Co-ordinator’s report

Another excellent day from our players on Saturday though there were some mixed results.

Our junior teams led the way with our Year 4 and 5 teams both having good wins in the Sturt football carnival at Victoria Park and the Year 6/7 having a hard fought but well earned victory against Rostrevor College.

The Year 8/9 team were defeated by a much stronger and taller opposition but really took it up in the second half and with several key players to return will turn this result around later in the season.

We again managed to field a somewhat depleted 2nd XVIII team against St Peters and although beaten convincingly, they fought the game out to the end.

The 1st XVIII game against St Pauls was a high quality and hard fought game and if the effort, competitive spirit and resilience is a sign of where we want Pulteney football to be heading then we could not get any better example than that shown by our senior footballers.

Andy Miller
Football Co-ordinator

PGS 11:9 (75)  SPC 15:9 (99)

Congratulations to Arthur Blunt who made his First XVIII debut in this game!

Despite losing, what an outstanding effort!!!

My message to the players immediately after the final siren was this:

“Sometimes in sport you don’t always get the reward to match the effort; some days you can win with less than 100% effort and then on days like today, we can give 100% effort and still not be rewarded with victory.

We may be disappointed to lose today but I am very pleased with your effort and very proud of you all. You did everything I asked of you and I thank you for that.
We didn’t get the win today but it’s possible that our continued labours, resilience, persistence and mental toughness will bear fruit later in the season (eg at Intercol).”

Despite the fact that we were disappointed to lose, the facts are:

a) St Paul’s are a very good team
b) We can learn a lot more from a tough, hard-fought loss than from a 100 point victory
c) The class and ball-winning ability of one player (No 15) was the difference between the two teams; we will be better-prepared next time and must have a specific plan to curb his influence...despite that, we are certainly capable of matching St Paul’s (both with individual players and as a team)
d) The score indicates genuine improvement from last year:
   i) a 24 point loss compared to two losses to St Paul’s last year with 76 and 48 point margins;
   ii) 11 goals scored by Pulteney compared to 4 goals in each of last year’s games;
   iii) 20 scoring shots compared to 9 and 12 last year;
   iv) St Paul’s were restricted to 24 scoring shots compared to 35 and 25 last year

I spoke to a St Paul’s parent after the game who witnessed the St Paul’s v Pulteney games last year; she was stunned by the strong performance of this year’s Pulteney team and said to me: “Wow! What the hell has happened at Pulteney??!!”

What has happened is that we have a got a good team who are willing to put the Team first and are prepared to play for each other and for their school; we also have a team that is very well led by a strong group of leaders.

I set the team the challenge of trying to score 3 goals per quarter; although we knew that against tough opposition this wouldn’t be easy, I thought that 3 goals per quarter would certainly put us ‘in the hunt’.

The number of goals the team kicked in each of the 4 quarters was 3, 3, 4, 1, meaning we fell just 2 goals short (in the last quarter) of reaching that target. (as it turns out 12 goals wouldn’t have been enough to secure victory anyway, but we were certainly every chance of winning up until at least midway through the last quarter).

A feature of the team’s performance was the relentless pressure applied to the opposition: chasing, tackling, harassing, smothering, pushing back into defence etc...I was very, very pleased with all of this.

Congratulations to Liam Geddes-Ryan, Jack White and Ben Adams who were all outstanding in the midfield.

Josh Wills did some spectacular things (eg strong marks), ran hard and kicked 2 goals.

James Livesey played his best game for the season and was tough and tight in defence as were Angus Lumsden and Angus Sexton

Zac Sipek and Tom Baldock provided targets, marked strongly in attack and kicked goals.

Matt Nielsen dominated the ruck and took some strong marks.

Despite the fact that all 22 players contributed to the strong team performance, I believe we had at least 4-6 players who were below their best. Whilst it is rare to ever have 22 genuinely good players on any one day, this suggests that we still have room for improvement.
Best Players: Liam Geddes-Ryan, Jack White, Ben Adams, James Livesey, Josh Wills, Zac Sipek, Matt Nielsen, Angus Lumsden, Angus Sexton, Tom Baldock

Goal-Kickers: Tom Baldock 3, Jack White, Josh Wills 2 each, Jarrod Miller, Chester Oliver, Lachlan Schatto, Zac Sipek 1 each

Barrie Bryan
Coach

PGS v SPSC3

Courage comes in many forms, this week's games despite being heavily undermanned we showed tremendous courage to continue to compete with the odds stacked against us.

We were continually knocked over by bigger bodied opponents, but got up every time and competed again.

Our Skills were not at the same level of our opponent but we continued to compete by chasing and tackling.

If you won games of football purely on your desperation and willingness to compete, we would have finished well ahead. Unfortunately, as we all know that is not the case. No better was our desire to compete demonstrated when we had five smothering in one 15-minute period.

At the final siren the scoreboard was not in our favour but our willingness to compete, to get back up when knocked down and the courage we displayed as a group allowed us to walk off the ground with our heads held high and proud of our efforts.

Like a song stuck on repeat in iTunes I reiterate the following:

- As a group I believe in you, we are a better team than what you currently realise.
- As a team we focus on the things we can control
- The scoreboard does not measure our success; rather it is measured by our Desire To Compete. Eventually the scoreboard will turn in our favour.

Paul Bahr
Coach

PGS 3:2 (20) Cabra 18:10 (118)

We went into this game with no enthusiasm and the score seemed to reflect the groups attitude. It is important to note that there is no questioning the effort from the boys and they will always give their best. But there is a difference between that and attitude and the feeling around the team was pretty lacklustre.
To the boys credit, at halftime they did not like where they were at and called each other out on certain things that needed to improve. This along with the inclusion of 2 excitement machines (Jun Kim & Hugh Brunning aka Sir Unop), who came over to play after their soccer match, the group was energised and went on to win the 3rd quarter. Unfortunately the group didn’t carry it over in the last quarter and Cabra kicked away to a big win.

