



17 January 2011

WAAFL Fixtures

The WAAFL has announced that the 2011 Season will begin on Saturday 2 April with Bye rounds on 23 April (Easter) and 11 June (State Game). The Grand Finals will be played on Saturday 10 September.

15 February 2011

Reserves Coaching Position

The Club is pleased to announce that Tony Ricciardello has been appointed to coach the Reserves side for the 2011 season. Tony has a wealth of coaching experience, having previously coached the Reserves and Colts sides.



3 March 2011

WAAFL Fixtures

The WAAFL has announced the fixtures for the 2011 season. The League, Reserves and Colts begin their season with a clash against Kingsley Cats at Kingsley Park. The Club's Thirds team have been placed in the newly restructured E1 Grade and will start the 2011 season with a home clash versus Whitford Warriors.

12 March 2011

Scratch Match vs Collegians

The Saints have lost their first pre-season game, going down by 45 points against A-grade opponents Collegians - the final scores being Stirling 5.8 (38) versus Collegians 13.5 (83). In the earlier game, the Reserves side started their pre-season campaign with a 21-point victory - the final scores being Stirling 9.7 (61) versus Collegians 5.10 (40).

19 March 2011

Scratch Match vs Whitford

The Saints rounded out their pre-season campaign with a hit-out against A-Grade opponents, Whitford. Despite going down by 31 points, there were positive signs for the coming season - the final scores being Stirling 7.11 (53) versus Whitford 12.12 (84). In the earlier game, the Reserves side started well but were soon overwhelmed by their opponents by 79 points - the final scores being Stirling 3.7 (25) versus Whitford 15.14 (104).



2 April 2011

Saints Outclass Cats

The Saints have started the 2011 season, and their push for a return to A-Grade, with a 58-point demolition of Kingsley Cats in their Round 1 clash at Kingsley Park. The Saints outplayed the Cats in every department to record a resounding 20.8 (128) to 9.16 (70) victory.

Bolstered by the return of Chris Kercheval, Damien Lloyd and Jeremy Lloyd, the Saints kicked the first few goals of the game and led by 16 points at quarter time. Kicking with the breeze in the 2nd term, the lead was extended to 24 points by the main break.

Kingsley fought back early in the 3rd quarter, but the Saints steadied with a number of late goals to take a 36-point lead heading into the final break.

The Saints showed their superior fitness in the last quarter, outscoring the Cats by 5 goals to 1. Jeremy and Damien Lloyd booted 4 goals each for the game.

Congratulations to **Kyle Baker** for kicking 2 goals in his League Debut and Mark Baker for playing his 50th Club game.

In other games, the Colts lost by 19 points, the Reserves finished well but went down by 53 points and the Thirds continued their strong form from last season by defeating Whitford by 40 points.



Scoreboard:

Stirling 5.2 9.3 15.5 20.8 (128)

Kingsley 2.4 4.9 8.11 9.16 (70)

Goals: Damien Lloyd 4, Jeremy Lloyd 4, Adam Edwards 2, Mitch Hunter 2, Luke Ferraloro 2, Kyle Baker 2, Chris Kercheval 1, Max Alexander 1, Chris Ioppolo 1, Jacob Holt 1



9 April 2011

Saints First Loss to Cougars

Despite a late comeback, the Saints could not prevent their first ever loss to Kalamunda Cougars in the Round 2 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

After an even start, the Saints held a 5-point lead at the first break. In the second term, the Cougars showed the form that won them the 2010 C-Grade Premiership, kicking 7 goals straight to take a 23-point lead at the main break.

The Cougars extended their lead to as much as 30 points early in the third term and looked to start kicking away, but the Saints steadied to trail by 25 points at the final break.

The Saints played their best football in the last quarter and looked close to setting up a remarkable comeback when they kicked a late goal that reduced the margin to only 5 points. But the Cougars kicked a goal in the dying seconds of the game to run out 11-point winners.

In other games, the Colts lost by 27 points, the Reserves went down by 77 points and the Thirds were defeated by Swan Districts by 74 points.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 3.3 5.5 7.7 11.9 (75)

Kalamunda 2.4 9.4 11.8 13.8 (86)

Goals: Jeremy Lloyd 3, Chris Kercheval 3, Adam Edwards 2, Mitch Hunter 1, Allan McGrath 1, Jacob Holt 1





16 April 2011

Saints Make Willetton Sing the Blues

The Saints were too strong for Willetton in their Round 3 clash at Burrendah Reserve, cruising to a comfortable 6-goal victory.

In the first game between the two teams since 2006, the Blues jumped to an early start, kicking the first goal of the game. However, the Saints soon took control, kicking the next six goals before quarter time and the first two goals in the second quarter. By half time, the lead was out to 41 points.

The Blues started well in the third quarter, kicking two early goals. The Saints soon replied with a few goals, including a banana kick goal on the run from Chris Ioppolo to maintain the 41-point lead by the final break.

In the final term, the Blues once again mounted a mini fightback, before a steadying goal from captain Joel Edwards ensured that the Saints push for finals remained on track heading into the bye weekend.

