



# THE WRAP

## Round 8

After a week off for the Queen's birthday holiday, Round 8 was played in perfect winter conditions. We had some good results from the U11 Comets, U13 Comets, U14 Jets and U15 Comets. The U16 Comets registered their first win of the season with an impressive performance reminding us why they played in three consecutive grand finals.

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

### Fev joining the U10 Rockets



@AJAX\_JFC

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## Milestones

Jackson Becker - U12 Comets







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## Milestones

Beau Worth - U12 Jets







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## Milestones

Charlie Grodski - U15 Comets







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## Around the grounds

### U13 Comets







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## Around the grounds

### U16 Comets





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## Results

### U8 Stars

The Ajax Stars were up early to kick the dew off Lucas Reserve this Saturday against the East Malvern Knights. There was a real buzz around the ground as co-captains Guy and Jake instructed their teammates to run hard, handball to each other and tackle hard. The team powered ahead in the first quarter as Josh Levy kicked his first goal for Ajax. There was plenty of electricity around the ground in the second quarter when Jordan shepherded through a goal from JJ. Things were still coming down to the wire early in the third quarter as the team ran hard against quality opposition. But despite great efforts, the Stars just couldn't find a spark in the fourth quarter. All up, the boys battled hard against a plugged in Knights team, and will look for high voltage form next Sunday against Sandringham.

### U9 Rockets

It was a fantastic morning for football with clear skies, just a hint of breeze and our home ground in pristine condition. Once again we had a huge crowd come out to support our boys and they witnessed a fantastic game of footy. With the week off our Mighty Rockets were keen to get out there and this week was a perfect opportunity to showcase their improvement against a quality opposition. Our Coaches introduced the boys to a new game plan at training on Thursday night and before the game, the boys were switched on and focused as our Coaches fired them up. From the opening bounce, our boys attacked on the ball, applied ferocious tackling pressure and hunted in packs. They created space with sharp hand balls and passes and followed the Coaches' new game plan by continually kicking the ball to the danger zone at the top of our goal. Their discipline to follow this simple plan lead to numerous scoring opportunities. Although outsized by a few of the opposition, our defensive pressure was excellent and our boys did not give them any easy possessions. The team was well lead by our Captains, Dale Nathan and Jonah Pitt and it was a privilege to hear the boys' belt out the club song with gusto. Overall it was a fantastic game of football, played at a high standard and with great spirit and sportsmanship. We continue to work hard as a team to work on our skills and to improve our footy IQ and most importantly have fun.

### U9 Stars

Today, the boys embodied every word of the Ajax club song with a determined four quarter effort against Brighton Beach. It was a bone jarring, slick performance full of individual brilliance, and most importantly, first-class team work. Importantly, the effort showed exactly what our boys can do when they train hard and listen to their coaches. Every player needs to remember that games are for fun, but training is serious business. Bring the right attitude to training on Thursday night and great performances will follow. It is simple. Train well, play well. What a fantastic effort by the boys. In the words of Jeff, it was "the best performance of the year". So what does it prove? It proves that if you listen to your coaches, train hard and have the right attitude, then anything is possible. There was not a single passenger in the team today with every player putting in 100%. All player and parents should be very proud. See you all at training. Well done boys.



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## Results

### U10 Rockets

After a week off to celebrate the Queen's Birthday, the boys started like they had spent too much time eating cake at Buckingham Palace. The boys were asked to help each other out and man up when defending. Unfortunately, that message wasn't followed and the Hampton Rovers kicked two goals to our solitary point. The Rovers played as a team, tackled well and manned up. At quarter time the coaches asked for a better effort and that's exactly what we got. It was very pleasing to see how the team responded managing to work together, bringing teammates into the game and outscoring the Rovers 1.1 to 2 points. As the boys downed their oranges at half time they were asked to dig deep so they could get into the car after the game and tell their parents how they made a difference. It was another really good effort, again outscoring the Rovers 2 behinds to 1 but like the second quarter, it was inaccurate kicking not effort that caused us to be behind. The last quarter saw the Rovers play some pretty good football. We did everything asked but the Rovers were just too good on the day. We look forward to the last game of the season at home to get our revenge. A special mention to Jason Brott who was outstanding for the entire game. We also wanted to note the determination shown by Raphi Werdiger who received big hits twice during the second quarter but got up and responded in the best way by getting some long kicks. He clearly got some confidence from his 5 goals during the pizza training match. They were well supported by Lakman, Krasnostein, Gaspar, Ickowicz, Levy and Naphtali. After the game we were fortunate enough to have Brendan Fevola pop into the rooms to have a word to the boys. The 204 game 623 goal former Carlton (and Brisbane) full forward and Fox-FM mornings host spoke to the boys about having fun and enjoying their football. He told them how important it is to enjoy training and the games - and to listen to their coaches. We then had Fev join the boys for a rousing rendition of the AJAX song.

