



28 February 2012

WAAFL Fixtures Announced for 2012

The West Australian Amateur Football League (WAAFL) has released the fixtures for the upcoming 2012 season. The Saints will begin its premiership campaign with a Round 1 clash versus Kingsley Cats at Kingsley Park. This will be followed up with a repeat of last year's 1st Semi Final with a home clash versus Kalamunda Cougars. The Saints play only 3 home games in the first 8 rounds, but then play 6 of the next 9 games at home before a final round clash versus West Coast Cowan.

The Club's Thirds team will face a tough start to their campaign in E1 Grade with a home clash versus last year's premiers, Bullcreek-Leeming Bombers. The Saints defeated the Bombers in the last qualifying game of the year in 2011 and will be looking to repeat the dose again in Round 1.



17 March 2012

Saints Win First Practice Match

The Saints won their first pre-season game of the year at Reid Oval in Forrestfield, defeating recently promoted A-Grade opponents, Swan Athletic Swans, by one solitary point. Fielding a relatively young side, including a number of Colts playing their first senior games, the Saints got the early start before the Swans pegged back the lead to only 1 point at quarter time. The lead was extended to 8 points by the main break, thanks to some inaccurate kicking from the Swans.

The Swans fought back in the second half and overtook the Saints in a see-sawing final term, before the Saints kicked a late goal to win by a point - a feat they could not achieve in three attempts against the Swans in 2011.

In the early game, the Reserves also made a strong start, but fell away badly in the second and third quarters, partly due to the absence of any players on the bench. The Saints played well in the last quarter, but still lost the game by 8 goals - the final scores being 6.5.41 to 14.5.89.

31 March 2012

Saints defeat Roos in Final Practice Match

The Saints have rounded out their 2012 pre-season campaign with a solid victory over Wanneroo Roos at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

While still not at full strength, the Saints were well matched by the Roos in the first half and led by only 2 points at half time.

The Saints kicked away in the third quarter, scoring six goals to one to take a game winning lead of 34 points into the last break. After an even last quarter, the Saints outscored their opponents by one point to run out 35-point winners.

The win means that the Saints remained undefeated in the pre-season campaign, with victories over Swan Athletic and Northam in previous weeks.

In the early game, the Colts played well in the only pre-season game, going to down to the Roos by only 5 points. The Reserves also played well in the first half against the Roos, but were completely outclassed in the second half to go down by 53 points.

The Saints now have a one week break before the 2012 season kicks off with an away clash versus Kingsley Cats at Kingsley Park.



Key forward **Chris Kercheval** kicks the Saints into attack.



14 April 2012

Saints Demolish Cats in Season Opener

The Saints have started the 2012 season in style with an emphatic 63-point thumping of Kingsley Cats in their Round 1 clash at Kingsley Park.

After an even start, the Saints took control early and kicked the last three goals of the opening term to take a handy 22-point lead at quarter time.

Kicking against a slight breeze, the Saints still managed to control the game in the second quarter, extending the lead to 36 points at the main break.

Led by a dominant ruck display from Sandro Brezar, the lead was extended again in the third quarter, with goals from first-gamers Corey Reimers and Joshua Hughes.

The Saints kicked six goals to four in the third term to take a 51-point lead heading into the final term. Stirling forwards Chris Kercheval and Damien Lloyd each kicked four goals to help the Saints surge to a convincing 63-point victory by the final siren.

The win sees the Saints take top position on the B-Grade ladder after Round 1. The 63-point margin set a new record for the greatest winning margin against the Cats, eclipsing the 58-point victory in Round 1 of 2011. The 20.13.133 score also set a new record for the highest score against the Cats.

The Saints side contained only eleven players from last year's Preliminary Final side, with a number of senior players expected back for next week's clash against Kalamunda Cougars.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 5.5 9.8 15.11 20.13 (133)

Kingsley 2.1 4.2 8.2 11.4 (70)

Goals: Chris Kercheval 4, Damien Lloyd 4, Adam Edwards 3, Kieren Anderson 2, Justin Harrex 2, James Pember 2, Joshua Hughes 1, Ante Kezic 1, Corey Reimers 1



Saints forward **Chris Kercheval** kicked four goals for the game.



