

NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL YEAR 9/10 FOOTY MATCH REPORTS

By Jonathon Zapantis 10J

It was great to be at the Northcote cougars ground home of Northcote high school boys. We showed up to the ground with confidence and excitement. Pre-game coach flight addressed the importance of continued focus, no over confidence, team rules and team tactics. And with all the boys on board we were ready to light up the day.

With the boys playing three schools ST Helena, Epping and Greensborough we knew we were up for a challenge.

We were up against Greensborough first, knowing that we had to set a good first impression for our other two following games.

It was a great start to the game with our boys in the mid Charlie F, Harry T And Flynn R clearing the ball out of the congested midfield to our forward line who then shortly after scored a goal. With big guns and little guns in the forward line like big Tim S, Kaz O, Rinchen d, Arben D and Chris R we were sure to have a blow out game. But then Greensborough popped out a few goals from there sleeves and with our half asleep backline we then woke up and started to gel. With big boys like Jono, rhyce and luke L we were woking in close proximity in the back line to work the ball in one way out the other with the Greensborough boys having no idea. Arben D then supplied us with a few cheap quick goals to get us the lead. With the year nines like Benny Levo, luke L, Jono, Rhinchen D and Jacob B showed the year 10's why they deserved a spot in the team being superb throughout the game and the whole day.

The game flew kicking goal after goal and after goal with the boys getting a great win in the end and heading in confident into the second game against the big boys ST Helena who we previously lost to last year squashing our state hopes.

The game kicked off with our boys being physical and busting through packs. St Helena the reigning champs showed us why they were the team to beat kicking two quick early goals. But our heads didn't drop meaning we had to lift so thats exactly what our mighty Northcote high boys did we lifted our game feeding the ball down to our our forward line with Tim Sack providing us with the goods scoring two goals and one behind leaving us one point behind at half time. With all the boys heads up at half time we went into the huddle positive with coach flight encouraging all of us providing us with helpful feedback and tips. Coach flight then addressed our positions with a few changes being made. We headed back out with the eye of the tiger in our eyes staring down our opponents to let them know that were still in this. With all the boys setting a great example at why were still here putting it up to this mob we headed straight into our positions getting ready for the half to kick off. We started off the second half strong with sending easy inside fifty's down to our forward line but we couldn't deliver, that being St Helena showing us why they were the reigning champs rebounding everything out of our

forward line then rubbing it in with a few quick goals. We knew we were better so we got around each other and encouraged one another. So we took initiative clearing it out from the middle and Darcy Macca being on the end of it running twenty meters with the ball and banging one from forty meters out to bring us back in the game. With the boys getting rowdy we were back at it defending and attacking well but our efforts wasn't enough in the end with St Helena taking charge of the game and kicking a couple of goals blowing us away with no chance of a comeback. But at the end of the game we were all happy with our efforts and looking forward to next game knowing that if St Helena loose their next game we were still a chance.

With the NHS boys watching St Helena and Greensborough form the sideline our hopes got up as the reigning champs were losing. We all got excited but before we knew it St Helena snagged a few goals and in the end they had one it and were going to state.

All of us disappointed and sad we had to finish off the last game against Epping.

With all the year 10 boys knowing that this could possibly be their last year of school footy they had a bit of fun in the last game with Epping following us. The game was all fun with almost every player torpedoing the ball. It was all a game of fun until Arben D unleashed a massive torpedo from outside fifty putting a smile on all the boys faces. Then shortly after Harry T having the ball and passing it to Tim Sack who then got a massive tackle given to him by one of the Epping boys and acting very professional about it he got up straight away.

In the end we got the win and although we knew we weren't going to state we were pretty proud of how far we came. Good luck to all the year 9's who will be year 10's next year playing school footy.