### U10 Stars

Really solid effort today. We started off strongly with our arrack on the ball and pressure which was good to see considering it was probably our strongest opponent we've faced. Although we finished off very strongly, we dropped off in the 3rd quarter as did our effort and communication. All in all, after the 3 quarter time rev up we responded well and showed lots of fight in the end. Well done.

### U11 Comets

Ajax 6.15 (51) def St Bedes Mentone 2.6 (18)

Goals: Haeata 2, Casper, Chrapot, Flinkier, Wrobel

Best: Baring, Flinkier, Haeata, Mohr, Newett, Sormann

After a week off we put it to the boys to bring their A game. After spending most of Wednesday night working on "creating and kicking to space" and "centre plays" we had a focus on seeing if the boys could implement them today. In perfect conditions the first quarter displayed so many great signs of how far you have come. The switching looked great, the running and moving was sharp, the centre breaks went our way every time and the ball holders were making smarter decisions. As the game progressed you kicked clear and whilst there were many opportunities in our forward 50, we struggled to hit leading targets and convert them to goals. Despite this, we were well in front at half time. The half time break allowed us to reset and move the team around with some regular backmen going forward and typical forwards going back. Our purpose for this was to teach our forwards and on ballers to be more accountable. The final quarter showed a slight lapse in concentration and again showed the coaches the importance of rotations off the bench and tightening up in the backline when other teams get rolling. To St Bede's credit they played really strong and deserved the goals they kicked. All in all it was another good victory and opportunity to test out some of the things you have been working on at training.





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### U11 Jets

Highett 9.15 (69) def Ajax 2.0 (12)

Goals: Kranz, Rockman

Best: Aladjem, Balter, Gelbart, Paneth, Rockman

Although the scoreboard made for unpleasant reading today, several U11 Jets players took forward steps today in their football development. Early in the game, it was clear that East Sandringham's talls were going to be a concern so coaches' instructions were to move the ball quickly at all costs by playing on when possible and kicking quickly from marks and free kicks. When Sandi had the ball the Jets' instructions were to chase, tackle, pressure & harass. Both JJ Paneth & JJ Balter were outstanding in that area. To the boys credit they all tried to do those things as best as they could for most of the day but the Sandi talls marked too often too easily. Aiden Gelbart tried hard in the air in defence to negate opposition marks and Josh Rheuben looked very comfortable at CHB. The Jets showed some improvement in their kicking today but still struggled to penetrate when kicking into the slight breeze. We will continue to work on that for the remainder of the year.

### U12 Comets

East Malvern (69) def Ajax 3.5 (23)

Goals: Faigen, Mitsel, Smorgon

Best: Faigen, Graham, Michelson, Pike, Zielinski

Although the win was never within reach today against a high quality opponent, it was pleasing to see the Comets settle as the game went on and make it a real contest, through a shared effort and smart use of the football. It would have been easy to drop away, but that is not the way of the Comets, who are learning that at this level the cumulative value of little efforts (tackles, shepherds, spoils) is huge, and that when we are sharing the ball thoughtfully by hand and foot we can match it with the best. Prominent in the consolidation during the game were Rockman, Pike and Mitsel who led the tackle count, and Feder who led with goal assists. Michelson took some important contested marks and Faigen linked up well in our most telling forward drives. Indeed, there was excellent effort across the entire team, as there will need to be in the challenging games that lie ahead. And the Comets will also need to avoid the lapses in concentration and discipline which occurred at times today and were punished. Playing at this level demands maximum effort and focus, which the Comets have shown in parts of each game so far but must now sustain across for entire games.

### U12 Jets

Ormond 13.13 (91) def Ajax 1.3 (9)

Goals: Harris

Best: Appel, Gaspar, Green, Klein, Worth

It was a promising start to the match today, as the Jets took control of most of the play without making it count on the scoreboard. As has often been the case this year, the 2nd quarter proved the team's undoing, as the boys were unable to stop the opposition's ball movement. Ormond's midfield were given too much space and made us pay, with the backline unable to compete at enough contests. An improved attack on the contest in the 2nd half was pleasing, and needs to be taken into next week. Credit to Elliot and Ayden for working hard all day, and Beau for putting in another consistent performance in his 50th game.



