



THE WRAP

Round 5

With the season now in full swing, a number of teams have found themselves in new divisions. The U11 Comets have continued their excellent start to the season and remain undefeated in Division 1.

This week's player profile is of U17 Comets 100 game player **Brad Nirens**.

Be sure to check out the club's [website](http://www.aajfc.com.au) for our leading goalkickers and upcoming [milestones](#).

Also, don't forget to keep the team song videos coming in. Please send them to publicity@ajfc.com.au and we will post the to our Instagram account @AJAX_JFC.

#AJFCPASSION

Four on the trot for the U17 Comets





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Milestones

Brad Nirens - U17 Comets





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Taranto Magic

Congratulations to Nico Taranto from the U15 Comets on being selected in the SMJFL U15 Division 2 team. This is the third year in a row Nico has been selected to represent the league.





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Around the grounds

U17 Comets





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Player Profile

Brad Nirens – U17 Comets

Interview by Rod Nirens



RN: Nickname?

BN: Booz / The Claw.

RN: What has been your career highlight?

BN: Coming back after missing over a year with an ACL injury and kicking a goal with my first kick.

RN: What's the best thing about playing for Ajax?

BN: The Jewish Community and playing with my mates.

RN: Which AFL player do you model yourself on?

BN: Dusty Martin – don't argues.

RN: Favourite food?

BN: A juicy burger.

RN: Favourite movie?

BN: Don't mess with the Zohan.

RN: What do you like to do when not playing footy?

BN: Sleeping and eating.

RN: Do you have any particular pre game routine?

BN: I have two bananas and a bagel before every game. I also make sure I have my blue Powerade. I must be wearing grippo before the first bounce.

RN: Is there something strange or quirky about you we may not know?

BN: I have 7 toes on my left foot.



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Results

U8 Rockets

In perfect conditions away at Beaumaris, the U8 Rockets were led out by captains for the week, Swarc and Rubin, and the team played a terrific game highlighted by a consistent four quarter effort. The boys are really starting to demonstrate the fundamentals of the game and each week we can see them building on what the coaches are teaching. It was great to watch the backmen all remembering to stand next to their men and particularly, our smart decision making from kick ins. The tackling today was ferocious and forced many turnovers. In particular, B Majman, Smorgon and Hyams all showed great determination. Some great efforts around the ground by Raleigh, Sacks and Oliver as well as Kave “pumping” the ball into our forward line. With 5 single goalkickers today we had a really even contribution from many players. Overall a great team effort!

U8 Stars

The U8 Stars were inspirational today with both Krause and Janover as co-captains providing wisdom far beyond their years during the half time break. The strong defensive work of Roff and Rechtman proved to be too strong for the East Brighton Vampires who were tough at all the contests and showed grit to really push our team. First game of the regular season showed that the competition is alive and the boys stood up to every challenge that came their way. Mark of the season from Beebee and the undeniable strength and courage of Levy highlights that the boys are growing at every encounter.

U9 Rockets

Perfect football conditions greeted the U9 Rockets as they took on Prahran JFC. The Rockets were powerful in the first half and again displayed their trademark ferocious tackling, which was rewarded with a number of turnovers. The boys toiled tirelessly throughout the morning and in addition to their “hard at the ball” approach, it was wonderful to witness some great passing from the backline through the midfield and into the forward line. The coaches asked the boys to given 100% effort and they did not let the coaches and crowd down, with some wonderful football from start to finish. There were great efforts in each quarter, including strong marking, hunger for the ball, great stoppage work, intercept marks and pinpoint passing. The team was well led by Benji Rostkier and Zac Rheuben and the game was played with great spirit and sportsmanship. Once again, a huge thanks to the loyal band of supporters getting behind this great bunch of boys.

U9 Stars

After a triumphant week last week, we came up against a strong Modialloc Braeside team, so strong that there was some conjecture whether their ruckman was benefiting from mild gigantism. Feeling confident, captain Taj made the brave call to kick against a 12-goal breeze in the first quarter. The boys sang the song with incredible gusto and are continuing to improve every week.



