



THE WRAP

Round 7

After 7 rounds our all conquering U11 Comets remain undefeated at the top of their Division One ladder. Some impressive performances were also on show from the U13 Comets and U15 Comets with excellent wins.

This week's player profile is of U15 Comets 100 game player **Jesse Smorgon**.

Be sure to check out the club's [website](#) for our leading goalkickers and upcoming [milestones](#).

U16 Comets 100 gamer Jono Machlin attempting to jump over his banner



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Milestones

Jesse Smorgon - U15 Comets





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Ashley Morris - U15 Jets



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Jono Machlin - U15 Jets





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Around the grounds

U12 Comets



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Around the grounds

U17 Comets





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Player Profile

Jesse Smorgon – U15 Comets

Interview by Rod Nirens

RN: Career highlight?

JS: Under 10s Premiership win in 2012

RN: Best thing about playing at Ajax?

JS: Playing with my mates at a Jewish club

RN: Which AFL player do you model yourself on?

JS: Jason Johannisen

RN: Favourite movie?

JS: Shooter

RN: Favourite food?

JS: My mum's baked gnocchi

RN: Favourite expression?

JS: You're joking...!

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

JS: Relaxing

RN: Do you have a particular pre game routine?

JS: I do two tuck jumps before the first bounce





THE WRAP

Results

U8 Rockets

We were led out by our captains Kave and Rosenberg on a cold, foggy morning but our boys came to play today against East Malvern. Zohar, Berley, Smorgon and Suss got us off to a flyer with their relentless pressure and attack on the ball. Krasnostein and Sacks steamed out of the backline, Hyams slotted an early goal and the Rockets looked like they were a team on a mission. Rosenberg led the way in the 2nd quarter and our little men in Factor, Edelstein, Brad Majman and the crafty Szwarc were all damaging as our boys ran East Malvern off their feet. The Rockets played great team football with pressure acts and tackling the feature. Cooper Majman was superb, Rubin created opportunities and put his head over the ball, and Raleigh was important in the middle. The boys were challenged at the last break by the coaches, and showed huge determination and class in the last term to completely outplay the opposition. This week's effort was inspirational and shows what great team work can produce.

U8 Stars

The Ajax Stars met their match today against the East Brighton Vampires. It was a tight game with plenty of tackling, and the high pressure in close meant players found it hard to find space on the smaller ground. Josh B and Dylan were inspirational captains by speech before the game and by example throughout the game. Luka had his best game for the season, as the fog turned to sunshine, and all the boys shook off the cheesecake and ice cream eaten over Shavuot to put in a great effort. With the bye next weekend, the team should come back from their break fresh and ready for their next match.

U9 Rockets

A cold morning, but clear conditions greeted the U9 Rockets as they hosted St Peters JFC at home. The Rockets opened the match strongly, where the forward line saw good supply from a very busy midfield who worked overtime in the first quarter. The boys were hard at the ball all game and did as their coaches asked of them. The Rockets trademark ferocious tackling was on display yet again. The boys toiled tirelessly throughout the morning and 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 hunting in packs. In a sign of great sportsmanship, a number of the boys helped out the opposition make up numbers by playing for St Peters in the first quarter. The team was led by Sol Feldman and Adam Parasol 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

We arrived at the ground of East Sandringham Zebras to be greeted by fog so thick you could not see across the field, with boys keen to play after a well-earned week off training. Captains Jesse T and Ari won the toss and emphatically chose to kick with the breeze. The coaches instructions for the game was to see more passing to each other, lots of hard tackling, backmen to stay on their man, and the forwards were instructed to kick to the top of the goal square. Team Manager Nick made the comment early that given Rubin's absence, "this will be a hard gap to fill". Once again, the coaches thought that we had played a great match, we tried our best to follow the pre-match plans, and as each week goes by, we are all improving and obviously enjoying. We all need to work hard on our kicking; the only way to get better is practice, long kicks, short kicks, lots and lots of kicking this week.