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### U13 Comets

Ajax 10.5 (65) def Highett/Cheltenham 2.5 (17)

Goals: Kaye 3, Alter 2, H.Sheezel 2, Green, Siegel, Wrobel

Best: Green, Herman, Kaye, H.Sheezel, Spicer

The conditions were perfect for football as the U13 Comets took the field against the bottom-of-the ladder Highett/Cheltenham combination and an interesting game ensued. Injuries have hit the team hard over the past few weeks and with some key players missing it was time for others to take responsibility and make the step up for the team. And they did it well with a number of the boys playing their best games for the season. The coaches wanted a more direct approach, more composure and greater accuracy in front of goals and a more even contribution around the ground and in particular in front of goal. It all went to plan but with respect to our opponents who were undermanned but never stopped trying, we have a bigger challenge next week against competition leaders East Brighton.

### U13 Jets

Ajax 10.8 (68) def Ormond 1.3 (9)

Goals: Gunn 3, Alford, Biran, Edwards, Maidenberg, Mooseek, Rose, Star

Best: Edwards, Gunn, Peleg, Schauder, Star

Today was a GREAT result. After a disappointing game last week, the challenge was there to rise above it and show what we can do. We were led out onto the field by our effervescent, long-kicking excitement machine Rosey for his 50th! He is a dynamic player with strong hands and stunning kick. He is given a big and tough task every week and we love how Rosey approaches it!!!

From the outset the endeavour was there, getting our hands to it first. However, what was awesome was the way we shared it today. Without doubt, this was our best ever effort at bringing other players into the match and passing the ball back into the corridor. And the scoreboard reflected that. Q1 and Q2 were just wonderful to watch. Coby Gunn was given the job of forward line rover. Keep it open and then run away from them! By quarter time he had two, finished 3 and had direct hand in about 4 others!! Most importantly he was not beaten, if he did not win it he halved it. Dan Schauder, new to the team, slotted right in, and his strong body and hard run really helped set the tone. On numerous occasions he brought others into the game. We finished with 8 different goals kickers (and I can think of two others who had set shots they could have kicked – so easily could have been 10) which demonstrates how many opportunities we created and how well we shared the footy giving everyone a chance. Of course, the highlight was Rosey kicking one in his 50th and how the whole team mobbed him. The best part of coaching this team is the excitement that they share for each other's success. Q3 and Q4 we threw the team around a little and gave lots of boys a run in different spots. However, what never wavered was the attack on the footy. Q3 we lost our structure a little, however we re-found it in the last and to keep the others side to 1 goal for the day. An outstanding effort.





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### U14 Comets

Beaumaris 15.14 (104) def Ajax 7.6 (48)

Goals: Jacobs 3, Rosenbaum 2, Kanat, Rajch

Best: Barsheshet, Berman, Kanat, Kavallero, Rosenbaum

### U14 Jets

Ajax 6.7 (43) def Port/South Melbourne 4.13 (37)

Goals: Mond 2, Felbel, N. Hershan, Mattatia, Katz

Best: Felbel, Israel, Klooger, Mond, Tobias

Sometimes it's just your day. The boys to their credit they looked switched on pre game. With a couple key players missing it would take a genuine strong willed effort across the board to make a dent in the opposition's impressive win-loss ratio. But by quarter time, led but Brodie Mond, Coby Felbel and a bloodied Marley Israel, the team showed they were here to win! A 6 goal to 1 first quarter gave the boys the self belief to contest against the competitions front-runners, every bit of which was required to hang on for the win. Orren Tobias was again impenetrable in defence and was well supported by returning Captain Dylan 'DP' Hershan, together leading the back six against all sorts of pressure. It was just amazing to watch the commitment from ALL the boys, but particularly Jed Olcha, and Spencer 'Moses' Braby, who were challenged at training this week to give their very best, and they delivered. It was an agonizing last quarter for the parents and coaches to watch. However the lads held firm thanks to some moments of genuine inspiration, none more so than Jake 'matta' Matattia, sprinting 150m across the ground in no time at all just to make a contest and performing a bone rattling tackle on the outer wing. Well done to the players and also well done to the parents for their on-going support throughout the game and during the year so far. It was simply our day today fellas. Let's focus at training with the aim of MAKING days ours!



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## Results

### U15 Comets

Ajax 10.5 (65) def St Bedes/Mentone 7.15 (57)