In other games, the Colts lost by 36 points, the Reserves went down by 64 points and a late surge by the Thirds was not enough to prevent a 36-point loss to Fremantle CBC.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 6.4 9.5 12.7 14.10 (94)

Willetton 1.2 2.6 5.8 8.10 (58)

Goals: Jeremy Lloyd 4, Chris Kercheval 2, Allan McGrath 2, Chris Ioppolo 2, Mitch Hunter 1, Luke Ferraloro 1, Joel Edwards 1, Michael Franceschini 1





30 April 2011

Saints Late Surge Not Enough to Beat Swans (and the Reserves Finally Break the Drought!)

A second-half comeback by the Saints was not enough to prevent a 19-point loss to Swan Athletic Swans in their Round 4 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

The Swans got the early jump and kicked the first five goals of the game until Jeremy Lloyd opened the Saints account just before quarter time.

The Swans continued their dominance in the second quarter, taking a 41-point lead into the main break.

The Saints resurgence started in the third quarter, outscoring the Swans by 4 goals to 1, reducing the deficit to 24 points by three-quarter time.

The lead was reduced to 12 points early in the 4th quarter, but the Swans good start finished being the difference between the two sides.

The biggest news of the day, however, was the first win by the Reserves side in more than 2½ years. The Reserves lead from start to finish and outscored the Swans in all four quarters. The win broke a 44-game losing streak stretching back to Round 13, 2008. It was the also the Reserves highest score since Round 11, 2005 and their highest winning margin since Round 1, 2002. The win was a great way to celebrate the 50th Club game milestone for **Steve Longo**.



In other games, the Colts also broke through for their first game of the season by 13 points and the Thirds smashed the Quinns Districts Bulls by 118 points.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 1.2 3.5 7.8 11.10 (76)

Swan Athletic 6.3 10.6 11.8 14.11 (95)

Goals: Chris Kercheval 5, Daniel Defillipis 3, Jeremy Lloyd 2, Adam Edwards 1



7 May 2011

Saints Lose to Roos in a Thriller

A last-second goal by Wanneroo Roos has allowed them to defeat the Saints by only 1 point in a thrilling Round 5 clash at the Wanneroo Showgrounds.

The Saints lead from the start and kicked early goals to take a narrow 1-goal lead at quarter time. In a scrappy second quarter, the Saints started to kick away and despite sustaining a few injuries to key midfielders, they were able to extend the lead to 15 points by the main break.

In the third term, the Roos, coached by former Saints player Brad Trpchev, pegged back the lead and outscored the Saints by 3 goals to 1, reducing the lead to 8 points by the final break.

In the final term, the Saints lost another midfielder and had to complete the last quarter with no bench. There were plenty of opportunities to score goals but the Saints could not capitalize, while the Roos kicked another 3 goals - the last one coming with 5 seconds left on the clock - to scrape through by 1 point.

The loss was a disappointing finish to **Adriano Mesiti's** 50th game for the club.

In other games, the Reserves outplayed their opponents for their second consecutive win by 28 points and the Thirds also defeated the Roos by 26 points. Unfortunately, the Colts were not as successful, going down by 68 points in their clash at Emerald Park.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 4.2 7.8 8.13 9.20 (74)

Wanneroo 3.2 5.5 8.5 11.9 (75)

Goals: Jeremy Lloyd 3, Mitch Hunter 2, Chris Kercheval 2, Chris Ioppolo 1, Rory Muller 1





14 May 2011

Saints Outclassed by Hawks

The Saints have been completely outclassed by ladder leaders Hamersley-Carine, going down to the Hawks by 85 points in a disappointing Round 6 clash at the Carine Open Space.

The Hawks kept the Saints goalless in the first quarter while kicking 5 goals of their own to lead by 29 points at quarter time. The Hawks kicked another 7 goals in the second quarter, before Chris Kercheval finally opened the Saints account late in the second quarter. The lead at the main break was 66 points.

The Saints played much better in the third term, but could not prevent the Hamersley-Carine midfield feeding their goal scoring forwards. The Saints also played well early in the fourth quarter before the Hawks stepped up a gear to extend the 72 point margin at three quarter time to 85 points at the final siren. The loss was the Saints worst-ever loss to Hamersley-Carine.

The Saints must now regroup before a must-win clash versus West Coast-Cowan. Congratulations must go to **Michael Price** for playing his 100th Club Game.

In other games, the Reserves played well against ladder leaders but lost by 29 points, the Thirds were overrun in the last quarter to lose by only 4 points, and the Colts won by forfeit when Hamersley-Carine did not have enough players to field a side.



Scoreboard:

Stirling 0.3 1.5 3.5 6.7 (43)

Hamersley-Carine 5.2 12.5 15.5 20.8 (128)

Goals: Chris Kercheval 2, Adam Edwards 1, Jeremy Lloyd 1, Adriano Mesiti 1, Ben Mollett 1



21 May 2011

Tigers Cruise Past Saints

The Saints have slumped to their fourth consecutive loss, with a disappointing 64-point loss to West Coast-Cowan Tigers in their Round 7 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

The Tigers jumped to an early start and had 3 goals on the board before Jeremy Lloyd kicked the Saints' first goal. The Saints kicked a second goal before the Tigers steadied to take a 16-point lead into the first break.