THE WRAP

Results

U10 Rockets

This was our third game since the grading was completed and the challenge to the kids was to cement our position in the league as the skilful team on everyone's radar to knock off.

The warm up address threw the gauntlet out to the team to come out of the blocks hard and set the pace. Some individuals were set personal challenges along with the team goals which are now ingrained in the way the boys play. The first quarter saw some outstanding football in the midfield from Swiatlo and Rothfield. The second quarter saw the Rockets gain some ascendancy and thanks to a cracking mark from Mooseek that resulted in a Swiatlo goal and another to Rothfield and Werdiger played his best quarter of the year and Fink and Gaspar were sensational. The third quarter saw Rothfield add to his tally with a second goal and Levy kicked two ripping goals. Mehl continued to play a very strong game using his size, pace and kicking long to the teams advantage. We saw some great efforts from all the boys. The final stanza saw the boys take control and have some fun. Swiatlo continued his good game with some big marks, Lakman and Krasnostein were their dominant selves and Kagan continued to show how good he is when he plays awake. Ickowicz added to his repertoire of goal celebrations with a little dance after he slotted one and Sormann positioned himself perfectly to mark an errant kick and run into an open goal for his first goal of his career. A good way to finish before the Queen's Birthday bye.

U10 Stars

Yet another big performance from the boys as they continue to improve consistently week in week out. On a small ground, our skills were on show as we were able to use the ball cleanly in tight spaces and move it forward. Our ability to use our vision to hit up free targets was impressive, and for most of the game, we weren't bombing the ball into packs. Without a lot of space, there was no excuse for backmen to be off there men, and our players defended very well. Overall, the boys were most impressive when getting a chance in the forward line. We were able to score almost every single time we went inside 50, and it was pleasing to see how dangerous the boys were when down there. Well done to all the boys. Our fantastic season continues and will only get better after the bye.

U11 Comets

Ajax 7.8 (50) def St Kilda City 2.4 (16)

Goals: Jacobs 2, Chrapot, Hart, Mimeran, Newett, Rozenes

Best: Gunn, Jacobs, Mimeran, Newett, Rozenes

Team performance 8/10. As your coaches, we came into this game not knowing what sort of effort we were going to get. You had not trained due to Shavuot, and you were coming up against the only other undefeated team (since grading). It was evident from the get-go that you were up for the contest. You played accountable football, and produced your best team effort for the season. The first quarter was a tight affair, with both teams scoring goals. The opposition was rebounding well off the half-back line and set up a number of opportunities, but you held firm and denied them. By half time we were a goal in front. The second half we made a number of adjustments which included kicking the ball more directly, kicking the ball longer and not using handball as much. We also asked the forwards to play in front of their opponents which shut down their run. This allowed us to kick 4 unanswered goals in the second half and you went on to have a comfortable win. Today's performance for the most part was really positive. We now sit on top of the ladder and remain the only team undefeated in our division. Keep up the good work.



THE WRAP

Results

U11 Jets

Highett 9.4 (58) def Ajax 4.9 (33)

Goals: Apel, Belfer, Farkas, Gottlieb

Best: Balter, Cohen, Farkas, Gottlieb, Pacanowski

On a cold and very foggy morning at Highett where the boys at 1st bounce could not see the other end of the ground we were very slow out of the blocks and with poor marking (may be due to the lack of visibility) we were 3 goals down within a few minutes. On settling down our boys had the general run of the play for the remainder of the quarter but could only muster 4 behinds. At quarter time Dave and Tim emphasised the need to be man on man in defence. We continued to get the majority of possession and won the quarter. Juzi Gross was winning the majority of tap outs and Eli Pacanowski and Benji Cohen were getting in and under to push the ball our way. With these 3 boys on the ball we were winning the majority of ball. At ½ time we were right it only 2 goals down. Unfortunately the 3rd quarter was one way traffic in Highett's favour. We had plenty of the ball but could not score. The 4th quarter was a far better all-round effort. Their major goal kickers were kept quiet with close checking and our on ballers showed some real flair with Gavi Gottlieb from the centre square scoring the goal of the year having 3 bounces and kicking across his body from the pocket to a rousing ovation and much nachas for Yehuda. It was then pleasing to see other boys taking the game on as we continued to have the major share of possession. As we look back this was our best away game. Whilst we got off to a slow start and we went down by 25 points we won 2 quarters, we had the same number of scoring shots and across the match we had 60% of possession and controlled the game for long periods. Great effort boys.

