

2018



TULLAMARINE
DEMONS
FOOTBALL CLUB

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Grand Final Wrap

Well the big day had arrived, and it was a fantastic day for footy from a weather perspective, so the entire club was certainly up for the big game.

The players and coaching staff knew we had to bring our 'A' game to beat Airport West who had enjoyed a week off to get ready for the grand final, we had only had a 6-day break, but we were confident our fitness would hold up on this huge occasion.

It was also an important day due the retirements of two club legends in Craig Steele and Russ Laurie and what a better way to retire than with a Premiership medal around their necks.

We started kicking against a slight breeze and it was pretty hot early on with us going into the quarter time break 20 points down, a slow start and one which DC highlighted to the playing group at the break.

The second quarter was a disaster from our point of view, we were undisciplined and gave away numerous 50 metre penalties and along with not playing the man on man footy that DC had asked for allowed Airport West to skip away to a 46-point lead at the main break. A bit of a scuffle just after the half time siren was an indication our players were very frustrated with the situation they had found themselves in.

DC made some changes to the side for the third quarter, Russ Laurie went to CHF and Anthony Prestia to full forward with Will Becker moved into the centre.

These changes sparked the side with Becks leading from the front and really throwing his body into the contest. It has to be said this is the single best quarter of local football I have ever seen. APW kicked the first goal to go to a 53-point lead, we then kicked the next nine goals, unanswered to go into the three-quarter time break with a 6-point lead. Adam Scott played a huge part in the revival dominating around the ground in the ruck and both Presti and Jack Kennedy were dangerous up forward impacting the scoreboard also in the third quarter.

The last quarter was an arm wrestle and but for two easy goals that we should have kicked we were right in the game. But eventually our massive third quarter effort and the 6-day break caught up with us and we ran out of legs eventually going down by 13 points APW 16.11.107 to TM 13.16.94.

Major goal scorers for the day were Presti and Kenna with three each

Best players were Adam Scott, Dean Bartrop, Kane Mulvaney, Dean Simmons, Timmy Matson and Jono Hardman.

Well done to both Craig Steele and Russ Laurie on a fantastic career with the Demons, you will both leave huge gaps for us to fill in 2019.

So, we will reload and go again in 2019.

Some real positives to come out of 2018 for a lot of reasons but the biggest positive is the emergence of Timmy Matson, a 17-year-old kid, as a legitimate senior footballer now.

With approx. 40 under 19's coming through next year the future looks very bright for our footy club.

