



Welcome to our fourth monthly AFL wrap for the 2009 AFL Season.

The Lions come storming home only to fall 6-points short to the Blues in an enthralling contest at the 'Gabba on Saturday of Round 11. 33,790 people were on hand to witness Luke Power kicking two late goals to bring Brisbane back in to the contest. However, it was a blistering 4 goal performance from Jared Brennan (including three in a dynamic second quarter) that kept the fans on the edge of their seats. Playing up forward, Brennan started with a bang as he beat his man at ground level and snapped truly on his right within the first 70 seconds. Backing up his first goal, Jared slotted his second after spilling a mark, he regained his feet in a flash and got the ball on the bounce, before drilling it on his left from 50. Just 60 seconds later he was roving a ball along the boundary before running into an open goal and check-siding it on his left. Bouncing back from the nail-biting loss against Carlton, the Lions travelled to Aurora Stadium in Launceston to take on the reigning premiers at their 'second home'. After a slow start, the Lions put their foot down and the Hawks couldn't match their intensity. Six unanswered goals in the final term saw the Lions run out 42 point winners. Round 13 saw Luke Power and Jared Brennan lead the way again for the Lions in their rout of the Demons amassing possessions at will. They were ably supported up forward by Daniel Bradshaw kicking four goals.

In what has been one of the most exciting games of the season, the Blues took it right up to the undefeated Saints in their Friday night clash kicking off Round 12. Just before half time Steven Browne inspired his team mates with a bone-crunching tackle and some bold running through the centre square. This was followed by five quick goals by the Blues to end the half and give their supporters real hope. The second half was a see-sawing event with the Saints getting up by just one kick. Leading the way all night was Shaun Grigg in a best-on-ground performance with great support from fellow youngster Steven Browne.

The Pies booted the first eight goals of the match to set up their 66-point win over Melbourne in their Queens Birthday clash on the MCG in front of 61,000 people. After a downpour early in third quarter, the Magpies again hit the accelerator and burnt clear to show ominous form ahead of the second half of the season. A five goal haul from Brad Dick saw him awarded Collingwood's second Rising Star nomination for the season. Returning from a knee reconstruction in 2008, Brad has worked hard to get back on track and thoroughly deserves his nomination. After a week off during the split-round the Pies headed to ANZ Stadium to increase their winning streak over the Swans to seven consecutive games. Hosting Freo at the MCG, Collingwood remained a top-four contender after winning its fifth straight game by thrashing the Dockers by 84 points. The Magpies are now undefeated since round eight due to the continued pressure and midfield drive. Kicking the first three goals in the blink of an eye, the Magpies didn't look back running out 85 point winners. Again it was Brad Dick who ran amok kicking 3 and having a hand in many others.

Andrew Lovett has continued his rich vein of form with a 31 possession game at Etihad Stadium in the Bombers loss to Adelaide. Playing against his old side, Hayden Skipworth notched up his 50th game and rose to the occasion kicking 2 goals finishing the game as one of the best on ground. The entire football world was pleased to see Brent Prismall return to senior ranks after going down with a nasty knee injury in the finals last year that required a reconstruction. However, it was as though he hadn't missed a week, racking up possessions on a whim and delivering it with the precision we've come to expect from Brent. Bouncing back from their loss to Adelaide, the Bombers boosted their finals hope with a 48 point win over the Demons.



Leading the way again was Prismall and Skipworth, along with Alwyn Davey lighting up Etihad Stadium with his dash and poise kicking 2 goals. In front of over 83,000 people Essendon turned an exciting first half into a demolition in the second half with Kyle Reimers getting on the scoreboard with Andrew Lovett (who kicked 3) and took the mark of the night, whilst Prismall and Skipworth dominated the midfield. However, it was fullback Tayte Pears who stole the show running off Brendan Fevola on numerous occasions to amass 21 possessions and set up multiple goals. This performance earned Tayte a Rising Star nomination rewarding him for what has been an outstanding year to date.

