



WILLIAMSTOWN SEAGULLS FIDA FOOTBALL CLUB

FIDA Division 2, Round 3. May 15, 2011

Williamstown Seagulls v Chadstone Synners at The Fearon

Seniors:

Williamstown Seagulls 2.5 (17) lost to Chadstone 14.16 (100)

Goals: Ray Causon 2

Best: Jake McCarthy, Corey Murphy, Josh Synot, Johnno Kha, Chris Green, Ibby Nasser, Michael Roach.

Reserves:

Williamstown Seagulls 0.5 (5) lost to Chadstone 5.5 (35)

Best: Sam Belden, Robbie McGahey, Lewis Wardell, Laurie Pollard, Joe Dowling, Noah Ward.

The Williamstown Seagulls FIDA team took another step towards establishing themselves as contenders for the flag when they took on Division 2 powerhouse Chadstone Synners on Sunday. As Umpire Appreciation Week came to a conclusion, CYs generously hosted the Inaugural Williamstown Seagulls FIDA Home Game at The Fearon. It was noted in the pre-game introduction that the FIDA Umpires donate their services as part of the VAFA Umpires Association's community service involvement, which makes the efforts of Colin Quinn and John Bradford, in backing up a rigorous Amateur appointment on Saturday with an extra two games on Sunday, just that bit more impressive.

The Seagulls got off to a quick start in the Seniors game, with Ray Causon kicking a monster goal from outside the 50. After the heavy rain on Saturday, the heavy ground soon brought the younger and lighter-bodied Seagulls back to the pack. Unable to generate the run and dash to which they are accustomed, the Willie players were overwhelmed by their physically larger and more experienced opponents. Apart from Ray Causon with 2 handy goals, the forward line (Liam Thursfield, Patrick Micallef, Andrew Villiers and Daniel Cesaria), with only a handful of games between them, struggled to take advantage of the limited scoring opportunities that came their way. Daryl Cousins battled in the ruck, supported by Johnno Kha, who worked hard in the packs to try to force the ball forward. The midfield of veteran Corey Murphy, Chris and Micky Green, Josh Knight and impressive rookie Michael Roach slogged it out willingly in the heavy going. With Best on Ground Jake McCarthy again leading the way, the backline of Ibby Nasser (Captain for the day), and Dominic Favorito toiled manfully against the tide. Josh Synot, undersized and out-bulked by the Synners center-half forward, was inspirational in his bullocking efforts to provide a contest. Despite the scoreboard showing a blow-out, the large crowd in attendance was impressed at how well the boys in the Blue and Gold stuck to their task until the final siren.

After a brief interlude, the Reserves took the field to attempt to redress the balance - unfortunately without success. The growing confidence of Sam Belden, Lewis Wardell, Chantelle Gordon, Noah Ward and Hassan Jamaledine was reflected in their fierce attack on the ball, while first-gamers Laurie Pollard and Mo El Hawli showed that they will be valuable acquisitions during the season. Joe Dowling, Captain for the day, had another solid match, while Robbie McGahey, dropped for disciplinary reasons, took his demotion on the chin and was resolute in defence. A re-call to the Seniors appears imminent. Theo Causon's ruck work continues to develop as he covers more yardage around the ground, while Ben Causon seized on every opportunity that came his way. William Lang and Tristan Sheahan did some good things through the mid-field, while Darryl Rimmer and Thuan Ma ran hard. Ricky Sullivan showed his ability to read the play, repeatedly getting himself to where the ball was. With so many of the players in the first few games of their career, and with so much physical development yet to come, the Seagulls Twos were still able to be competitive right until the end - a little bit of luck when kicking at the big sticks could have seen the final margin under a goal.

Round 4 on May 29 sees the Seagulls Seniors back at The Fearon to take on Western Suburbs rivals Mambourin at 11.00 AM, while the Reserves will be staging an Exhibition Match, featuring former Kangaroos against new Seagulls at 12.30 PM.



Above: Chris Green breaks out of the pack and kicks forward in the FIDA Seagulls' Round 3 match against Chadstone. Josh Synot and Jake McCarthy provide back-up.



Above left: Rookie Michael Roach applies backline pressure in the match against Chadstone. Above right: Josh Knight prepares to take his kick while Josh Synot gives directions.



Lead by Captain for the day Joe Dowling, the FIDA Seagulls Reserves burst from the rooms in their Inaugural Home Game at The Fearon on Sunday. From left to right: Ben Causon, Joe Dowling, Robbie McGahey, Laurie Pollard, Sam Belden, Chantelle Gordon, Lewis Wardell, Noah Ward, Hassan Jamaledine, Thuan Ma. Below: Warming up.