21 April 2012

Saints beat Cougars in a Thriller

The Saints have overcome a slow start to defeat Kalamunda Cougars by 8 points in a thrilling Round 2 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

The match began with a one-minute silence and all Saints players wore black arm bands in memory of Mosman Park AFC footballer Joshua Henderson, who died after a knock on the field last weekend. The Cougars got the jump in the first quarter and, if not for some inaccurate kicking, could have led by more than the 10-point margin they held at quarter time.

The second quarter was another tight struggle with only three goals kicked for the entire quarter. A late goal just before the half time allowed the Saints to reduce the lead to only three points. Three of the Saints four goals in the first half came from the boot of new recruit, Joshua Hughes.

The Saints stepped up a gear and controlled most of the play in the third term. The Saints finally took the lead at the 10-minute mark of the term when forward Chris Kercheval kicked a goal from a set shot. Shortly after, Adam Edwards pounced on a poor kick-in from Kalamunda to kicked another goal, before last year's leading goal kicker Jeremy Lloyd marked strongly and kicked his first major for the year. By the last break, the Saints had a handy 14-point lead.

The Cougars had most of the play in their forward half in the final term but could not capitalize on the scoreboard. In a tense finish, both teams score two final quarter goals before the Saints steadied to take a hard fought 8-point victory.

The Saints will now face B-Grade newcomers Kelmscott Bulldogs in Round 3 on their home patch at John Dunn Oval, a venue that the Saints have not played at since the Sunday Football League days in 1997.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 2.2 4.3 9.4 11.4 (70)

Kalamunda 3.6 4.6 6.8 8.14 (62)

Goals: Joshua Hughes 3, Chris Kercheval 3, Jake Deering 1, Adam Edwards 1, Damien Lloyd 1, Jeremy Lloyd 1, Nick Trichet 1



New recruit, **Joshua Hughes**, kicks one of his three first half goals.



28 April 2012

Saints Snatch Victory from Bulldogs

The Saints have staged a remarkable comeback in wet weather and withstood a much-improved performance from Kelmscott Bulldogs to win their Round 4 clash by only 6 points at John Dunn Oval.

The Bulldogs kicked the opening goal of the game and had much of the play in the first quarter to take a narrow 2-point lead into the first break.

The Bulldogs managed the wet weather much better than the Saints in the second and third quarters, and looked to have the game sewn up by the last break, when they led by 17 points. However, the Saints regrouped to kick the first three goals of the last quarter, all coming from the boot of Damien Lloyd.

The Saints took the lead for the first time at the 15-minute mark of the last quarter when Chris Kercheval snapped a goal from the forward pocket. The Saints lead was extended to 12 points after another Chris Kercheval goal, but the Bulldogs quickly reduced the margin back to 6 points with their only goal of the quarter at the 20-minute mark.

The final five minutes of the game was a tense struggle, but the Saints' backline withstood a number of attacks to retain the 6-point margin at the final siren. The Saints victory was their third in succession, and the first time since the 1998 Premiership year that the Saints have won the opening three games of the season.

In the earlier game, the Saints' Reserves team also staged a brave fight back to win their first game of the season. The Saints trailed by 16 points at the first break, but kept the Bulldogs goalless in the second and third quarters to set up a 25-point victory.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 2.2 4.4 7.5 12.8 (80)

Kelmscott 2.4 5.8 9.10 10.14 (74)

Goals: Chris Kercheval 5, Damien Lloyd 3, Adam Edwards 1, Justin Harrex 1, Allan McGrath 1, Ben Mollett 1



Damien Lloyd kicked all three of his goals in the last quarter.

5 May 2012

Tigers Steal Victory with Late Goal

The Saints have staged another amazing last quarter comeback, but a late goal has prevented them from defeating Wesley-Curtin Tigers in their Round 4 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

With both teams being undefeated heading into the game, the Tigers gained the early control in the first quarter and kicked the first three goals of the game. Chris Kercheval booted the Saints' first goal at the 19 minute mark of the first quarter, but a quick reply allowed the Tigers to lead at quarter time by 17 points.

The second quarter was a much more even battle, with Chris Kercheval kicking another two goals in his 100th WAAFL game. The margin was reduced to 15 points at the main break, but the Tigers still had control of the game.

Both teams kicked two goals in the third quarter, but the lead had extended back to 17 points at the last break.

The Saints kicked three goals in the first 6 minutes of the last quarter to take the lead, and an unlikely victory seemed possible. Further goals to Max Alexander and Jake Deering allowed the Saints to extend their lead to 14 points by the 15 minute mark.