U12 Comets

Hampton Rovers (49) def Ajax 3.11(29)

Goals: Faigen, Feder, Graham

Best: Faigen, Graham, Grodski, Nathan, Segman

The U12 Comets were left to rue a second quarter in which a lack of application and composure with the ball allowed a very good opponent to establish a lead that proved match winning. Levy stood firm and held important marks during that torrid term, continuing the good work in the first from Grodski off half back and Smithson at full back. Without them, the position would have been beyond repair. But at half time there was still hope, because of a solid first term and the knowledge gained from previous games that our best is better than most. So it was pleasing that the effort returned in the third quarter, combined with better skills and more patience and precision with the ball. Many players lifted and the momentum completely shifted in the Comets' favour. Segman was everywhere, as were Nathan and Graham. Faigen found space and launched us forward where Becker took some fine grabs. Pike, Zielinski and Michelson also played important parts in helping turn things around and by three quarter time the Comets were right back in it. Alas, the opposition responded well in the last and they deserved the win, having shown a more even contribution across their team throughout the game. The Comets had shown real spirit to get back in the game but ultimately paid dearly for the earlier lapse.



THE WRAP

Results

U12 Jets

St Kilda City JFC 13.14 (91) def Ajax 1.0 (6)

Goals: Worth

Best: Goldenberg, Harris, Lowinger, Roff, Sigeoker

Despite a slow start to the match, the team found form late in the 1st quarter, as they linked up well with ball in hand to take some momentum into the first break. That was where the team's success ended though, as another side near the top of the ladder scored goals far too easily against us. The scoreboard didn't reflect the effort in the 2nd half, as the boys worked harder to impact the contest. Credit to the backline for competing all day in difficult circumstances. Hopefully we can come back after the break and have a strong second half of the season. Great effort boys.

U13 Comets

Ajax 7.9 (51) def Port/South Melbourne 2.2 (14)

Goals: H.Sheezel 3, Aladjem, Alter, Light, Rothfield

Best: Lowe, C.Sheezel, H.Sheezel, Spicer, Wrobel

After starting the game by scoring five behinds in a row in the first ten minutes before scoring their first goal, the U13 Comets looked to be in a spot of bother early in the second quarter against fifth placed Port/South Melbourne when the visitors kicked a goal on both sides of the quarter time interval to take the lead. It was at this point that the team took stock and settled down to play hard, gritty football. The midfield took control and continually pumped the ball forward so that before long, the team had established a two goal buffer to take into the main break. A strong final half saw the team hold the opposition goalless to record a handy 37-point win going into the bye round next week. The team's defence continues to impress as a solid, attacking unit which always makes the Comets a hard team to beat.

U13 Jets

St Paul's McKinnon 13.9 (87) def Ajax 2.3 (15)