The Tigers kicked away early in the second quarter and their 34-point half time lead would have been greater if the Tigers had kicked straighter in their shots for goal.

In the third term, the Saints were frustrated by a number of umpiring decisions, while the Tigers midfield continued to push forward to extend the lead to 50 points at the final break. The Tigers did not completely dominate any one quarter, but managed to extend their lead at each break, eventually running out winners by 64 points.

Round 7 wins for West Coast Cowan and Melville will see the Saints drop to 8th on the ladder and in risk of losing touch with the top 5. The loss was especially disappointing for **Chris Kercheval** who passed his 50-game milestone for the Club. The Saints will now have to regroup before travelling to Henderson Park in a must win clash against traditional rivals Wembley Magpies.

In other games, the Reserves started well but were overrun by 28 points, the Thirds fell away in the last quarter only to go down to reigning E-Grade premiers Ocean Ridge by 23 points and the Colts lost by only 16 points.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 2.1 4.1 5.1 7.3 (45)

West Coast Cowan 4.5 8.11 11.15 15.19 (109)

Goals: Jeremy Lloyd 3, Chris Kercheval 2, Adam Edwards 1, Ben Mollett 1





28 May 2011

Magpies Too Good for Saints

The Saints have suffered their fifth loss in as many weeks, with a tough 20-point loss to arch rivals Wembley Magpies in their Round 8 clash at Henderson Park.

The Magpies, who are sitting in 2nd spot on the ladder, got the early start before the Saints kicked a couple of late first quarter goals to reduce the margin at the first break to one straight kick.

The second quarter was dominated by the Magpies, and they outscored the Saints by 3 goals to 1 to extend the lead to 19 points at half time.

The Saints played their best footy in the third term and kicked three goals in succession, including one by ruckman Tristan Pack, to take the lead late in the quarter. But a lapse in concentration allowed the Magpies to kick two late goals and regain the lead by 10 points.

The Magpies continued on their way in the last quarter and restricted the Saints to only one goal to run out winners by 20 points.

The Saints now face an uphill battle to make the finals, starting with their first ever clash versus Melville Rams before heading into the mid-season bye.



In other games, the Reserves were over-powered by 89 points, the Thirds went down to West Coast-Cowan by 63 points. The only silver lining for the day was the strong performance by the Colts, who defeated their counterparts by 63 points.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 3.3 4.4 7.9 8.13 (61)

Wembley 4.3 7.5 9.7 12.9 (81)

Goals: Chris Kercheval 3, Mitch Hunter 2, Jeremy Lloyd 1, Adam Edwards 1, Tristan Pack 1



4 June 2011

Saints Charge Past Rams

The Saints have returned to the winners' list after a 55-point thumping of Melville Rams in the Round 9 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

In the first ever clash between the two sides, the Saints dominated from the first bounce. Bolstered by the return of Damien Lloyd, the Saints kicked the first 5 goals of the game before the Rams scored their first goal shortly before the quarter time siren.

The Saints had plenty of avenues of attack in the second quarter. Jeremy Lloyd kicked one of his four goals in his 100th game for the club, and was ably supported by Adam Edwards, Damien Lloyd and Mitch Hunter. By the main break, the Saints lead had increased to 47 points.

The Saints' scoreboard dominance continued after half time, outscoring the Rams by 5 goals to 1 to take a 75 point lead at three quarter time.

The Saints looked set for a thrashing, but the Rams lifted in the last quarter, outscoring their opponents by 5 goals to 2 goals to reduce the final margin to 55 points. The win sees the Saints leapfrog Melville in 7th place on the ladder, with the next game against 9th placed Kingsley after the mid-season bye next weekend.

In other games, the Reserves celebrated Michael Evans's 50th game for the Club with a 31-point victory. This is the first time since late 2007 that the League and Reserves teams had both won on the same day. The Thirds went down to undefeated ladder leaders, Bullcreek-Leeming, by 32 points and the Colts led early against 2nd-placed Melville, but were overrun in the last half by 31 points.



Scoreboard:

Stirling 5.2 11.4 16.10 18.11 (119)

Melville 1.3 3.5 4.7 9.10 (64)

Goals: Jeremy Lloyd 4, Damien Lloyd 4, Adam Edwards 3, Mitch Hunter 2, Ante Kezic 1, Jake Deering 1, Sandro Brezar 1, Mark Kelly 1, Steven Murphy 1



18 June 2011

Saints sink Cats with late flurry

The Saints made it back-to-back wins for the first time in 2011 after running away from Kingsley Cats in the final quarter to win by 19 points in the Round 10 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve. Led by a brilliant 6-goal performance by key forward Damien Lloyd, the win keeps the Saints perfect record against the Cats intact and keeps the Saints in touch with the Top 5.