However, the Tigers showed why they will be strong premiership contenders by kicking two late goals and reducing the margin back to only 1 point with a minute to play. The last minute saw all 36 players huddled around the ball in the Tigers forward line, and a freak snap shot for goal with 10 seconds to play allowed the Tigers to take a heartbreaking 5-point victory.

The Saints must now overcome the disappointing result before facing Scarborough Eagles for the first time since 2008.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 1.3 3.7 5.10 10.11 (71)

Wesley-Curtin 4.2 6.4 8.9 11.10 (76)

Goals: Chris Kercheval 4, Max Alexander 3, Sandro Brezar 1, Jake Deering 1, Damien Lloyd 1



Saints defender **Boro Kezic**



12 May 2012

Eagles Too Good for Saints

The Saints were no match for the Scarborough Eagles in their Round 5 clash at Millington Reserve, going down to the newcomers to B-Grade by 67 points.

The Eagles controlled the play for the majority of the first quarter and established a handy 14 point lead at the first break.

The Saints played much better in the second quarter, matching goal for goal with Scarborough, including a first League goal from rookie Luke Grassi. The margin at the main break was extended only marginally to 16 points.

In the third term, the Eagles completely outclassed the Saints in every part of the field. The running style of play from the Eagles allowed them to kick seven straight goals, while the Saints could only manage a single goal from the boot of Allan McGrath. The margin at the final break had blown out to 50 points.

The Saints were spearheaded by a solo goal-kicking performance from Chris Kercheval, who kicked four of the Saints' seven goals to take his season tally to 20. But the Saints could not prevent the onslaught from the Eagles in the final term, conceding another five goals to suffer a demoralising 11-goal loss.

The loss was a disappointing result for Ben Mollett, who notched up his 100-game milestone for the Saints since joining the Club in 2007 from Kalgoorlie City. The Saints will now face 2nd-placed Fremantle CBC in a crucial game for the Club.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 1.1 4.2 5.4 7.6 (48)

Scarborough 3.3 6.6 13.6 18.7 (115)

Goals: Chris Kercheval 4, Adam Edwards 1, Luke Grassi 1, Allan McGrath 1



Saints rookie **Luke Grassi** kicks his first goal in League football.



19 May 2012

Saints No Match For CBC

The Saints slumped to their third loss in as many weeks, losing to Fremantle CBC by 49 points in the Round 6 clash at Morris Buzacott Reserve.

CBC led throughout the entire game and started the first quarter with a 16-point lead.

The Saints played their best football in the second quarter, but could not convert on the scoreboard. The Saints held CBC to a single goal in the second quarter and reduced the margin to 9 points at the main break.

CBC resumed control of the game in the third quarter with plenty of run through the midfield and by running in numbers. The CBC lead was extended to 21 points by three quarter time.

Kicking with a slight breeze in the last quarter, the Saints were still in with a chance. But CBC was better all over the ground, winning the stoppages and getting first use of the ball. The Saints entered their forward 50 but could not capitalise, whereas CBC were more effective in front of goal. CBC added a number of late goals to extend the margin out to 49 points by the final siren, leaving the Saints with plenty of work to get back onto the winners list.

The Saints will now face Willetton, who are also coming off three losses in the last three weeks. The Saints must win to ensure they keep in touch with the top 5.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 2.0 4.2 6.3 7.5 (47)

Fremantle CBC 4.4 5.5 9.6 14.12 (96)

Goals: Chris Kercheval 2, Kieran Anderson 1, Daniel Chambers 1, Justin Harrex 1, Joshua Hughes 1, James Pember 1





26 May 2012

Blues Too Strong For Saints

The Saints have lost their fourth game in four weeks and dropped out of the top five after going down to Willetton Blues in the Round 7 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

With Fairest & Best Winners Adam Edwards and Frank Rossi out of the side with injury, the Saints welcomed in Sam Day to make his League debut after a number of strong performances in the reserves. The game looked set for a tense struggle after both teams kicked five goals each in a high scoring opening term.

The Blues dominated the midfield in the second term and were far more efficient going forward, kicking six goals to one for the term.

The Saints had their moments of dominance in the third term, with Max Alexander and Chris Kercheval each kicking two goals each to reduce the Blues lead to only 9 points by the last break.

However, the Blues kicked six unanswered goals in the last quarter to run out easy winners by 46 points by the final siren.

The result was especially disappointing for **Allan McGrath**, who played his 150th game for the Club. Allan joined the Club in 2002 and has been a major contributor, kicking over 200 goals in his 150 games.