Freo headed to AAMI stadium for their round 11 clash with Port Adelaide unveiling yet another two debutants in Clancee Pearce and Michael 'Sonson' Walters. In a tightly contested game both Pearce and Sonson kicked goals in their first game as well as first year team mate Matt de Boer. The Dockers then had to take on the in-form Cats at Subiaco and despite no one giving them a chance, Freo took to the field as determined as they have been so far this season. Matt de Boer was given the job on Joel Selwood and ran hard and tackled ferociously all day giving the Cat no space at all and even managing to sneak forward and kick a goal to join number-3 Draft pick Stephen Hill and Nic Suban on the goal kickers list. Promising mobile ruckman Zac Clarke's first game at the MCG against Collingwood in round 13 took the Docker's debutants to nine for the season, underlining the youth policy at Freo and signalling exciting times ahead.

Geelong has continued its undefeated start to the season, holding off the Eagles by 22 points at Subiaco in their round 11 clash. Joel Selwood had 26 possessions playing against his brothers' side and was without doubt the Cats best, leading the way for both Cameron Mooney and Mathew Stokes to kick goals. With players such as Ranga Ediriwickrama, Scott Simpson and Steven Motlop all being sidelined for extended periods, the Cats will only be strengthened with their return to football before the season's end.

Hawthorn has been buoyed by the good form of Ben McGlynn so far this season after a horror year in 2008 with injuries. All Hawks fans have been waiting for Premiership hero Rick Ladson to return to senior ranks which he finally did in their round 13 game against West Coast in torrential rain at Subiaco. Celebrating his 100th game, Rick wasted no time in showing why you can't write the Hawks off while they still have players of Ladson's calibre yet to come back into the side.

Michael Firrito continued his great season in the Kangaroos loss to the Saints in round 11. In an outfit that included ten players under the age of 23, Firrito bashed and crashed his way through packs to keep the Saints to only 1 goal in the first quarter. Unfortunately for the Roos, the young legs became weary and the Saints gained ascendancy eventually running out 7 goal winners. Round 13 saw 31,470 people witness an entertaining game between the Kangaroos and the Doggies. Despite going down by less than four goals, the Kangaroos probably had more good players over four quarters including Hamish McIntosh in the ruck and first-gamer Liam Anthony. Liam picked up 28 possessions and seemed to be making up for lost time after missing the first twelve weeks with stress fractures in his foot.

Colin Sylvia has been continuing his great season illustrating why he was a number 3 draft pick. Against Collingwood in the Queen's birthday match, Colin continued his good form with 32 touches and three goals. In what wasn't a great day for the Demons the shining lights were Colin and Nathan Jones. Round 13 saw the Demons travel to the Gabba to take on the in-form Lions.



Although the Demons battled gamely in the last quarter, kicking six goals to three, the damage had already been done. Continuing what many believe to be in All-Australian form; Aaron Davey flew the flag for the Demons with 31 possessions used with extraordinary efficiency you come to expect from the boot of Aaron. The young developing Demons were good down back with James Frawley doing a good job on Daniel Bradshaw and Neville Jetta getting amongst the goals.

In a tumultuous month at Punt Road the Tigers have experienced a roller-coaster of emotions both on and off the field. Round 11 saw the final game with Terry Wallace in charge funnily enough against his old club the Western Bulldogs. Unfortunately there was no fairytale ending with the Bulldogs running out 11 goal winners. Following the split round break it was Jade Rawlings turn to take charge of the Tigers against West Coast at Etihad Stadium. It was Tom Hislop who inspired the boys with two goals to see the Tigers win their first game with Rawlings at the helm.

The Eagles surprised everyone in their round 11 match against the Cats taking it right up to the competitions benchmark for nearly 4 quarters. Despite a slow start it was a much-improved West Coast in the second term as young midfielders Scott Selwood and Matt Rosa started to have a big impact on the game. Eventually going down by 22 points the Eagles could hold their heads high. Saturday night of Round 13 saw the Eagles play reigning premiers Hawthorn in pouring rain at Subiaco. Lead by tough midfielders the Selwood boys (Scott and Adam) the Eagles ran away with the game in the last quarter to notch up their fourth win of the season.