In a scrappy rain-affected game, the Cats started stronger of the two teams and kicked early goals to lead by 12 points at quarter time. The Saints made their move in the second quarter and clawed back the lead before both two teams went into the main break all even.

Goals to Damien Lloyd and Mitch Hunter started to turn the momentum the Saints' way in the third quarter, but the heavy conditions only allowed the Saints to take an 8-point lead at three quarter time.

The Saints ran away with the game in the final quarter by kicking the first three goals of the term, including one by 17-year-old debutante, Kieren Anderson. The game was effectively beyond the Cats' reach before a couple of late Kingsley goals reduced the final margin back to 19 points by the final siren.

The win sees the Saints remaining in 7th position on the ladder, but West Coast Cowan's loss to Wembley and Willetton's shock loss to Wanneroo sees the Saints only one game out of the Top 5. In contrast, the Cats loss sees them drop to last position on the B Grade Ladder.

In other games, the Reserves could not retain their half time lead and were overrun by 57 points. However, the Thirds won a close encounter against Whitford by 7 points and the Colts ran away from their opponents in the last quarter to win by 35 points.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 2.2 6.4 9.5 9.6 (60)

Kalamunda 2.1 5.5 6.8 9.10 (64)

Goals: Damien Lloyd 6, Jeremy Lloyd 2, Kieren Anderson 1, Mitch Hunter 1, Ante Kezic 1, Adriano Mesiti 1



Stirling's Mitch Hunter kicks a goal against Kingsley.



25 June 2011

Saints fall at last hurdle to Cougars

The Saints have lost a thriller versus Kalamunda Cougars after leading for most of the day in their Round 11 clash at Ray Owen Reserve. Similar to the Round 5 loss versus Wanneroo, the Saints led for most of the day, but were overrun in the final quarter to go down by only 4 points.

The first and second quarters were very even, with both teams going goal for goal. The Saints held a narrow 1-point lead at quarter time and this was extended to 5 points at the main break.

The Saints began to gain ascendancy in the third quarter and put some scoreboard pressure on the Cougars, with two goals from 50-game player **Ante Kezic** and a running snap shot goal by Jake Deering.

The struggle between the two sides continued in the last quarter, with the first goal taking 10 minutes to be scored. The Saints had many thrusts into the forward line with dominant performances by Frank Rossi off the half back line and Adam Edwards in the centre, but could not convert on the scoreboard.

In the end, the Cougars scored the only three goals of the last quarter, the last one coming with only 2 minutes left on the clock, resulting in another frustrating loss for the Saints.

The Saints remain in 7th position on the ladder, but are now one game and percentage away from 5th placed West Coast Cowan. The Round 12 clash versus 6th-placed Willetton looms as a do-or-die game for both clubs. The Saints have the added incentive of Luke Ferraloro's 150th WAAFL game and Tristan Pack's 100th Club game milestones.



Ante Kezic kicks the Saints forward in his 50th game vs Kalamunda

Scoreboard:

Stirling 2.2 6.4 9.5 9.6 (60)

Kalamunda 2.1 5.5 6.8 9.10 (64)

Goals: Ante Kezic 2, Jeremy Lloyd 2, Ben Mollett 2, Jake Deering 1, Adam Edwards 1, Chris Kercheval 1



2 July 2011

Saints win struggle against Blues

The Saints have overcome a hard fought struggle against fellow finals contenders Willetton Blues to win by 14 points in their Round 12 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

After a relatively even first quarter, the Saints stepped up a gear and kicked the only three goals of the second quarter to lead by 24 points at half time.

The Blues took control of the early part of the third term, kicking three goals in the first 10 minutes and reducing the lead to a single goal. The Saints also managed to score a few goals late in the third term, but the lead at three quarter time was cut to only 11 points.

The struggle between the two sides continued in the last quarter, and the Blues scored the first goal of the last quarter to cut the lead to only 5 points. However, late goals from Jeremy Lloyd and Chris Ioppolo steadied the ship and ensured that the Saints finals hopes remain alive.

The win was a fitting end to celebrate Tristan Pack's 100th club game and Luke Ferraloro's 150th WAAFL game. Shane Wells also celebrated his 50th game in the Reserves game.

The Saints now leap frog Willetton into 6th position on the ladder, and 5th placed West Coast Cowan's surprise loss to cellar dwellers Kingsley means the Saints are now only out of the Top 5 by percentage. The Saints come up against Swan Athletic, with the added incentive of dual Fairest & Best winner Frank Rossi's 200th game.



Michael Franceschini sends the Saints into attack

Scoreboard:

Stirling 3.1 6.2 8.4 11.8 (74)

Willetton 2.1 2.2 6.5 9.6 (60)

Goals: Adam Edwards 2, Joel Edwards 2, Ante Kezic 2, Damien Lloyd 2, Jeremy Lloyd 2, Chris Ioppolo 1



9 July 2011

Saints disappoint in Frank Rossi's 200th

The Saints could not produce a fairy tale result for Frank Rossi's 200th game, instead turning in their worst loss of the season to Swan Athletic Swans in the Round 13 clash at Swan Athletic.