The Saints go into to mid-season break with a 3-4 win loss record, and will need to beat arch rivals Wembley in their next game to ensure they do not lose touch with the top five.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 5.2 6.2 12.2 12.4 (76)

Willetton 5.2 11.3 13.5 19.8 (122)

Goals: Max Alexander 3, Chris Kercheval 3, Daniel Chambers 1, Luke Ferraloro 1, Michael Franceschini 1, Justin Harrex 1, Joshua Hughes 1, Allan McGrath 1



Allan McGrath gets ready to contest a ruck knock in his 150th Game

2 June 2012

Two Saints Chosen in WAAFL Under 23s

The WAAFL State Amateur Under 23s are set to take on the Victorian Amateur Football Association this weekend.

Coached by former Saints coach, Chris Gerreyn, the Under 23s are looking to become only the second WA Amateur Football League team to beat the Vics on their own soil.

The Under 23s squad was announced at the Official Jumper Presentation on Thursday night, with two Stirling Saints players chosen in the final squad.

Max Alexander has been chosen for the second year in a row, and is one of only six players from last year's team to have earned re-selection. In addition, Saints new midfielder, **Daniel Chambers** has earned selection after a number of strong performances over the last seven rounds.

This year's match against the VAFA will be the beginning of the tri-annual series – a three year competition between WA, Victoria, SA and Tasmania. Under the tri-annual series rules, each team plays each other once with the team who finishes at the top of the ladder at the end of the series crowned champion.

The WAAFL Under 23s finished in second place in the 2008-2010 tri-annual series, defeating Tasmania and Victoria but suffered a narrow loss to SA in their final game. Victoria, after having already defeated SA, claimed the series on percentage.





9 June 2012

Magpies down Saints with First Half Blitz

The Saints have suffered their worst loss of the season, and their fifth in succession, after being soundly beaten by Wembley Magpies in their Round 8 clash at Henderson Park.

The Magpies had complete control of the first quarter, kicking five unanswered goals and restricting the Saints to their lowest first quarter score since Round 12, 2010.

The second quarter followed largely the same pattern, with Wembley kicking another six goals (and the first 11 goals of the match), before Joshua Hughes opened the account only 10 seconds before the half time break.

In an often spiteful encounter, the Saints played a much better brand of football in the second half, matching the Magpies goal tallies in the third and fourth quarters. The final margin was 69 points, only 9 points worse than the half time margin.

The loss was certainly not a fitting way to celebrate the 150th Club Game for Saints skipper **Joel Edwards**. Joel first played Colts for the former Osborne Park Football Club in 1996 and 1997. His second stint at the Club was from 2001-2003 during which he won his first Fairest & Best in 2001. After a brief period at Coolbinia-West Perth, Joel returned to the Club in 2007 and won another two Fairest & Bests in 2007 and 2009 plus a runner-up F&B in 2011.

The Saints are now a game and percentage out of the Top 5 and face West Coast Cowan Tigers in Round 9, with the Tigers coming off an upset win over Ladder Leaders, Wesley Curtin.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 0.1 1.4 5.4 7.5 (47)

Wembley 5.3 11.4 15.7 17.14 (116)

Goals: Joshua Hughes 3, Allan McGrath 2, Chris Kercheval 1, Nick Trichet 1



Saints captain **Joel Edwards** played his 150th Club Game



16 June 2012

Saints Edge Out Tigers

The Saints returned to the winner's list and ended a horror run of losses with a scrappy 10-point win over West Coast Cowan Tigers in the Round 9 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

After being led out onto the field by **Jake Deering** in his 100th game for the Club, the Saints dominated scoring in the first quarter with three unanswered goals.

In the second quarter, the Tigers showed the form that saw them defeat ladder leaders Wesley Curtin last week. The Tigers kicked three goals and reduced the margin to one goal at the main break, with Max Alexander kicking the Saints' only major for the term.

The Tigers continued where their push in the third quarter and had most of the play early on. The Tigers took the lead for the first time in the game after kicking a goal at the 20-minute mark, and looked set to surge past the Saints. However, a late goal by Chris Kercheval in the last minute of the quarter allowed the Saints to take back the lead at the final break.

The lead see-sawed early in the final term, with each side adding another goal before the scores were levelled at the 15-minute mark. However, late goals from Luke Ferraloro and Joshua Hughes, both resulting directly from 50-metre penalties in the forward half, secured a much needed victory for the Saints.

