



PORT MELBOURNE COLTS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB MATCH REPORT

TEAM	U12 MIXED
versus	St Kilda City JFC
SCORE	St Kilda City 11.14-80 Port Melbourne Colts 1.1-7
AUTHOR OF REPORT	David Nelson
POSITION	Head Coach

Milestone Games

The first of our fifty gamers ripped through the banner to mark a fantastic achievement. Emma Kuklych celebrated her 50 game milestone by also skippering the team. She led the U12 mixed side in round 1 with great aplomb.

First Quarter

Unfortunately the euphoria of getting back on the park in big time footy was soon dimmed by the scoreboard. A well drilled City team got the jump on the Colts with smooth ball use from the centre and some, at times, paper thin defence by us. A six goal burst by the Saints set the scene. And but for some poor kicking (five behinds) the carnage could have been greater. Dazed, scuffed and confused. Welcome back to the high and lows of footy!

Second Quarter

With the coaches frantically throwing around the magnets at quarter time the Colts stiffened up in defence. Pressure acts lifted and there were pleasing moments of shared ball movement using quick handball and pinpoint passing. Lewis threaded a clever running banana goal from about 25m out to get us on the shimmering new electronic scoreboard. (For these players an historic moment as it is the first game that they have seen their score recognised.) Pleasingly in the second quarter Port had kept the opposition goalless, and had also outscored them.

Third Quarter

St Kilda regained the superiority in the third quarter. Strong marking, playing in front and a solid defensive wall proved the difference. But Port were not without valiant players. Jonesy seemed to be everywhere, Emma ran gamely, Woody was tough in and under, Koby bobbed up with pace, Luke showed some defensive mettle, and Cohen gave glimpses of some speccies to come.



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Final Quarter

The last quarter saw some tired Colts as the Wattie Watson ground got no smaller. Port hadn't given in for a moment, but in this grading game City proved to be a better side both in skills, execution and footy nous. It was, I think, a timely wake-up call for our team. We lost this battle but our campaign is just beginning. If this is our Dunkirk moment then next week we shall fight them on the beaches and never surrender.

Thanks to our two U11 subs Luke Oliver and Luca Tandurella, and all volunteers on the day.

What we did well

- +rallied after a numbing first quarter
- +continued trying to share the ball around
- +ran
- +improved pressure acts throughout the game

What we need to work on

- ground positioning (play your role/ read the game)
- defensive abilities (mark opposition players/ front position/ hold tackles/ win back ball)
- more penetration in kicking and kicking to better spots

Next Game –vs-	Hampton Rovers	Ground	Woodruff Oval
Date	25 April	Time	10:30am