The Swans got the early jump on the Saints and kicked the first three goals of the game to set up a 3-goal quarter time lead.

In the second quarter, the Saints were kept goalless while the Swans kicked three goals to double their lead by half time.

The Swans outplayed the Saints in the last half, kicking six goals in each of the last two quarters to run out convincing 93-point winners.

The loss was certainly not a fitting way to celebrate club veteran Frank Rossi's 200th game. Frank began with the Club in 2000 and played a couple of seasons in the Colts before making his League Debut at 18 years of age in Round 6, 2002. With his trademark number 10 guernsey, Frank has gone on to become a regular fixture in the League side, winning two Club Fairest & Bests and two Runner Up F&B's. Frank is also the first player to play 200 games for the Stirling Football Club (excluding games played for the previous Osborne Park and Balcatta Football Clubs).

The Saints were helped by West Coast Cowan's loss to Kalamunda, but Willetton's shock draw against Hamersley-Carine sees them jump into 5th spot, while the Saints drop to 7th spot. The Saints must win against Wanneroo Roos in Round 14 to have any chance of making the finals in 2011.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 2.0 2.4 4.5 5.7 (37)

Swan Athletic 5.1 8.4 14.6 20.10 (130)

Goals: Mitch Hunter 1, Chris Kercheval 1, Ante Kezic 1, Damien Lloyd 1, Jeremy Lloyd 1



Frank Rossi send the Saints forward in his 200th Game



16 July 2011

Saints Exact Revenge over Roos

The Saints have returned to form with a 57-point hammering of Wanneroo, avenging for a Round 5 loss to the Roos, in their Round 14 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

After an even first quarter, the Saints held a slight upper hand and took an 8-point lead into the first break. The Saints looked to set to pull away from the Roos with three early goals in the 2nd quarter, but three late goals before half time cut the lead back to only 7 points at the main break.

After an early Roos goal in the third term, the Saints completely outclassed their opponents for the remainder of the quarter. The Saints third quarter score of 6.2.38 was their best 3rd quarter of the year and helped them to take a 28-point lead into the final break.

Led by a 5-goal haul from Chris Kercheval and 4 goals to Adam Edwards, the Saints continued to dominate in the final term, kicking another 5 goals and keeping the Roos goalless. By the final siren, the Saints had kicked 12 of the last 14 goals of the game to cruise to a 10-goal victory.

West Coast Cowan's loss to Willetton sees the Saints jump up into 6th place on the ladder and now only half a game out of the Top 5.

In the early games, the Reserves and Thirds both had victories over Wanneroo by 16 points and 66 points respectively, which is the first time since Round 11, 2005 that all three senior grades have had a victory on the same day.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 2.3 6.4 12.6 17.8 (110)

Wanneroo 1.1 5.3 7.8 7.11 (53)

Goals: Chris Kercheval 5, Adam Edwards 4, Damien Lloyd 3, Jake Deering 1, Joel Edwards 1, Mitch Hunter 1, Ante Kezic 1, Jeremy Lloyd 1



Adam Edwards kicks one of his four goals for the match



23 July 2011

Saints inflict Hawks' First Loss

The Saints have done what no other team has been able to do in season 2011 by defeating the previously undefeated Hamersley-Carine Hawks by 5 points in a Round 15 thriller at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

In a high-scoring first quarter, the Saints outscored the Hawks to take a narrow 3-point lead into the first break.

The second quarter was completely dominated by the Hawks as the Saints were kept scoreless for the entire term. The Hawks 15-point half time lead could have been much greater if not for some inaccurate kicking at goal.

The Saints came out after half time and played a much better brand of football, outscoring the Hawks by 4 goals to 1. The turning point of the quarter was a goal kicked by Max Alexander which resulted from a double 50-metre penalty.

The Hawks kicked the first goal of the 4th quarter and after a tight struggle, extended their lead to 8 points by the 10 minute mark. However, unlike some previous close games, the Saints rallied again with long range goals from Damien Lloyd and Adam Edwards to snatch a memorable 5-point victory over the ladder leaders.

The Saints remain in 6th place on the Premiership Ladder, after 5th placed Willetton defeated their high ranked opponents, Wembley. The Round 16 clash versus West Coast Cowan Tigers now becomes a must win situation for both clubs.

In the early games, the Thirds had a 5-goal win against North Fremantle Magpies in a special night game at Gil Fraser Reserve, and the Colts had a thumping 83-point win over the Hawks. The Colts second half score of 11.8.74 set a new club record for the highest score in a half by the Colts. The Reserves unfortunately could not continue the streak, going down by 80 points in **David Rees's** 100th Club Game.



David Rees played his 100th game for the Club.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 4.1 4.1 8.4 11.6 (72)

Hamersley Carine 3.4 5.10 6.13 9.13 (67)

Goals: Damien Lloyd 3, Adam Edwards 2, Ante Kezic 2, Jeremy Lloyd 2, Max Alexander 1, Chris Kercheval 1

30 July 2011

Saints hold off Tigers for 3rd Consecutive Win

The Saints held off a fast finishing West Coast Cowan Tigers to win their Round 16 clash at City Beach Oval and keep their top-five aspirations alive.