There are a few things we will be working on at training over the next couple of weeks, particularly kicking and hands in close (in the contest). One thing that can always help, and a lot of the great kicks in the game at the highest level have done this in their development, is kicking a tennis ball. The concept sounds basic, but the ability to drop the ball onto the foot with 1 hand and to make contact with the ball in the correct spot on the ball for it to hit the target (generally 3-5 metres away) is harder than it seems.

A big thank you to Tasmin Evans for running boundary on the weekend. It was very much appreciated.

We have a bye this week due to the year 9’s being on camp, but we are still training so have fun on camp year 9’s, don’t get injured please and I’ll see the rest of you at trainings on Monday and Wednesday.

Best: Hugh Heidenreich, Ben Beswick, Calvin Santo, Noah TheSinger, Jack Strawbridge, Alex Magarey

**Goal Scorers:** Isaac Pearce 2, Noah TheSinger 1

Nathan Risatano & Justin Bollenhagen
Coaches

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**PGS 5:10 (40) RC 4:5 (29)**

Congratulations, Boys!

After a much improved effort last week, the team broke through for their first win of the season!

With 5 players unavailable, we still had 19 players and were able to ‘loan’ two players per quarter to Rostrevor, who only had 15 players.

Thanks to Zach, Jack, Harry, Lloyd, Sam, Louis, Alex and Christian who each took a turn to play a quarter for the opposition; I know this is not ideal, but at least it ensured that everyone got a full game of footy.

Once again the team played some excellent, attacking, running football but players were also prepared to get down and get dirty with the less-glamorous skills such as tackling, chasing and smothering.

**Seb** got us away to a good start with 2 first-quarter goals; with 8 scoring shots to 1 in the first quarter, the boys had already established a match-winning lead of 17 points by ¼ time.

When **Rory** hurt his knee he spent the rest of the game playing as a key forward and kicked a goal in each of the last 3 quarters.

The boys extended their lead to 21 points at ½ time, then led by 16 points at ¾ time.

The lead was then extended to 23 points before Rostrevor kicked the last 2 goals of the match.
Our best players included:

**Seb** – worked tirelessly and won a heap of contested possessions

**Austin** – ran and used the ball well (very pleased to see him kick on his opposite foot on one occasion)

**Rory** – strong, bullocking work in a crowded forward line; invaluable contribution with 3 goals

Matt – plenty of run from half-back and through the midfield; another strong game

**Gabriel** – strong bodied, hard-working ruckman

**Patrick** – another player who runs hard and uses the ball cleanly

**Angus** – some excellent tackling and hard running

Besides the players listed above, I’d like to acknowledge some of our ‘lesser lights:

**Logan** – for the second week in a row, he demonstrated the ability to hold his position, to read the play and to take intercept marks

**Clark** and **Maxim** – did some really good shepherding which allowed the ball carrier to have more time to make decisions and to use the ball cleanly.

**Ned** – tight in defence and for the second time this season, gave **Gabriel** and **Alex** a rest by doing some Rucking

**Jack** – played his best game and continues to improve each week.

**Best Players:** Seb Brett, Austin Brooks, Rory O’Callaghan, Matt Adams, Gabriel Luksich, Patrick Winter, Angus Winter, Alex Candy

**Goal Kickers:** Rory O’Callaghan 3, Seb Brett 2

Looking forward to seeing you all at school and to seeing most of you at training on Wednesday!

Barrie Bryan
Coach

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**Lightning Carnival - PGS won 3 out of 5 games**

Last weekends year 5 carnival was a great success! We won 3 out of our 5 games but the most satisfying result from the carnival was seeing the improvement in all of our players skills.

Positive contributions came from each player on the team on more than one occasion and was very pleasing to see some tactics we have been working on at training come together and work out in a game.

Looking forward to seeing even more development from the group at training this week.

Rocco Canino
Coach
Lightning Carnival
PGS won 3 out of 5 games

This week the year 4s played in the Victoria Racecourse lightning carnival. Short game times meant teams had to switch on straight away, although the team started slow against Coromandel Valley, our goal kicking was sub-par and this ultimately led to turnovers which resulted in goals for the opposition.

The second game saw us take on Highgate, who we had previously lost to. Despite losing a key defender through a twisted ankle in Nicholas Restas early on in the game, this game was the best piece of footy we have played all year so far, and showed that the boys are improving extremely quickly. A highlight of this game was Luke Henshall’s run and carry of the ball, rewarded by difficult goals with his well known long kicking. In the third game we played Coromandel Valley again, who had extremely large numbers and were able to play and rotate tired players. We started strong kicking the first goal of the match but ultimately lost against a very good outfit by 2 goals, Sam Creaser’s work in this game and throughout the day is notable, with a couple of great marks and handballs.

After a reasonable break Pulteney played Mitcham in what was a nail-biter. Lucas Michalos’ evasive run and carry gave players like Patrick Noell and Olivier Bizot first use of the ball, this resulted in Pulteney winning by 1 point. In the last game Pulteney played CBC White, this game was another highlight of the day, our strong midfield had a brilliant game, notably Darcy Bryan, whose relentless pressure and fast pace made him extremely dangerous around the ground all day.

We look forward to training this week and continuing to improve and develop players.

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Tom Laity & Harry Lumsden
Coaches

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.

Thank you to Leeanne Johnston-Bryan for providing action shots of our younger footballers last weekend. If you have any photos that you would like to share, please email them to me!