

Tyson hails Demons' resolve and maturity in Richmond victory

JASON PHELAN

MELBOURNE'S combative win over Richmond came with a hefty price tag, but onballer Dom Tyson says it's important opposition teams know the Demons won't be pushed around any more.

Six Melbourne players were slapped with almost \$10,000 in



that included a quarter-time melee and a crude hit on Jack Watts by Alex Rance.

finer by the AFL match review panel on Monday after an at-times spiteful encounter

"It was good that we stood up for mates in those situations," Tyson said on Monday.

"It probably didn't effect the result of the game but it's good to show the supporters that we're invested in the game." Rance (pictured) can accept a two-match ban after he dropped his forearm into the back of Watts' head late in

the pressure-packed 33-point win. Jack Viney remonstrated strongly with the Tigers defender in the immediate aftermath of the incident but escaped sanction.

"Jack was first on the scene and looked after Wattsy," Tyson said.

"You've got to show emotion, it's a game of emotion

and passion as well, and he's probably the bloke that plays with the most passion and emotion out there.

"Certainly we feed off a bloke like Jack out on the field.

"He's just an animal in there, he's a bull at a gate, he's just good to play with." The Demons saw off every Richmond challenge to improve to

a 3-2 win-loss record and log back-to-back wins for the first time since 2011.

"It certainly felt like a mature win," Tyson said.

"We had a lot of contributions from a lot of blokes.

"We feel like we've had a good month of footy and it's good to see that we're getting some wins for the effort."

Slow start familiar territory for Tigers

AL PATON

SHANE Edwards says Richmond players believe they can repeat the past two years and recover from a horror start to play finals.

The Tigers slumped to 1-4 after being completely outplayed by Melbourne at the MCG last night and now sit two wins and more than 40 per cent behind eighth-placed West Coast.

A fixture against another surprise struggler Port Adelaide on Sunday is followed by encounters against heavyweights Hawthorn and Sydney.

Richmond has been here before, making slow starts to the past two seasons before rallying to finish in the eight.

"The positive is there is still a fair bit of footy left in the season," Edwards said on 3AW yesterday.

"We've dug deeper holes, but we can't keep doing this if we want to eventually reach where we want to get to. "We still have a lot of belief things can turn around pretty quickly."

Edwards admitted Richmond was "panicking" when faced with intense pressure trying to move the ball from defence and said the Tigers would persist with youngsters such as Corey Ellis and Connor Menadue, who had just 11 disposals each against the Demons.

"Yes, we've taken a step back but we need to get games into those players. They're going to have down games but we just need to make sure they keep playing."

And he again defended captain Trent Cotchin, who was one of Richmond's few shining lights on Anzac eve.

"Our record doesn't reflect Trent Cotchin. Too much is left to too few and it's mainly him."



Matthew Kreuzer of the Blues (front) contests a ruck with Jonathon Griffin of the Dockers during their Round 5 match. Inset: 2015 Brownlow Medallist Nathan Fyfe finished the game on crutches after injuring his leg

Pictures: AFL MEDIA/GETTY

Lyon roars on Docker shockers

JUSTIN CHADWICK

FREMANTLE coach Ross Lyon rates Sunday's loss to Carlton as one of his most disappointing as a senior coach.

The Dockers' fifth-straight loss was compounded by another serious leg injury to Nat Fyfe, which could put him on the sidelines for an extended period.

Fremantle is officially in free fall after their shock four-point loss to Carlton left them without a win this season. The 10.12 (72) to 9.14 (68) result was marred by inexplicable turnovers and poor decisions by the Dockers.

Lyon admits he's as shocked as anyone about how fast his team have fallen from minor premiers last season to wooden spoon contenders the next.

And it could get even uglier, with Adelaide, GWS and Hawthorn on the fixture list in the next three weeks.

Lyon says he's been left with no choice but to go back to the drawing board, conceding his players have failed to implement the game plan properly.

"We played straight line kamikaze footy and turned it over in terrible spots. We thought we were better than this," he said. "The brand we wanted to build, we haven't built. We've built something

totally different. So it's back to the drawing board clearly."

Fyfe will undergo scans on his left leg after injuring it during the second quarter. It's the same leg he broke in last year's preliminary final and Lyon fears there could be damage around the area where the plate was inserted.

Defender Michael Johnson (knee) and Hayden Ballantyne (leg) will also need further assessment.

In a match marred by errors, it was only fitting that a shocking turnover decided the match.

With Carlton leading by just four points, an attempted kick across goal from Lachie Neale while being tackled went horribly wrong.

The ball landed in the lap of Blues forward Liam Jones, who booted the goal from 20m out to put Carlton up by 10 points with just a minute remaining.

Chris Mayne's goal after the final siren couldn't temper the Blues' celebrations, leaving first year Carlton coach Brendon Bolton as pleased as punch to secure his first win.

"We're under no illusions — it's just one little step, one affirmation that we are improving," Bolton said. "We still have lots to improve on. We can improve on our stoppages, we can improve on our execution, no doubt about that."

Big blow for Port as defender whacked with one-match ban

PORT Adelaide key defender Jackson Trengove is poised to miss Saturday's must-win clash against Richmond — and a potential duel with star forward Jack Riewoldt — after he was yesterday punished for his behind-the-play hit on Geelong captain Joel Selwood.

And the Tigers are also likely to be without a key backman

with their best player, Alex Rance, offered a two-match ban for his crude hit on Melbourne's Jack Watts.

Trengove can accept a one-match suspension with an early plea after the AFL match review panel charged him with striking Selwood during the second quarter of the Power's eight-goal loss to Geelong.

His strike was assessed as intentional conduct with low impact to the head.

The incident was classified as a two-match ban but can be reduced to one game with an early plea, meaning that if he accepts it he will miss Port's game against fellow struggler Richmond at the MCG.

The Tigers have copped an

even bigger blow with All-Australian defender Rance handed a three-match ban, which can be reduced to two with an early plea, for his strike on Watts in Sunday's loss to Melbourne.

The Power's most influential player Robbie Gray dodged an MRP bullet when he was charged for rough conduct against Cat Tom Ruggles but

handed only a \$1500 fine — rather than a suspension — with an early plea.

But the Port star is now walking a Brownlow Medal tightrope after he also was fined last week for striking GWS's Callan Ward. His next minor offence will cost him a one-match ban and rule him out of Brownlow contention.



Geelong's Joel Selwood reels back after copping one from Jackson Trengove Picture: Getty