The Saints kicked with a strong breeze in the opening term, but could only manage a 4-point lead at the first break. In the second term, the Tigers kicked with the breeze but were well held.

Both sides managed only one goal in a rain effected second term and the Saints lead was one goal at the main break.

The Saints fully utilised the strong breeze in the third term, applying pressure all over the ground and kicking five goals to one to take a 32-point lead at the third and final break.

The game appeared to be all over when the Saints kicked a goal early in the final quarter. However, to their credit, the Tigers continued to fight and kicked four goals in the last 15 minutes of the game. However, the three-quarter deficit was too much to overcome and the Saints ran out victors by 12 points.

The win was the Saints third consecutive win, which is the first time since early 2009 that this feat has been achieved. The Saints remain in 6th place on the ladder after 5th placed Willetton scored a 10-point victory over Melville. The Saints will now need to win both of their last two games (against Wembley and Melville) and hope that Willetton lose one of their two final games (against Kingsley and Kalamunda) to play finals.

In the Club's other games, the Thirds had a narrow 4-point win over Ocean Ridge - their 4th win in a row - to jump up into the Top 5. The Colts and Reserves unfortunately lost their games by 34 points and 81 points respectively.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 4.1 5.5 10.8 11.9 (75)

West Coast Cowan 3.3 4.5 5.6 9.9 (63)

Goals: Adam Edwards 3, Damien Lloyd 3, Jeremy Lloyd 3, Luke Ferraloro 2



Damien Lloyd kicks one of his three goals for the game.



6 August 2011

Saints Turn the Tables on Magpies

The Saints exacted revenge for their Round 8 loss to Wembley Magpies by cruising to victory in their Round 17 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

Kicking with the aid of a strong breeze in the opening term, the Saints stunned the Magpies by kicking the first five goals of the game. The Magpies kicked their first goal late in the first quarter, but three first quarter goals from Adam Edwards in his 100th WAAFL game allowed the Saints to take a 29-point lead at the first break.

In the second term, the Magpies kicked with the breeze but were well held, with each side scoring two goals. The Saints lead was cut to 25 points at half time.

The Magpies kicked the first goal of the third quarter kicking against the breeze, but were outscored 4 goals to 2 after that point. The third term was an even struggle and the Saints enjoyed a 31-point lead at the last break.

The Saints needed to win by 30 points over Wembley to enter the top-five for the first time since Round 4, but a late goal by Wembley reduced the final margin to 28 points to keep them in 5th place for another week, with the Saints remaining in 6th place. The win was the Saints fourth consecutive win, which is the first time since Round 14, 2007 that this feat has been achieved.



Mark Kelly sends the Saints into attack from the half back line.

In the Club's other games, the Colts stormed away after half time to win their game by 27 points, and the Reserves came agonisingly close, going down by only 2 points. Congratulations must go to Luke Ferraloro (100th Club game), Adam Edwards (100th WAAFL game), Sam Day (50th Club game) and Luke Grassi (50th Club game) for the respective milestone games.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 6.2 8.3 12.8 14.9 (93)

Wembley 1.3 3.8 6.13 8.17 (65)

Goals: Chris Kercheval 5, Adam Edwards 3, Damien Lloyd 3, Jeremy Lloyd 3



13 August 2011

Saints Sneak Into Top 5

The Saints have timed their run to finals perfectly by defeating Melville Rams by 20 points in their Round 18 clash at Melville Reserve. The Saints' win, together with Willetton's loss to Swan Athletic and Wembley's loss to Hamersley-Carine, sees the Saints leap into Top 5 for the first time since Round 4.

The Saints had complete control of the first quarter and kept the Rams goalless, but could not capitalize on the scoreboard. The margin at the first break was only 22 points.

The second quarter was an even struggle, with both sides kicking four goals each. The Saints lead was cut to 21 points by half time.

The Rams started the third quarter well, and by the 15-minute mark, had reduced the lead to only 11 points. Steady goals late in the term allowed the Saints to maintain a 17-point lead at the final break.

The Rams once again cut to deficit to 11 points early in the fourth term, but goals to leading goal kicker, Jeremy Lloyd, and Allan McGrath, playing his first League game since Round 3, allowed the Saints to win their fifth consecutive game. For the Rams, the loss means that they will finish in 9th position (following Kingsley's shock win against Swan Athletic) and will therefore be relegated to C grade in 2012.