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Results

U10 Rockets

There wouldn't have been many fingernails left on those who were privileged enough to venture out to Moorabbin West Reserve to see us take on the Vampires. What those in attendance got to witness was an incredible game with the tightest of finishes. Our earliest morning by far saw the boys roll out of bed into their white shorts to prepare for the first game post-grading. The coaches asked for a big effort from every player on the ground. Every player needed to be able to tell their parents what they did to help the side today. The ground was much bigger than our home ground so the boys were told to run and kick long - use the corridor and play on. Unfortunately, it seemed, the Rockets were still shloofing for the first quarter. The coaches brought the boys in at quarter time and told them to wake up. We were still in the game, if East Brighton can kick 5 goals in a quarter why couldn't we do the same. The second quarter opened with another Vampires goal and in a bit of trouble but we could all tell our guys were awake and started to put in some effort. A few near misses from Nicho and a poster from Swart opened our scoring. The third quarter was magic. Ethan, Liam, Mini, Sam, Jake and Harry were dominating the midfield and Nathan Cohen had one of the best quarters of junior footy you will ever see. He was superb at Centre Half Forward and was ensuring the ball didn't leave our forward line. Bailey Rothfield was outstanding as a deep full forward and Joel Cabelli opened his season tally with a goal.. The defenders were implored to stay on their opponent, the midfield were asked to keep running and kick long and the forwards had to create space. It was a stirring games which was obvious by the enthusiasm the boys enjoyed singing the song.

U10 Stars

Boys, congratulations on the performance today, we came out firing in the first half. Our run was good, we had solid tackling pressure and won nearly all the clearances out of the middle. However, we dropped off in the second half and our effort wasn't up to what we are usually capable of. We can only keep improving, so well done on today overall and we will speak to you boys at training on Wednesday on ways we can put in a 4 quarter effort!
Proud of you all.

U11 Comets

Ajax 4.6 (30) def Brighton Beach 2.0 (12)

Goals: Chrapot, Gunn, Haeata, Sormann

Best: Casper, Fell, Mohr, Newett, Sormann

Hopefully you all learnt a great lesson today, that if you are 10% off - anyone can beat you. In very windy conditions you came up against a team that played man on man football, a team who were determined to shut down your run, and they turned up to play. Despite not playing to your potential, you were able to squeeze out a gritty win. They had the upper hand in the first quarter, as they kicked with a strong wind. You failed to play disciplined football, and too often they were able to break into space with runners and move the ball forward. The back line held up well, stopping numerous attacks, and keeping us in the contest. By half time you were a couple of goals up, and you maintained your lead to the final siren. The third quarter was the most pleasing as you were able to keep the opposition scoreless, and started to play the brand of football that you train so hard to execute.



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Results

U11 Jets

Caulfield Bears 4.6 (30) d Ajax 2.2 (14)

Goals: Podlubny, Rabin

Best: Balter, Lewin, Podlubny, Rockman, Weller

Another week of learning for the U11s this week as our discipline and desire was tested by a committed Caulfield Bears. The Jets started well and scored a goal early but again, a big away ground caused the Jets to become a little disoriented and therefore we lost our shape and positioning too easily allowing easy opposition possessions. The Jets also were just that 1 yard or ½ a second hesitant at contests which gave the opposition a slight upper hand all day. But the Jets never gave up and worked their way back into the game late in the 3rd and into the 4th quarter. We tackled, chased and pressured well most of the day led by JJ Balter while Bailey Lewin and Zac Podlubny were outstanding across half back. Boaz Rockman (our current captain) led well all day and sets a great example of leadership for the Jets and we look forward to more of the same in the coming weeks.

Go Jackas

U12 Comets

East Sandringham 5.12 (42) def Ajax 2.5(17)

Goals: Becker, Segman

Best: Graham, Nathan, Nirens, Kister, Pike

Promotion to Division 1 during the week, and a game away to one of the top sides first up, brought new challenges for the U12 Comets and raised new questions. Would the team step up? Could the team compete at this level? Yes. And absolutely yes. The defence held up under early pressure through terrific effort and heavy tackling. Nathan, Mitsel, Kister, Okun and Rockman led the way, setting an early tone that then ran through the whole team and rattled a tall and high quality opposition. The on ballers including Pike, Nirens and got on top and had the ball locked down in our forward half where Feder and Graham were showing plenty. Ultimately, it was a failure to convert chances up forward, and some moments when concentration lapsed, that were costly for the Comets and proved the difference. But the Comets can take pride in this performance and can go forward knowing that, when the effort is there and when everyone plays their part, this team belongs in this division and will be a headache for any team they face.