The Saints are still a game and percentage out of the Top 5 and will play bottom-placed Kingsley Cats in a must win clash for the season.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 3.3 4.4 5.8 8.8 (56)

West Coast-Cowan 0.3 3.4 5.7 6.10 (46)

Goals: Chris Kercheval 3, Max Alexander 2, Luke Ferraloro 1, Justin Harrex 1, Joshua Hughes 1



Saints defender **Jake Deering** notched up his 100th game.



23 June 2012

Kercheval Kicks 8 in Saints Big Win

A stunning 8-goal haul from Chris Kercheval has propelled the Saints to a comprehensive 88-point win over bottom-placed Kingsley Cats in the Round 10 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

The Saints were switched on from the outset and made use of a slight breeze in the first term to enter the forward 50 on many occasions. Early goals from Chris Kercheval and Allan McGrath allowed the Saints to kick their highest first quarter score for the season and take a commanding 37-point lead at the first break.

The Saints' early pressure proved telling as they kept the Cats goalless for all of the opening term and much of the second quarter. Despite a number of reasonable chances, it was not until the 15-minute mark of the term that the Cats opened their account. The Saints extended their lead to 49 points at the main break to all but cement the result.

The Cats tried valiantly in the third term, but were constantly repelled by dominant performances across the half back line from Michael Franceschini and Matt Carlyon. The Saints overcame a slow start to the quarter to pile on seven unanswered goals, including a goal on debut from young gun Brandon Calladine. Chris Kercheval was also in sizzling form, kicking four goals of his own in the third term and setting up another one. A goal from the Cats just before the three quarter time siren reduced the margin back to 87 points heading into the final term.

Despite being outscored in the final term, the Saints did as they pleased for much of the game to eventually run out impressive 88-point winners.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 6.4 9.7 16.10 18.10 (118)

Kingsley 0.3 1.6 2.7 3.12 (30)

Goals: Chris Kercheval 8, Brandon Calladine 3, Allan McGrath 3, Joshua Hughes 2, Damien Lloyd 2



Chris Kercheval continued his red-hot form with eight goals.



30 June 2012

Depleted Saints Go Down to Cougars

An injury-ravaged Saints side went down by 34 points to Kalamunda Cougars in the Round 11 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

Going into the game without skipper Joel Edwards, key forward Joshua Hughes, combined with the absence of Adam Edwards, Daniel Chambers and Jeremy Lloyd (injury) and the recent departures of Max Alexander (WAFL) and Mark Kelly (work), the trip to Kalamunda was always going to be a tough assignment for the Saints.

The Cougars controlled the game from the first bounce and their superior ball movement restricted the Saints to a scoreless first quarter for the first time since 2005.

The Saints' woes looked set to continue in the second term when leading goal sneak, Chris Kercheval was forced to leave the field through injury. However, the return of playing coach, Kingsley Hunter, playing his first League game since Round 13 last year, provided a focus in the forward that allowed the Saints to peg back the lead to nine points by the main break.

The Cougars kicked the first two goals of the third quarter and looked set to open up their lead, but the Saints staged a fight back late in the quarter. The Saints closed the gap back to nine points with a goal after the three-quarter time siren to Kingsley Hunter, his fourth of the game.

However, this was as close as the Saints would get, with the Cougars dominating the last quarter to kick four unanswered goals and secure a 34-point victory.

The loss leaves the Saints with a 5-6 win-loss record and further adrift from the top five. The Saints have a winnable clash with Kelmscott to come next Saturday at Richard Guelfi Reserve, but would also need to win the majority of the last seven games to play finals in 2012.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 0.0 3.3 6.6 6.7 (43)

Kalamunda 3.3 4.6 7.9 11.11 (77)

Goals: Kingsley Hunter 4, Sam Day 1, Allan McGrath 1



Kingsley Hunter kicked one of his four goals after the three quarter time siren.



7 July 2012

Saints Disappoint in Ben Mollett's 200th

The Saints have missed a golden opportunity to catch up with the top five, going down to eighth-placed Kelmscott Bulldogs by 48 points in the Round 12 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

The loss was certainly not a fitting way to celebrate the 200th WAAFL-game milestone for **Ben Mollett**. Having previously played 93 games at North Beach and Hamersley-Carine (plus a stint at Kalgoorlie City in the Goldfields FL), Ben joined the Saints in 2007 and has been a regular fixture in the League side, firstly as a forward (kicking 96 goals) but more recently as a defender. Ben's longevity in the League side is unmatched, having played 107 of the Saints 108 League games since the start of 2007 (including the last 56 games consecutively).