The Saints will now meet Willetton Blues in a sudden death Elimination Final next week, after Wembley were displaced from the Top 5 with their 6th consecutive loss. The Saints have beaten Willetton on both occasions in 2011, and their finish in 4th position on the ladder means the game will be played at home at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

In the Club's other games, the Colts and Reserves had a disappointing finish to the season, but the Thirds had an excellent win against 2nd placed Bullcreek-Leeming to retain their Top 5 position. The Saints will play 4th-placed Fremantle CBC in the Elimination Final next week.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 3.5 7.6 10.8 14.8 (92)

Melville 0.1 4.3 8.3 11.6 (72)

Goals: Allan McGrath 5, Adam Edwards 3, Jeremy Lloyd 3, Damien Lloyd 1, Shea Mathanda 1, Adriano Mesiti 1



Allan McGrath kicks one of his five goals in his return to the League side



20 August 2011

The Saints Go Marching On

The Saints juggernaut rolled on with a hard fought victory over Willetton Blues in the B-Grade Elimination Final at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

Kicking with the aid of a strong breeze, the Saints took control early in the first quarter, with Jeremy Lloyd kicking the two of his five goals in the first 10 minutes of the game. Willetton had to wait until the 16-minute mark to score their only goal for the quarter, but a late goal from Allan McGrath allowed the Saints to take a 17-point lead into the first break.

The Saints lead was stretched to 29 points by the 15-minute mark of the 2nd quarter with goals to Jeremy and Damien Lloyd, but the Blues managed to kick the last two goals of the quarter to reduce the lead back to 14 points by the main break.

Willetton's run of goals continued in the third quarter, kicking two goals within the first five minutes. However, the Saints kicked five of the next six goals, including a 60-metre bomb by Max Alexander, to lead by 26 points at three-quarter time.

Adriano Mesiti's goal extended the lead to 32-points at the 3-minute mark of the last quarter, before a late flurry by Willetton reduced the lead back to 10 points with 5 minutes remaining. Another steadying goal by Max Alexander ensured the Saints ran out winners by 16 points at the final siren.



Saints Co-Captain, **Joel Edwards**, clears the ball from the half back line

The win was the Saints' 6th consecutive win, which is the best run of consecutive wins since Round 15, 2006. The Saints will now meet Kalamunda Cougars in the 1st Semi Final at Ray Owen Reserve, after the Cougars lost to Swan Athletic Swans by 35 points in the Qualifying Final.

In the Club's other final, the Thirds played Fremantle CBC in a sudden death Elimination Final at Beasley Reserve. CBC got the early start on the Saints and their 4-goal quarter time lead was largely maintained for the remainder of the game. The loss was a disappointing finish to the season, but the Club is very proud of the Thirds team for reaching the finals for the second consecutive year.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 3.5 6.7 11.10 13.10 (88)

Willetton 1.0 4.5 7.8 10.12 (72)

Goals: Jeremy Lloyd 5, Max Alexander 3, Damien Lloyd 2, Adam Edwards 1, Allan McGrath 1, Adriano Mesiti 1



27 August 2011

Saints in Seventh Heaven

The Saints have overcome a slow start to win their seventh consecutive game versus Kalamunda Cougars in the 1st Semi Final at Ray Owen Reserve.

The Saints stunned the Cougars from the opening bounce, with Adriano Mesiti kicking a running goal just inside the 50-metre arc in the first minute of the game. The Cougars quickly regained control of the game, kicking the next four goals to take a handy 15-point lead into the first break.

Adriano Mesiti once again got the ball rolling with another goal in the 2nd minute of the 2nd quarter. The Cougars were kept goalless for the entire quarter, while goals to Adam Edwards and Chris Kercheval reduced the Cougars' lead to only 3 points by half time.

For the third quarter in succession, Adriano Mesiti kicked the opening goal of third term to take the Saints back into the lead. Kalamunda quickly snatched back the lead with a goal from a set shot. The contest remained even for the next 10 minutes, before Chris Kercheval led a Saints revival by kicking 3 goals in 5 minutes. When Luke Ferraloro goaled in the dying minutes of the 3rd quarter, the Saints had established a 20-point lead by the final break.

The Saints lead looked enough until the Cougars kicked two quick goals in the opening 5 minutes of the last quarter. In a very tense final quarter, the Saints rebounded numerous attacks through Michael Franceschini, Ben Mollett and Frank Rossi. When Chris Kercheval kicked his 5th goal for the game at the 16-minute mark, the Saints lead was up to 13 points.

The Cougars fought to the end and kicked a goal with a few minutes remaining, but time was not on their side.

The Saints 7th consecutive is the best run of consecutive wins since Round 15, 2006. The Saints will now meet Swan Athletic Swans in the Preliminary Final at Steel Blue (Bassendean) Oval after the Swans lost to Hamersley-Carine by 27 points in the 2nd Semi Final. The last time the Saints played at Steel Blue (Bassendean) Oval was in 1998, when they defeated Collegians in the 1998 B-Grade Preliminary Final, en route to a Grand Final and Premiership against Hamersley-Carine!

Scoreboard:

Stirling 1.1 4.2 9.2 11.2 (68)

Kalamunda 4.2 4.5 5.6 8.11 (59)

Goals: Chris Kercheval 5, Adriano Mesiti 3, Adam Edwards 1, Luke Ferraloro 1, Mitch Hunter 1



Chris Kercheval kicked five goals in his return from injury.