Goals: Fell, Gunn

Best: Alford, Davis, Edwards, Eppel, Star

Today was a special day for our famous No.12. Jack Edwards 50th. Jack has been a senior player in this team since it first came together. Jack continues to grow both as a footballer and a leader. Every week he gives his all, sweeping out of the back line. Playing strong in the middle and on occasion as a key forward. He leads by example on the track and in matches and is a the sort of person that all our team know they can depend upon. Congrats on a GREAT 50 games! Today we were jumped. SPMK kicked straight, ran hard and before we knew it, it was quarter time and they had 6 goals on the board with some great footy. Three first years players were working hard, Savo, Raph and Judah but it seemed like we were suffering from team paralysis. Second to the footy, not really manning up and just not laying tackles. The second quarter saw a complete switch. We hit it hard, got the ball out of the middle, manned up and really worked hard for our opportunities. This was exemplified by Ron, Maida and Jamie. All three played really well, they had been issued with specific directions play in front and to really work hard and make the contest so that the ball did not rebound out. I was really pleased with their efforts. This quarter also saw Natan, playing his first game for the year (welcome back!!!), kick a great goal and Coby Gunn run hard to open up the game. The third saw another great contest with the big men (Saul, Ilan and Asher) working in overdrive. The backline lead by Behm and Rosey beating their opposite number regularly in 1:1 contests. The fourth, SPMK again ran the ball really well and our boys seemed to be easily lead to the ball. It was a disappointing way to run out the match. Overall quarters 2 and 3 were really good, quarters 1 and 4 were very disappointing.



THE WRAP

Results

U14 Comets

Ormond 12.11 (83) def Ajax 10.8 (68)

Goals: Rosenbaum 4, Spark 3, Davis, Efron, Kavallero

Best: Bergman, Berman, Carp, Kanat, Spark

Another frustrating performance today. Although we finished very strongly, a severe lapse in the third quarter cost us an important win. Once again we evidenced that when we play our best football we can take it up to any opposition, but these periods in games when we switch off are really hurting us. After a slow start in the first quarter, we felt fortunate to be so close at quarter time with Ormond not capitalising on the scoreboard. Our defence held up well, led by Yoni Bergman and Loki Zielinski and we managed a late goal that kept us in the contest trailing by only 9 points. Our second quarter was excellent with Toby Kanat and Ayden Carp giving us great drive out of the midfield. Benji Spark and Josh Rosenbaum looked dangerous in the forward line, but unfortunately another late goal in the last minute to Ormond proved very costly leaving them with a 10 point lead. Our 3rd quarter was really poor with Ormond slamming on 5 unanswered goals to set up a match winning lead and leave us trailing by 37 points at 3-quarter time. We asked for an effort in the last quarter, and to the boys credit they answered with 5 goals to Ormond's 2 to make the margin a respectable 15 point loss. Despite a great last quarter, we cannot get comfortable with honourable losses and the frustration comes that when we play hard attacking footy we look a really good football side. The challenge is to produce that week in week out for 4 quarters. We will train hard this week and stay positive knowing that when we can put a full game together we will be a successful side.

U14 Jets

Beaumaris 8.4 (52) def Ajax 5.9 (39)

Goals: Baron 2, Benzur, N. Hershan, Lindell

Best: Maman, Mond, Paluch, Segman, Tobias

The effort and energy today was where we need it to be but unfortunately we got put off our game by a more physical opponent on the day. We allowed Beaumaris to get under our skin after a couple of disappointed taunts and physicality from a couple of their players. We will learn from this and be better for the experience. Other positives for the day was the emergence of Eli "Sedgy" Sedgman who has put his hand up when it counted and played a blinder. Also Maxy Mimeran answered the coaches call to commit to the contest and had a couple fantastic hard ball gets and of course Ozzie Oren Tobias seems to be going from strength to strength as the general down back. Brody Mond was excellent again controlling the middle and giving our forwards opportunity where Jimmie Baron and Levy Benzur kicked a couple between them. Looking forward to a break next week where we will go back to the drawing board and reiterate and reinforce our basic game plan of winning the ball and taking the right options when in the clear.