U12 Jets

East Malvern 9.10 (64) def Ajax 4.4 (28)

Goals: Harris 2, Gaspar, Worth

Best: Gaspar, Green, Harris, Jacobs, Lust

Following re-grading, the side ensured they were switched on from the start of the match to ensure the new season would get off to a good start. With a strong wind blowing against us in the first quarter, the boys held strong in the backline to limit the damage. The quarter that followed saw the team play our most complete quarter of the season, with our midfielders helping push us into the lead at half time. Unfortunately this was where our success ended, as we were unable to stop East Malvern's momentum in the 3rd quarter, and paid the price for an attacking mindset in the last. Overall there were again some good signs, with just some more consistency needed in performance.



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Results

U13 Comets

Ajax 5.12 (42) def East Malvern 2.2 (14)

Goals: H.Sheezel 3, Spicer, Wrobel

Best: Chrapot, Eliau, Light, H.Sheezel, Spicer

Swirly winds were the order of the day as the U13 Comets took on East Malvern. The conditions made for scrumbly football and the Jackas, with the best of the wind advantage in the opening term, attacked constantly but were off target with wayward kicking when going forward and could only manage a solitary goal from six scoring shots to nil. The team then has its work cut out against the wind but held firm to concede only one goal. The third quarter was a virtual replica of the first. At one stage the team's score stood at 1.11.17 to 1.2.8 before a late goal gave the team a small amount of comfort at the final break.

There were some nervous moments when East Malvern goaled early in the final term to bring the deficit back down to ten points but like last week, the team decided it was time to move into top gear. The defence stood firm, the midfield shared the ball around, often moving across the ground to set up attacking moves and three goals resulted to break the back of the opposition. The Jackas left their best football till last.

The team is currently sitting in third place behind the undefeated East Brighton and St Kilda City and they meet the Saints away from home in a rematch of last year's semi-final. The game should be a ripper.

U13 Jets

Mordialloc-Braeside 5.4 (34) def Ajax 3.8 (26)

Goals: Edwards, Gunn, Star

Best: Edwards, Gaddie, Sable, Shaw, Star

Today's result was a disappointing one. We came out of the blocks well and looked good into the wind. With Asher "the bull" Star, in his 50th a dominating figure up forward, and Ben finding plenty of the football. Unfortunately for the second week in a row, we squandered our opportunities, and unlike last week, this time it hurt us. The second and third quarters we again seemed happy to run second to the footy. The second quarter in particular was disappointing, as we did not follow team rules and squandered the wind by overcrowding the forward line. Then in the third as the wind picked up and as we pressed forward, they "got out" a few times on the wind and capitalised on their chances. The fourth quarter the boys really turned it on and gave it their all, and within 5 minutes we had narrowed their lead to 2 points. It was tough and it was hard fought. Unfortunately, we could not complete the job. The fourth quarter was a great and desperate effort, but the reason we fell short was the second and third quarters (and to an extent the first) where we did not follow team rules (crowding the forward line and switching through the middle) and we seemed content to sit and watch the match unfold. This was very frustrating to watch and will be something that we address at training. I am proud of how the boys fought it... but as a team we let ourselves down through the middle part of the match.

U14 Comets

Cheltenham 13.12 (90) def Ajax 9.6 (60)

Goals: Spark 4, Efron 2, Carp, Kavallero, Rosenbaum

Best: Antman, Davis, Efron, Rosenbaum, Spark



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Results

U14 Jets

East Sandringham 7.7 (49) def Ajax 5. 13 (43)

Goals: Katz 2, Olcha 2, Benzur

Best: Chabat, Katz, Kol, Mattatia, Mond

The boys were all very keen to impress in our first game in Division 4 and we came out fired and hard at the footy. We kicked away and led halfway through the first quarter by a couple of goals after some great snaps at goal by Aden Katz. We then peppered the goals and did not convert after multiple inside 50's. This gave our opponents the opportunity to close the gap and confidence to match it with us around the ground. Even an amazing run from behind tackle that saved an almost certain goal by Max Kol could not give the boys the lift needed to kick away and get our first much needed win for the season. The effort overall was encouraging and hopefully will translate into results in the coming weeks. Special mentions this week to Brodie Mond, Shay Chabat and Jed Olcha who both put in their best game of the year.