31 August 2011

Joel Edwards Finishes R/Up in B-Grade F&B

Saints co-captain, Joel Edwards, has finished runner-up for the WAAFL B-Grade Fairest & Best Medal for the 2011 season. At the WAAFL Presentation Medal Dinner held at the Burswood Grand Ballroom, it was announced that Joel had polled 17 votes for the season, two votes behind eventual winner, Steven Bongiovanni of Kalamunda.

3 September 2011

Saints Fall at Last Hurdle

The Saints late season resurgence has come to an abrupt end, with a disappointing loss to Swan Athletic Swans in the B-Grade Preliminary Final at Bassendean Oval. The result means the Saints will remain in B-Grade for at least one more year and will not be able to return to A-Grade as planned.

The Saints controlled the game early in the first quarter, with Damien Lloyd kicking the opening goal of the game in the 6th minute. Further goals to leading goal-kicker Jeremy Lloyd (his 50th for the season), Chris Kercheval and Adriano Mesiti allowed the Saints to take an 11-point lead into the first break.

In the 2nd quarter, each team kicked an early goal, with Adriano Mesiti adding to his impressive run of finals goals. But the Swans soon gained control, kicking the last 3 goals of the term to lead by one straight kick at the main break.

The lead varied between 1 and 2 goals early in the third quarter, but a goal from the Swans in the dying seconds of the term allowed them to extend the half time lead to 13 points heading into the final quarter.

The Swans completely dominated the last quarter, keeping the Saints goalless and kicking 5 goals of their own. By the final siren, the Swans had kicked 11 of the last 13 goals of the game to run out easy winners by 48 points.

While the result was a very disappointing finish to the season, the Club is very proud of the way the players rallied from being in 8th position on the Ladder after Round 8 to finish one game short of the Grand Final and promotion back to A-Grade. The countdown is now on for the start of the 2012 season!

Scoreboard:

Stirling 4.2 5.4 7.6 7.7 (49)

Swan Athletic 2.3 6.4 9.7 14.13 (97)

Goals: Adriano Mesiti 3, Chris Kercheval 1, Damien Lloyd 1, Jeremy Lloyd 1, Allan McGrath 1



Michael Franceschini was one of the Saints best in the finals series



9 September 2011

Adam Edwards wins Players' MVP Medal

The Club held a vote count for the annual Players' MVP Medal and is pleased to announce that the winner for the 2011 season is Adam Edwards.

The award, which is separate from the Club's Fairest & Best award, was instituted in 2006 and involves each League player submitting their nomination at the conclusion of each game for the best player of the round.

The winner of the award is presented with the Players' MVP medal, which is kindly donated by one of the club's greatest supporters, Jim Maldenis. The medal is considered to be a very prestigious award to win.

Adam finished the count with 61 votes, including four best-on-ground performances and four other games in the top three players. Adam finished 15 points clear of last year's winner, Frank Rossi, on 46 votes, with club captain, Joel Edwards finishing third on 38 votes.

Previous winners of the medal include Justin Cunningham (2006), Leon Berthelsen (2007), Brad Trpchev (2008), Joel Edwards (2009) and Frank Rossi (2010).



Adam Edwards, winner of the 2011 Players's Player MVP Medal.

8 October 2011

Adam Edwards wins Fairest & Best and Frank Rossi awarded Life Membership

Adam Edwards has underlined his status as one of the Club's greatest players by winning his second Fairest & Best at the Club's annual Fairest & Best function last night.

In one of the closest finishes to voting in many years, Adam polled 100 votes to finish five votes clear of club captain (and his brother) Joel Edwards on 95 votes, and seven votes clear of last year's F&B, Frank Rossi, on 93 votes. Daniel Stimpson (45 votes) and Damien Lloyd (44 votes) round out the top five.

League coach Kingsley Hunter paid special tribute to Adam's strength of character and his commitment to training during the pre-season to turn around a disappointing season in 2010. It is the second time that Adam has won the F&B, having previously won the award in 2008.

In the lower grades, Adam 'Doc' Manera won the De Cinque Trophy for the Reserves Fairest & Best, Neill Madeira won the Thirds Fairest & Best, and Matthew Turner won the Jack Freind Medal for the Colts Fairest & Best.

It was also announced last night that Frank Rossi had been awarded Life Membership, after more than a decade of service to the Club. Frank joined the Club as a 16-year old in 2000, playing Colts and Reserves in his first two seasons. Frank made his League Debut vs North Beach in Round 8, 2002 at the age of 18 yrs 266 days.

Frank became a regular League player in 2003, switching to his now trademark number 10 guernsey and finished third in the F&B count in that year. Frank won the F&B in 2004 and 2010, was runner-up F&B in 2005 and 2006 and third in 2003 and 2011. Frank was also Club captain in 2008 and in 2011 became the first player in to play more than 200 Club games for the Stirling Saints (excluding games for the previous Osborne Park and Balcatta Football Clubs).

He is also one of only two players to have played more than 150 League games for the Saints (the other being Michael Franceschini). In addition to his on-field attributes, Frank also became a club sponsor in 2009, adding further weight to his merit as a Life Member.