should feel after continually improving and raising the bar higher with each game they play. That as a team, we have been winners all season with the development and talent we are showing, regardless of the scores in games.

The leadership, sportsmanship and passion shown by each member of the team is a reflection to not only the great success they are proving to be with their football talent, but a reflection of the people they are.

I look forward to capping off what has been such a brilliant season with the group at Tuesday's final training - and raising the improvement levels even higher at this Saturday's final game!

Thanks to all parents for their help and support especially with bringing oranges out at half time and assisting with goal umpiring

Rocco Canino
Coach

Pulteney 4:9 (33) v Mercedes 5:4 (34)

This was the year 4 team's best performance of the year. Against a high quality opposition, if we had been a little luckier in front of goal we would have run away easy victors. The focus before the game was on the defensive aspects of football- namely tackling and running both ways, and the team did everything I asked and more. In addition to the great defence, the ball skills and team-work were awesome to watch.

Almost every player in the team had one of their best games for the year. Elliot's run off half-back was a delight, and Lucas' 1-on-1 work in the back line was outstanding also. Elliot was rewarded with a goal for his efforts, and Lucas constantly single-handedly repelled their promising attacks. Darcy battled a chest problem and worked hard in the midfield almost all game, while Oscar did plenty of nice things with the ball. Sam was asked to work up the ground from centre-half-forward to give us a
contest, and he did just that to perfection. Again Luke ran hard and provided plenty of excitement when he had the ball in his hands.

It was an absolute pleasure to see the team work so well together for an entire game and in my opinion we thoroughly deserved to win the game. This Saturday is our final game and I hope that we bring the same level of intensity and effort to the contest.

Tom Laity & Harry Lumsden
Coaches

Pulteney 2:4 (16) v Burnside 1:2 (62)

The PGS 2/3 Div 1s came up against stiff opposition on Saturday at Blackwood. The Blues outplayed our boys for the majority of the game because of their greater desire to win the ball. To our credit however, we stuck to the task for the majority of the game and never gave up.

Special mention to captain, Yong Hao and Ciaran who both played their best games for the year because of their ability to keep putting pressure on. When we did win possession, our awareness to lead to space was sound and the ball use was decent. Overall, it was a disappointing day but we look forward to finishing off the season with a great performance next week.

Jarrod Lienert
Coach

OUR SONG
(to be sung with gusto)

We are the Navy Blues
We are the Old Dark Navy Blues
We’re the team that never lets you down
We’re the only team old Pulteney knows
With all the champions
We’ll keep our heads up
We’ll never give up
And they will know that they’ve been playing
Against the famous Old Dark Blues

(Sung to the tune of the Leslie Stuart song ‘Lily of Laguna’ – Carlton Football Club)

ALWAYS CHECK ‘SPORT THIS WEEK’ for the final word on game times and venues.