Both teams were evenly matched in first quarter, but the Saints made better use of entries into their forward 50. Playing-coach Kingsley Hunter kicked 3 goals for the term to allow the Saints to take a narrow 2-point lead at the first break.

Despite the fine conditions, scoring goals proved difficult in the second quarter, with the bulk of the play contested between the half forward and half back lines. The Bulldogs did manage to kick goals on a few occasions and kept the Saints goalless for the term to take a handy 11-point lead into the main break.

The Saints looked to have a chance early in the fourth quarter when debutante Brandon Rossi kicked a brilliant goal off the ground to reduce the Bulldogs' three quarter time lead back to 10 points. However, the Bulldogs added a further six goals to claim a resounding 14.11 (95) to 7.5 (47) victory.

With twelve of the regular first team players out of the side, the Saints face a massive task of defeating 2nd-placed Wesley-Curtin Tigers at South Oval next week.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 4.1 4.3 6.5 7.5 (47)

Kelmscott 3.5 5.8 8.9 14.11 (95)

Goals: Kingsley Hunter 4, Brandon Calladine 2, Brandon Rossi 1



Saints defender **Ben Mollett** clears the ball in his 200th game.



14 July 2012

Saints Mauled by Tigers

The Saints horror season continued in the Round 13 clash at South Oval, going down to Wesley-Curtin Tigers by 65 points.

The result was most disappointing for Saints defender, **Paul O'Neill**, who completed his 100-game milestone for the Club. Paul started playing Colts with the Club as a 16-year old in 2007, and it wasn't long before he made his League Debut in Round 13 the following year versus Whitford. Since that time, Paul has played a pivotal role in the back line as one of the Saints' key defenders.

Despite a low scoring first quarter, the Tigers appeared to have control of the first quarter, and flexed their muscle in the second quarter to take a 5-goal lead heading into half time.

The Saints played much better in the third quarter and held the Tigers to just two goals. But the Tigers ran away with the game in the final quarter, adding four goals to one finish 12.16 (88) to 3.5 (23) winners.

The Saints must now regroup before facing Scarborough Eagles at Richard Guelfi Reserve next week.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 0.2 1.4 2.5 3.5 (23)

Wesley-Curtin 1.2 6.5 8.10 12.16 (88)

Goals: Mark Baker, Chris Kercheval 1, Ante Kezic 1



Paul O'Neill played his 100th Game for the Saints.



21 July 2012

Saints Outplayed by Eagles (but the Colts Break Through for First Win)

The Saints have slumped to their fourth defeat in a row, after a disappointing 43-point loss to Scarborough Eagles in the Round 14 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

The Eagles got a jump start and kicked a couple of early goals before the Saints kicked back, including a rare goal from the boot of veteran defender Frank Rossi.

The second quarter proved to be the most telling quarter of the match, with the Eagles kicking six goals to one to extend their 14-point lead at quarter time to an unassailable 44-point lead at the main break.

The Saints played much better after half time, with significant contributions from Matt Carlyon, Frank Rossi and Michael Franceschini across the half back line. Despite outscoring the Eagles in the second half, the deficit was too much to overcome, and the Eagles ran out winners 15.12 (102) to 9.5 (59).

The highlight of the day was the Colts' first win for 2012, defeating their 2nd-placed opponents by 8 points. The Colts led from start to finish, breaking through for a much deserved victory and ending a 12-game losing streak extending back to Round 17 last year.

The Saints now play another home clash next week versus Fremantle CBC, who are coming off a loss to Wesley-Curtin in their top-of-the-table clash.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 2.0 3.2 5.5 9.5 (59)

Scarborough 4.2 10.4 11.9 15.12 (102)

Goals: Kingsley Hunter 3, Luke Ferraloro 1, Chris Kercheval 1, Boro Kezic 1, Allan McGrath 1, Paul O'Neill 1, Frank Rossi 1



The Saints were well served by defender **Matt Carlyon**



28 July 2012

Saints Stun CBC with Upset Victory

The Saints ended a horror month of four consecutive losses by carving out a gutsy 12-point victory in the Round 15 clash versus 2nd-placed Fremantle CBC at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

CBC were keen to make amends for their 43-point loss to ladder leaders Wesley Curtin last week, and took control of the game early in the first quarter. The Saints fought back late in the term and reduced the deficit to 5 points when captain Joel Edwards goaled shortly before the quarter time siren.