THE WRAP

Results

U15 Comets

Ajax 13.14 (92) def Oakleigh 8.7 (55)

Goals: Weeden 5, Micmacher 3, Schauder 2, Rawack, Rosen, Taranto

Best: Grodski, Herskope, Schauder, Smorgon, Taranto, Weeden

In a “must win” game, the boys showed that they weren’t prepared to let the year slip away from them. With the scores level at the main break, the boys responded to the half time spray and played a brand of football that they should be proud of. The third quarter was filled with physicality and a team orientated style of play that had been missing in recent weeks and they were able to win this important “line in the sand game”. The most pleasing aspect of today’s win was that we had a solid effort from each and every player and we didn’t rely on too few. We know that our boys have a competitive spirit and when they work as a group they are very hard to beat. We hope that this spirit and fight sticks with them throughout the remainder of the season. Mazel tov to Jesse on playing his 100th game. Jess, you played a fantastic game today and you should be very proud of your efforts. Your decision making, ball handling and run were great to watch and your pressure on the opposition was the best we’ve seen from you all season. You are a valued member of our team and your weekly contribution to the group, on and off the field, is outstanding. Keep up the good work. We have a break next week for the Queen’s Birthday weekend, so keep a ball in your hands and your fitness up.

U15 Jets

East Sandringham Rovers 17.22 (124) def Ajax 6.3 (39)

Goals: Davis 3, Kessell, Slomoi, Yaffe

Best: Anidam, Davis, Engel, Franks, Goldberg, Weller

Today was a really tough day for the boys and the coaching staff. After showing great signs early in the first quarter, we dropped away badly in the second half and late in the game. Whilst the score was disappointing what was more disappointing was the fact that we showed we could match it with South Melbourne only to fall away badly. Even in such a tough loss however it was still encouraging to see the boys really start to move the ball fast and with structure the switch in particular was fantastic especially early on and will only get better and better. Jordy Engel continued his continued good form in the ruck and struck a great partnership out of the centre with Kivi Franks, who has relished more opportunity in the midfield and playing a fantastic game. Zac Weller tried hard all day often without reward but could always be found at the bottom of packs or chasing. Zac Davis also showed the reward you get from constant second and third efforts as well as some classy finishing. Benji Goldberg showed some much needed physicality and also Jason Slomoi showed some signs that he is too improving. As difficult as this game was there are always positives to take out and things to work on and everyone is looking forward already to training and the next week when we have a chance to work on improving and becoming better players.



THE WRAP

Results

U16 Comets

East Malvern 11.13 (79) def Ajax 8.7 (55)

Goals: Siegel 7, Sharp

Best: Bryer, Cowan, Kalb, Krongold, Siegel

Another competitive effort saw the U16 Comets take it right up to former Division 1 powerhouse, East Malvern. Skill errors, however, meant they couldn't close the consistent 4 goal gap which persisted through most of the game. Krongold, Cowan, Bryer and Sharp were the prime movers delivering the ball into the forward line where Ethan Siegel kicked a bag of 7 creative goals. Special mention to Jonathan Machlin who celebrated his 100th game with an impressive 4 quarter effort.

U17 Comets

St Bedes Mentone 10.9 (69) def Ajax 9.11 (65)

Goals: Michelson 2, Spicer 2, Zielinski, Gold, La Sala, Shapiro, Williams

Best: Cohen, La Sala, Levi-Weitzman, Smart, Velleman

First vs second is a clash many people came to see and the game didn't disappoint. We set ourselves for a battle based on the first time we met and with a 4 point difference at then end, the Jackers nearly stole victory from the jaws of defeat. With another yellow card — 3rd in 7 games — taking the edge off the run on we had in the second quarter, and a mounting bench unable to play, the team dug deep and flew the flag, culminating in us hitting the front with 10 minutes to go. By not sticking to our game plan and being undisciplined cost us in the end — gotta hang the ego up at the door before the jumper goes on! At the half way mark of the season, we are equal second — respectable but not ideal considering we have played all the better teams and know our capabilities. We are all looking forward to the run home and what that may bring!

U17 Jets

Ormond 22.23 (155) def Ajax 1.0 (6)

Goals: Gradman

Best: Slonim, Tovel, Gross, Davis, Lowinger

Again this week the U17 Jets showed some great form, especially in the 3rd quarter where they kept Ormond down to 2 goals. Jackers were dominant out of the centre but could not capitalize sufficiently to register scores, and were overwhelmed by a stronger side.



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