



MATCH REPORT UNDER 10'S

Round	Surrey Park vs Preston Bullants
Date	3 April, 2011

Mouthguard...check, helmet...check, boots....check, 23 pumped up Panthers (and Coach)...CHECK!!! The start of the 2011 season, and the cobwebs have been well and truly brushed off with some super hot action to follow. The massive ground and open space at Preston provided an opportunity for some fast flowing footy, and a fabulous display of foot and hand skills from the boys. With overcast and dry conditions it was time for the lads to shine, as coach Terry reminded the boys to have confidence in what they do. Josh 'Yoshie' was skipper for the day, well done fella!

Joel, part of the mosquito fleet, got the score board underway with a poster that deserved better. Dylan was the perfect exponent of the FFF (fast, flowing, footy), constantly driving the ball forward and then applying forward pressure on the Preston defence. On the run, he slotted home the first major for the team. Sam M crunched tackle after tackle, and cleverly held play up so that our defence could organise and rebound. Jacob was creative with his tap outs, just pushing the ball forward, opening and creating opportunities for his team mates. Our defence was tighter than trying to get a dollar from my wallet, and constantly repelled the Bullant attacks. JB played 'Spiderman' as he grabbed everything that came his way and used the ball precisely. Hamish 'The Hammer' drove the Panthers second goal through after a great passage of play that started with Josh "Yoshie". Dan 'The Man' took a couple of courageous marks, and the silky Pascal drove home a fabulous goal to keep the pressure on the Preston defence. Fast paced opening term, and our runner Simon 'Woody' Woodfull had worked up a lather of sweat in covering at about 30k's (well at least several hundred metres!) Coach Terry reminded the boys to never give up, and that big things happen from small deeds (1%'s).

The second and third quarters saw Surrey with plenty of ball possession as Ben and Jamie took strong marks and drove the ball forward constantly. There were plenty of smooth transitions of play between several of the boys. Dylan with a text book drop punt pass that hit JB on the chest, whom in full stride delivered the ball deep into the forward line. Then Conor via a gutsy mark hit Joel with a super pass who was off and running. Just the smooth and accurate flow of play was inspiring, and Sam M capped it with a powerful snap over his right shoulder for 6 points. Our great wall of China (no rabbits here thank you very much!) in the likes of Markie, Dylan and Liam were sensational, while Jacob must have covered a couple of kilometres running forward and creating play, then finishing it off with a calculated snap over his shoulder for full points. The boys 1%'s were hard acts of pure determination and desperation. JB's two tackles inside our 50 metre arc were simply absolute, as the poor receiving Bullant's must have been wondering what ran over them! Ossie 'The Ozman' laid a brilliant smoother then a second later delivered a crunchie on a unsuspecting Bullant much to the delight of his team mates, and Joe took a ripper grab and got the ball moving quickly. TJ, Joe, and Sam D were full of run, using their bodies in hard at the ball encounters and providing considerable drive. TJ dropped a mark, but just his perseverance in making sure that the ball stayed as a 50/50 contest was fantastic.

Our miserly defence, on ball aggression, and forward offensive pressure were simply outstanding and restricted Preston to zero score for the 2nd and 3rd terms. The boys were making space to accept passes, then using the space they moved the ball quickly into attack. Sam M delivered to the running Jonathan, who slipped a wonderful pass to Pascal who slotted another major home. Sensational teamwork from our three Panthers. 'Yoshie' and Ossie had several shots at goal but just failed to get full points, but it was their never give up endeavour that really mattered. Finally the 'Ozman' caressed a goal home, and was typical of the never give up attitude from Surrey Park. Jared 'the Ice Man' chased the loose ball down under enormous and aggressive opposition pressure, while Cameron consistently ran hard at the ball, always attacking and bustling his way into the contest. All the boys contributed to a super team effort. Joe with a wonderfully weighted pass to Conor, snapped over his right shoulder for an excellent major. Markie was a power house in the ruck, driving through a pack of three Bullants, snatching the ball under his arm, and booting it 30 metres forward. Ben, Nick, and Jonathon were relentless, always unselfish, just continuously trying to get the ball moving forward, or to a 50/50 contest. Our talented small boys were sensational. Joel "Mouth of the



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South', Sam D, Ben ,Nick, Jamie all were wonderful contributors, hard at the ball, head down and bum up players that really give all they have, and were a constant thorn in the oppositions style of play.

The AFL have the Selwood brothers, but Surrey Park U10's have the Carter brothers!!! New boys to the team, both Liam and Morgan have fitted in well, and are really having a red hot go. Also Jamie was fantastic in his first game for Surrey. All three are head over the ball players which suits this Panther team perfectly. Welcome and well done boys!

The final term saw an avalanche of outstanding goals and marvellous use of handball. Sam M pumped a great goal home in the first 2 minutes, and was followed by brilliant efforts by JB, and finally a tremendous booming on the run goal by Dylan . With only minutes left in the game, and the result a forgone conclusion, the boys did not stop. Nick's rundown tackle on a Bullant was simply superb. Despite his opposition being a good 10 metres in front of him, Nick never gave up the chase and eventually applied a crunchie that I could feel up in the time keepers room. OOOOUCH! The other great example of the 'never give up' attitude was Dan 'The Man'. Prowling the half forward line, he gathered the ball, was tackled, then he tackled the ball handler and got the ball, then was tackled again and lost the ball, then chased the Bullant with the ball until his pressure resulted in a turn over. Really positive and well contested last term by the Panthers. The team song was sung with enormous gusto and pride, and I finally got to hear my sons singing lessons paying off!!

Great work and efforts by Eric our medical marvel, Woody for lots of leg work and encouragement, Tony for chalking up the k's on the boundary, Leisl for putting up with us parents and match day headaches, and coach Terry for guiding and inspiring our boys. Really good team off, and on the field. Next challenge thank you.....

Geoff Simmons