

Match Report: St. Finbar's V's St. Joan of Arc

Saturday 31st August 2019



The inaugural St Finbar's Primary Vs St Joan of Arc Primary was held at the picturesque Brighton Beach Oval. Home of the Brighton Beach Kangaroos in the Southern Metropolitan Junior Football League

Both schools share a healthy rivalry and this year it will continue with the Dads Army Match.

There was no shortage of talent on both teams with just short of 150 games of AFL experience between the 2 coaches

Firstly St Finbar's Coach Rory Hilton played 91 games for the Brisbane Lions and Richmond Football Club

St Joan of Arc Coach Simon Meehan played 55 games for St Kilda Football club.

St Finbar's team was stacked with talent with former St Kilda super star Jason Blake making an appearance.

Jason played 219 games for the red white and black which included 2 Grand Finals.

We also had 2 players from East Brighton Vampires Team of the Decade playing for St Finbar's.

On Baller Adam Henry and key forward Peri Thompson .

The Grade 3/4 games started proceedings with Elijah H and Zara C leading the St Finbar's team. The game was very exciting and a highly entertaining contest.

There was a strong East Brighton Vampires presence with Elijah leading from the front with his bone jarring tackles and long kicking out of defence.

Hunter Z laid a team lifting tackle when he lunged forward Matrix style to stop his opponent in his tracks This allowed his Vampire team mate Angus S to swoop onto the loose ball and slam home first major.

Levi G showed his silky skills by kicking a lovely goal on the run Tas S used his electrifying speed to the seal the game for St Finbar's.

We had some stand out performances from our girls Isabella M was in and under showing the boys how to clear the ball in traffic.

Zara C and Cleo P combined brilliantly in the midfield to deliver the Ball lace up to the St Finbar's forwards.

Game 1 to St Finny's .

Game 2 was a different story .

Our grade 5/6 team had a number of players playing in Grand Finals for their respective clubs .

We had a number of girls and boys doubling up and played 2 games .

The St Joan of Arc team were too good and handed us an old fashion shellacking.

Game 2
St Joan of Arc

Next the Big One.

The stage was set for the main event.
We had 2 field umpires and 2 Goal umpires from the SMFL to officiate the game
Both teams ran onto the ground and lined up for the National Anthem.

The sun was shining and we all knew that something special was going to unfold.
It was 18 men vs 18 men ready to go into battle .
The next 80 minutes saw a highly skilled, fast paced and intense game with the
lead swinging back and forward like a pendulum.

St Joan of Arc won the toss and choose to kick with the wind .
Umpire bounced the ball, the crowd roared with excitement the game was on!

Both teams had very talented on ball brigade .
St Finbar's had big Trev Collard a 6ft 11 mountain of a man in the Ruck .
Team of the decade player Adam Henry and Ball magnet Alan Contreras were Ruck rover
and rover respectively

The opposition had high leaping Jules Rattray in the Ruck and swing man James O'Reilly as
Ruck rover

St Finbar's got off to a flyer against the wind .
Full Forward Nat Preston out muscled his opponent on a number of occasions and marked
strongly. Unfortunately he was unable to covert his 2 opportunities.

St Joan of Arc were clinical in the manner they kicked their first 2 goals,
Big long kicks to the hotspot where a tall forward mark and converted

In the second quarter it was as St Finbar's turn to kick the wind.
Former Saint and star utility Jason Blake showed his class by out manoeuvring his opponent
Robbie Rafaniello who had a distinguished career in the VAFA as a key position back man.
Jason Blake showed that he still had the Midas touch in front of the big sticks kicking 2 long
goals from outside 50.

The third quarter was a tense battle of the midfields to see who could establish first use of
the ball to supply the forwards.

This quarter went to St Joan of Arc.
However the St Finbar's back line was well led by Neil Schlittler.
He was like a freight train at the Ball .
He was an irresistible force surging forward and unleashing his cannon like left foot drop
punts .
I was lucky enough to be on the receiving end of a laser guided pass from Neil which almost
sent me into to the next post code.

St Finbar's had the wind in the last quarter and the on ball duo of Adam and Alan were

winning possessions at will in the midfield.

Luckily we had St John Ambulance on hand because both Adam and Alan had to be treated for leather poisoning because they touched the ball that many times.

Unfortunately for St Finbar's, St Joan of Arc had kicked a decent score and defended it well. They held off a strong finishing St Finbar's to win by 13 points.

It was a classic battle of the irresistible force meeting the immovable object with St Joan of Arc narrowly coming out on top.

It was an amazing finale to a wonderful day that couldn't have happened without the Herculean efforts from James Davies and Alan Contreras who was voted Best on Ground for St Finbar's.

Both were instrumental in organising the event which had every detailed covered.

Special mention to Aussie Paul Ryan from St Joan of Arc for his assistance in organising and securing of the ground, umpires, entertainment and food trucks

The inaugural St Finbar's vs St Joan of Arc Dads Army Match was a huge success and we look forward to renewing our rivalry next year.

Rumour has it there might be a women's longest kick and goal kicking competition next year. Lastly Saints Legend Former Captain, Multiple Trevor Barker Medallist, Multiple All Australian Nick Riewoldt will be joining St Joan of Arc next year.

Hopefully we will see Nick renew his friendship with former team mate Jason Blake however this time they will be on opposing sides.

Till then

Go St Finny's !!!!