The Saints stepped up a gear in the second quarter and controlled most of the ball through the midfield. A number of goals from Allan McGrath, including a brilliant set-shot goal deep in the forward pocket, allowed the Saints to convert the 5-point deficit into a 2-point lead at half time.

The third quarter proved to be the telling quarter, with the Saints kicking three goals to one to extend their lead to 16 points at three quarter time.

An early goal in the fourth quarter extended the lead to 22 points and an upset win looked almost certain. But to their credit, CBC returned fire and kicked a couple of goals to bring the margin back to single figures. The Saints steadied with two more goals to captain Joel Edwards and Luke Ferraloro to ensure they finished triumphant in arguably their best win of the season.

The win may prove vitally important in remaining in B-Grade, as eight-placed Kelmscott also scored an upset win over Wembley. The Saints must win at least one of their last three games to ensure they avoid relegation into C1 Grade.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 3.3 6.5 9.8 12.12 (84)

Fremantle CBC 4.2 6.3 7.4 11.6 (72)

Goals: Joel Edwards 3, Allan McGrath 3, Michael Franceschini 2, Sandro Brezar 1, Luke Ferraloro 1, Joel Julian 1, Chris Kercheval 1



Saints defender **Giuliano Giordani** clears from the half back line



4 August 2012

Saints Struggle For Survival in B-Grade

The Saints will be locked in a struggle for survival in B-Grade, after losing their Round 16 clash versus Willetton Blues by 33 points at Burrendah Reserve.

The Blues held the upper hand in the first quarter by kicking the first two goals of the game. The Saints opened their account with goals from James Pember and coach Kingsley Hunter to be trailing by 12 points at quarter time.

The second quarter was a low scoring affair, with both teams scoring two goals apiece. However, the Blues extended their lead to 13 points by the main break.

The third quarter was more of a shootout, with goals coming more freely. Luke Grassi kicked the first of the quarter with a set shot from 35 metres out, and was joined on the score sheet by James Di Pasquale in his League debut (the ninth Saint to make his debut in 2012). However, Willetton still had the majority of score, kicking five goals to four to extend the lead to 19 points.

In the final quarter, the Blues continued on their way to finish victors 15.9 (99) to 10.6 (66). The loss means that Saints drop to 8th position on the ladder, holding only a one game lead ahead of 9th placed Willetton, who are in the relegation zone.

The Saints now face Wembley and West Coast Cowan in their last two games, while Willetton face Fremantle CBC and Scarborough. The Saints must win against arch rivals Wembley to guarantee their place in B-Grade next year.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 2.1 4.4 8.6 10.6 (66)

Willetton 4.1 6.5 11.5 15.8 (98)

Goals: Michael Franceschini 2, Kingsley Hunter 2, James DiPasquale 1, Luke Grassi 1, Damien Lloyd 1, Allan McGrath 1, Paul O'Neill 1, James Pember 1



Young gun **James Di Pasquale** kicked a goal in his League Debut



11 August 2012

Match Review – Round 17

The Saints have suffered another defeat, this time at the hands of Wembley Magpies in the Round 17 clash at Richard Guelfi Reserve.

For the second time this season, the Saints were held scoreless in the first term, while Wembley appeared to kick goals with ease. The margin by the first break was 38 points.

The pattern continued early in the second term, with the Magpies having eight goals on the board before Luke Ferraloro registered the Saints first at the 10-minute mark. Another two goals from the Magpies allowed them to stretch the lead to 55 points by half time.

The Saints best football came in the third term, and they were finally able to apply pressure to Wembley's midfield and forwards. However, this was short lived, as the Magpies kicked another five goals in the final term to record a resounding 87-point victory.

The Saints sit in eighth position and will face West Coast Cowan in the final game of the season. The Saints will either need to win, or hope that Willetton also lose their game against Scarborough, to ensure they avoid relegation and remain in B-Grade in 2013.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 0.0 1.2 2.4 3.5 (23)

Wembley 6.2 10.3 12.7 17.8 (110)

Goals: Luke Ferraloro 2, Michael Franceschini 1



Ruckman **Tristan Pack** sends the Saints into attack



18 August 2012

Saints Avoid Relegation

The Saints have lost the final game of the season, going down by 25 points to West Coast Cowan Tigers at City Beach Oval

The Saints were led out onto the ground for the final game by Clinton Strauch, who was playing his 100th game. Clinton started joined the Club in 2007, playing in the Colts side. After winning the Jack Friend Medal for the Colts Fairest & Best in 2008, Clinton was promoted to the League side in 2009, and has since played a vital role in the Saints centre line and defence.