U15 Comets

Bentleigh 15.15 (105) def Ajax 7.5 (47)

Goals: Rawack 3, Mills, Mitsel, Schauder, Taranto

Best: Fibishenko, Grodski, Herskope, Micmacher, Taranto

With the SMJFL grading period now over, round 5 saw the ladder reset and all teams start again with zero points each. We viewed this game against Bentleigh as a really important one and a win for us would be a terrific way to erase a couple of losses over the past weeks. Unfortunately for us, the 'footy gods' were not with us as our already thin group of 19 available players was cut down to 17 early into the second quarter due to injuries and remained that way for the remainder of the game. It is extremely difficult to win games of football against good opposition with these numbers but we are proud of the way the boys fought out the second half against these odds. Having said that, what we are not happy with was our first quarter and the way we went about things. We speak to the boys about committing to 80 minutes of football game time a week, where the boys have an opportunity to block everything else out of their minds and commit to each other to have a fair dinkum crack at winning games of footy. We will regroup at training on Wednesday and be extremely positive with the boys as we prepare for Oakleigh next week. Lets hope that we unlock the potential and get on the winners list once again.

U15 Jets

East Malvern (19.12.126) def Ajax (1.0.6)

Goals: Anidam

Best: Engel, Gelfand, Lustig, Robinson, Welis, Weller

After the big high of last week's first win it was a tough fall back down to earth as the Jets suffered a heavy loss to East Malvern. Facing a bigger, stronger, faster and more skilled opposition the boys just could not get near the opposition players. However even in trying times there are always positives to come out of the game. Firstly Aron Welis built on his game last week to really stand out this week. His chasing, tackling and overall physicality was outstanding with one chase in particular remaining in the minds of the observers in which he sprinted from 50 metres away to chase and harass only to smother a kick and get the ball back. Brayden Lustig and Josh Robinson also tried their best today to keep the ball moving in tough circumstances. Jordan Engel continued his good form in the ruck and started to have an impact around the ground. The backs tried their best all day but could only watch as the ball kept flying over the goal umpires hat. As usual Zac Weller and Miles Gelfand tried their hardest but often their efforts were wasted as East Malvern streamed the ball out of the midfield. The forwards had little opportunity on a day where we only scored one goal. Ultimately we as a group need to move forward and keep improving and playing the level we are capable of.



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Results

U16 Comets

Mordialloc-Braeside 12.15 (87) def Ajax 3.3 (21)

Goals: J. Micmacher 2, Elbaum

Best: Bryer, Elbaum, Jacobs, Krongold, Nirens

An undermanned Ajax put up an extremely brave fight against Mordy-Brae on Sunday. Decimated by the combination of a school trip and injuries, the team took to the field with only 18 players against a full squad. Not long into the game, Ajax lost Adam Freedman (broken wrist) and Dean Gordon (achilles injury). Despite this, each player can hold their head high knowing they put in an outstanding effort. Captain Benji Krongold had a great game, leading from the front. Liam Elbaum racked up possessions and his disposals always found their target. Sam Jacobs put in another classy game, this time in the unfamiliar surrounds of the back line. He was well supported by Aaron Bryer, Jase Nirens and David “Feldy” Feldman. And special mention to Jonah Micmacher who came up from the U15s and kicked 2 goals. If this side can field a full side each week, we can look forward to a strong season in Division 2

U17 Comets

Ajax Comets 12.7.79 def Cheltenham 9.17.71

Goals: Danby 2, Lincoln 2, Michelson 2, Williams 2, Zielinski 2, Hendel, Levi-Weitzman

Best: Danby, Michelson, Nankin, Spicer, Williams.

Playing against a team that comes down a division is always going to be a challenge as they have a bigger point to prove than we do. Once again the Comets rose to the task at hand and delivered. Our intent was clear from the first bounce with 3 quick goals to nil making the statement to Cheltenham: bring your “A” game. With some key play makers out of the team the group countered their play makers, with our players doing the team thing from a positioning perspective when required. The Comets learnt a valuable lesson along the way — one in, all in! This was clearly put to the team at half time and heard by the 3rd quarter we played. Three basic team KPIs need to be more consistent - game preparation, On field communication & playing in front/1st to the ball. This will give the Comets a chance to have a very successful season. Ultimately we held on for a tough fought 8 point win.

U17 Jets

Oakleigh 28.23 (219) def Ajax 1.1 (7)

Goals: Wajsbort

Best: Gross, Tovel, Roth, Briggs, Procel

The U17 Jets were undermanned this week and struggled to stay with the opposition. Amidst a lot of pressure the backline worked very hard.



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