



## **St Catherine's Girls Rule the Footy Field on a 'Great Day for Footy'**

It seemed rather fitting that on a day when the temperature struggled to reach double figures that the Girls Sport Victoria's Australian Football Saturday program concluded with a round robin and finals series, last weekend (28<sup>th</sup> May, 2005).

The chilly morning was deemed a 'great day for footy', especially for St Catherine's School who were victorious, taking home both the Junior and Senior pennants for 2005.

With car horns sounding and cheers of encouragement and congratulations from the sidelines, the girls showed they love the thrill of playing footy.

The five week development program, run by Football Victoria, teaches the girls basic skills in kicking, marking, handball, tackling and shepherding as well as the rules and strategies of Australian Football.

Football Victoria's Youth Development Manager Steve Teakel said the girls improved rapidly over the five week program.

"It's great to see the girls who have had little or no experience playing footy, improve and gain more confidence," he said.

"And I've been impressed by a few girls who have shown talent for the game."

The girls spent the first four weeks of the program improving their skills and playing short 'scratch matches' as well as attending an AFL match between Collingwood and West Coast.

By week five most of the girls were ready to get a bit more competitive in the round robin and finals series with teams playing four 30 minute games throughout the morning.

**More...**



## **GSV Football Program media release continued...**

Teams from St Catherine's, Lowther Hall, Melbourne and Ruyton contested the Senior competition, while the junior competition included teams from St Catherine's, Lowther Hall, Ivanhoe and a composite team with girls from Lauriston, Kilvington, LMH, Tintern and Our Lady of Mercy College all joining together to form the 'Pigeons'.

While both Lowther Hall and St Catherine's had been strong throughout the Senior round robin series, St Catherine's were dominant in the final, beating Lowther Hall 4 goals 7 points to 3 points.

In the Junior competition, the Pigeons and St Catherine's were dominant, but St Catherine's were too good in the final, convincingly beating the Pigeons 1 goal 7 points to nil.

The Ivanhoe Juniors were the epitome of dedication and spirit throughout the program. Having persevered valiantly against stronger teams, they won the hearts of their competitors and spectators, performing their own team song with gusto and celebrating the joy of participation, even when not winning, by bringing their own wooden spoon!

Steve Teakel said he hoped some of the girls would join the Football Victoria Youth Girls competition and progress onto the Victoria Women's Football League.

"We saw some great action out there and I have no doubt some of the girls could become quite competitive in the League."

Ends

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