The Saints started the game shaky, but Michael Franceschini steadied the ship with the opening goal midway through the term. The Tigers held a 13-point lead at the first break, but the Saints were certainly more competitive than previous weeks.

The Saints continued gaining momentum in the second term, and a couple of early goals cut the margin back to just one point. However, a couple of goals to the Tigers allowed them to retain a 7-point lead by half time.

The Saints were again competitive in the third and final terms, but were never able to gain enough ascendancy to reduce the margin. By the final siren, the Tigers had run out victors by 25 points to close a long season for the Saints.

Ninth-placed Willetton Blues also lost their final game to Scarborough, which means the Saints avoided relegation and will remain in B-Grade next year.

Scoreboard:

Stirling 1.1 4.3 7.4 8.7 (55)

West Coast-Cowan 3.2 5.4 11.5 12.8 (80)

Goals: Michael Franceschini 3, Allan McGrath 2, Luke Ferraloro 1, Luke Grassi 1, Damien Lloyd 1



Clinton Strauch played his 100th Game for the Saints.



14 September 2012

Frank Rossi wins Players' MVP Medal

For the second time in three years, Frank Rossi has taken out the Players' MVP Medal. The award was instituted in 2006, and is separate from the Club's Fairest & Best award.

At the end of each game, every League player submits their nomination for the best player of the round, with a maximum of 22 votes being available from each game.

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.

Frank finished the count with 73 votes, including five best-on-ground performances and three other games in the top two players.

Frank finished 29 points clear of 2009-winner, Joel Edwards, on 44 votes, with Giuliano Giordani finishing third on 38 votes. Matt Carlyon (31 votes) and Chris Kercheval (26 votes) rounded out the top five vote getters.

Previous winners of the medal include Justin Cunningham (2006), Leon Berthelsen (2007), Brad Trpchev (2008), Joel Edwards (2009), Frank Rossi (2010) and Adam Edwards (2011).



Frank Rossi, winner of the 2012 Players' MVP Medal.



7 October 2012

Frank Rossi wins Fairest & Best and Daniel Tilby awarded Life Membership

Frank Rossi has reinforced his status as one of the Club's greatest ever players by winning his third Fairest & Best at the Club's annual Fairest & Best function last night.

The race for the newly-named President's Medal was open to three players heading into the final round, but Frank polled top votes in the final game to finish on 102 votes, 15 votes clear of club captain Joel Edwards on 87 votes, and 17 votes clear of defender, Giuliano Giordani, on 85 votes.

Matt Carlyon (62 votes) and leading goal kicker Chris Kercheval (51 votes) rounded out the top five.

In his last speech before stepping down from the helm, League coach Kingsley Hunter paid special tribute to Frank's strength of character and his never-say-die attitude. It is the third time that Frank has won the F&B, having previously won the award in 2004 and 2010.

In the lower grades, **Chris Ioppolo** won the De Cinque Trophy for the Reserves Fairest & Best, **Neill Madeira** won the Thirds Fairest & Best for the second year in a row, and **Jayden Roth** won the Jack Freind Medal for the Colts Fairest & Best. Neill Madeira also backed up his F&B win in the Thirds by finishing 2nd in the Reserves F&B, which is an exceptional effort.

It was also announced last night that **Daniel Tilby** had been awarded Life Membership, after 17 years of service to the Club. Daniel joined the former Osborne Park Football Club in 1995, playing Colts and Reserves in his first two seasons before making his League Debut versus old rivals Wanneroo in Round 1, 1997.

Daniel continued playing League and Reserves for the newly formed Stirling Football Club in 1998 and was a member of the Reserves 1998 premiership side. He was captain of the Reserves in 2001 and 2002 and also played in the Club's Thirds (F-Grade) premiership in 2003.

Daniel has played 189 games for the Club, he has coached and managed the Thirds team and has served on the Club's Committee for six years.



Frank Rossi won his third Club Fairest & Best



Daniel Tilby was awarded Life Membership to the Club