Goals: Weeden 4, Micmacher 3, Fibishenko, Rosen, Schauder

Best: Brick, Grodski, Herskope, Marabel-Whitburn, Micmacher, Weeden

Well what a terrific day we shared today out at St Bedes. Going in with 1 win and 2 losses, today was a crucially important game in the context of our season. There is an enormous difference between 1 win, 3 losses compared with a 2-2 win-loss ratio. Add to this the fact that St Bedes had come down from Division 1 as they made the grand final in our competition last year, and playing on their home ground, and you can then understand the enormity of the win. To say our boys played well would be understating their performance. Every single one of our 21 players today were absolutely sensational and it was a terrific team effort to get the all-important 4 points. We certainly did go into the game with tactics to win the game of footy and I must say the boys executed our plans very well. Our backline set up worked really well and the openness of our forward line certainly worked a treat in that all important 3rd quarter. But as I said before, during and after the game, you can have all the plans in the world but if you don't have the 3 three main ingredients you will not win these games of football. 1) Tackling, 2) Pressure and 3) 1 percenters are the ingredients we spoke about and our boys implemented these facets of the game brilliantly and that is a major reason why we ended up winning the game. Every player did their bit today - whether it be Tahl's fantastic ruck work, or the 'pesty' Mitsel causing number 9 to have nightmares tonight, or our full back line of Jarrod W, Max M, Kona and Nick Zuker when he was down there, or our half back line including our new addition in Elijah, or our onballers and wingers consistently reading Tahl's dominance in the ruck and getting it out of the middle to an open forward line so often in the 3rd quarter, or our hard working forwards in Dylan, Sam, Aron, Jeremy, Fibi and Lucas in keeping the ball in the forward line - they all did their job and have to be commended. But today was also special for another reason in that Charlie "Pretty" Grodski played his 100th game for the AJAX junior footy club. Charlie's game has gone to another level and as I said today after the game he would clearly be in the All Australian side as a half back flanker. His incredible poise, balance and reading of the play is second to none. He has made all the right changes to his game where he now gets it, has a dash and gets rid of it at the right time. We feel we are in safe hands with Charlie down there as he has become an extremely reliable player. I am so glad we were able to send him off with a win as we did a few years back for his 50th game. Charles, well done mate on the way you have transformed your game and accepted the new challenge in the back line. You are playing superb footy and making Gretch and Chrissy (and your grandparents) extremely proud. Keep up the brilliance.

So well done all on a very good win. We are now even with 2 wins and 2 losses. We go to training on Wednesday and train hard and keep learning, developing and improving. We take on St Peters next week at home and you can be assured we will be talking to the boys at training of the importance of that game.





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## Results

### U15 Jets

Mordialloc Braeside 13.23 (101) def Ajax 0.3 (3)

Best: Davis, Gelfand, Kessell, Lustig, S.Morris

It was another disappointing day for the boys as we once again came up against much better side. We struggled all day to win the ball and make any real use of it coming out of the backline and moving it up the ground. The opposition were able to easily get uncontested marks and move the ball with ease.

We lacked the dare to switch the ball, which has been key focus and could not stem the flow of the opposition's goals. In saying that, the skipper for the day Brayden Lustig lead from the front with his smart decision-making and smart important positioning. Benji Goldberg again applied great pressure and was a great physical presence through the back line and on the wing. Miles Gelfand worked hard all day and Zac Davis gave some drive and clean marking as the spare in the back line. Josh Kessell also battled hard all day.

Ultimately, the boys did not play to the level required to be competitive and to challenge for wins. It is vital that the boys come to training otherwise it will be a hard task to get better. We look forward to next week and another chance to be competitive and hopefully get a win.

### U16 Comets

Ajax 17.13 (115) def St Kilda City 4.4 (28)

Goals: Siegel 5, Chrapot 2, Cowan 2, Garson 2, Jacobs 2, Sharp 2, Elbaum, Guttmann

Best: Bryer, Cowan, Gordon, Krongold, Siegel

A magnificent 4 quarter effort saw the U16 Comets break the shackles with a thumping 13 goal win over 2016 Div. 3 Premiers St. Kilda City. There were winners all over the ground, with captain, Benji Krongold leading from the front. Ethan Siegel added to his tally of 7 goals in Round 7 with another 5 this week. Brett Garson made a welcome return to the team with 2 clever goals and provided a strong target up forward. Dean Gordon was a rock down back. Cam Sharp, playing against his former team, kicked the first goal of the game after a beautiful set up from the back line. From then on AJAX dominated play. 5 goals in the third quarter pretty much sealed the win, and AJAX sailed away from their opponents with a 7 goal final quarter.

The boys raised the roof with the team song, and the win was a real confidence boost to set up a strong second half of the season.

### U17 Comets

St Kilda City 21.11 (137) def Ajax 5.7 (37)

Goals: Gold 2, Gross, Hymans, Michelson

Best: Antman, Nankin, Nirens, Spicer, Zielinski

### U17 Jets

East Sandringham 17.17 (119) def Ajax 2.4 (16)

Goals: Gradman, Wajsbort

Best: Braverman, Briggs, Gradman, Hurwitz, Zeimer

Again this week the U17 Jets showed some great form for three quarters, tackled hard all game but ran out of legs in the end. The effort and intensity was still there.



AJAX FC

# THE WRAP

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