



THE WRAP

Round 14

Congratulations to our U8s and U9s on some great performances at their Lightning Premiership Carnivals. The U11 Comets continued their good form, whilst the U12 Comets had a 1 point win in a classic Division 1 encounter. The U14 Comets had an epic battle which resulted in the club's only draw for the season. The U15 Comets proved too strong in their match, and the U17 Comets fell agonisingly short in appalling conditions in Mentone.

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

Demons Alex Neal-Bullen and Billy Stretch joining some of our younger boys at training





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Milestones

James Apel and Juzi Gross – U11 Jets



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Around the grounds

U12 Comets





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Around the grounds

U15 Comets



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Around the grounds

U16 Comets





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Around the grounds

U17 Comets





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Results

U9 Rockets

With a major winter storm forecasted to hit Melbourne in the early hours of Sunday, The Mighty U9 Rockets prepared for our Lightning Premiership with a solid training focusing on the fundamentals of wet weather football. The boys trained hard and were excited about the weekend's final games rain, hail or shine. There was an eerie feeling on Sunday morning with the expectation of 50km winds driving the rain sideways and the chance of game cancelling hail. I spent the morning checking the BOM radar and weather updates as the clouds began to darken. This did not stop our biggest crowd turning up in force to cheer on the Mighty U9 Rockets. In typical Melbourne fashion, "Stormageddon" never eventuated and even though our first game was played in a consistent downpour, the sun found its way through the clouds by the 2nd and 3rd games. The Mighty U9 Rockets turned up to play and their trademark pressure, intensity and attack on the ball was on show from the opening bounce. Time and time again, our midfield won the hard ball and drove it into our forward line to set up numerous scoring opportunities that our forwards relished. When the ball did find its way into our backline, the opposition had no easy possessions with our backmen playing disciplined man on man defence and worked the ball towards the safety of the boundary corridor and out to our waiting midfield. Over the 3 games, we witnessed the culmination of a season of training hard and learning to work effectively as a team. The constant pressure on the ball carriers, the tackling, the desire to win the hard ball and then release it with handball or a kick to the outside players, the long quick kick to leading players and the shots on goal. All 3 games were truly a pleasure to watch and they were all played in good spirit and with great comradery, It is a privilege to hear our boys' belt out the Ajax song with gusto. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents that assisted and supported our team and most of all thank you to our players for a wonderful 2017 season. With our year coming to an end, we have already started the countdown to the 2018 U10 Rockets. Go Rockets!

U9 Stars

What a fantastic way for the boys in the U9 Stars. to end their fantastic season. The team demonstrated all the skills that they had worked so hard on during this season's training sessions. The tackling was ferocious, the long kicking devastated the opposition, the marking was sublime, and the act that there were so many goals kicked, by so many different players really showed just how well we performed as a team. The coaches highlight was the way the boys supported each other, and celebrated each and every goal as a team, they could not have been happier or prouder. Well done and see you all next season!!!!

U10 Rockets

Our last home and away game saw a terrific effort from all our boys against a well drilled Bentleigh team. It was only some inaccurate kicking in the 3rd quarter that provided the difference in the end. We started with a strong wind and when Samuel converted a set shot which was reward from a great gang tackle we looked on. Unfortunately, despite the ball spending most of the quarter down the Rockets' end, we couldn't find another major. Bentleigh used the strong wind to their advantage in the second quarter. At half time we were reminded by birthday captain Swart that "if they can do it, so can we" and the boys went out all attack for the third quarter. Cohen was absolutely outstanding in the third quarter (his first half was also brilliant) along with Rothfield. Unfortunately our boys were unable to negotiate the left to right wind. We were so proud of the attitude the boys showed throughout the game. There were certainly times throughout the game when they could have dropped their heads but they had the resolve to keep fighting until the end. It is this belief throughout the entire group that will see them come together for success in the Lightning Premiership on Sunday. When the boys are focused we are a very difficult team to beat. At training on Wednesday the focus will be about playing as one - being switched on and not letting any outside influences determine our destiny. We look forward to our last training session and outing as a group on Sunday - it's been a lot of fun.



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U10 Stars

BOYS, Not much more needs to be said! A fantastic year is something all you boys should be very proud of. But let's not get ahead of ourselves! We have our biggest challenge coming next week and we need every single one of you firing!!! Looking forward to seeing all of you on Wednesday and holding up that flag on Sunday!!!!!!

U11 Comets

Ajax 8.7 (57) def St Kilda City 3.2 (20)

Goals: Schwarz 2, Baring, Chrapot, Edwards, Flinkier, Jacobs, Nussbaum

Best: Casper, Epstein, Isaacs, Newett, Rozenes, Sormann

In very wet conditions with 3 x 50 gamers, the first quarter was hard fought and intense. St Kilda City scored early. You were struggling to handle the wet conditions but once you adapted, you were able to move the ball quickly, create space and hit the scoreboard. Again, early in the second quarter it seemed you weren't willing to get your hands dirty, but by half time it seemed we were fully in it and poised to take the game on. During the second half, it was as if a different team turned up to play. Along with some tactical changes, including opening up the forward line, being more direct and kicking the ball long; you started to run and carry the ball better; you kicked to space and hit leads. In the final quarter, we asked you to continue to apply pressure and stamp your authority on the game. You delivered in spades and ran out easy winners. Well done boys.

U11 Jets

Dingley 11.19 (85) def Ajax 3.1 (19)

Goals: Farkas, Pacanowski, Pitt

Best: Gottlieb, Lewin, Paneth, Pacanowski, Rheuben

Today was our final match of the season and we were up against a top 4 side so on a cold and very wet and windy day it was going to be tough. Today was also a day to celebrate 50 games for Juzi Gross and James Apel. Juzi and James have each grown as players during the year so it was great to see them run through the banner and lead their team. From the opening whistle the boys were kicking in to a 3 to 4 goal wind so to restrict Dingley to a few goals was a good result. However as the game went on, Dingley were regularly in front of our boys, had 2 or 3 more players to the ball and we regularly failed to man up at contests. Our boys tried hard all day and never gave up. At times we produced some very good football and it was fantastic to see Jeremy Pitt kick a booming goal in the last quarter. Gavi Gottlieb continued to get his hands on the ball to cap off a very impressive season. Eli Pacanowski who kicked a goal on the siren demonstrated to all what a great player he is and he continued to gather possessions, always keep the ball in front and stay on his feet. Josh Rheuben left his best game to last and was great down back and then went forward to set up Jeremy's goal. Although we did not chalk a win during the season proper it was a credit to all 26 boys that they never gave up and every week they turned up to play. As the season went on the skills of all players improved and hopefully everyone is in good stead for next year. A special thank you to Dave Gelbart our coach. Dave had the enormous job of coaching on his own (albeit ably assisted by Tim and Yehuda). Dave put in so much of his time and was always there to improve the boys' skills. Whilst we were regularly outclassed on the field Dave was always there to mentor and coach the boys such that at season's end, the boys belted out the team song at a level as if we had won the grand final.



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Results

U12 Comets

Ajax 6.7 (43) def Hampton 6.6 (42)

Goals: Becker, Feder, Joseph, Mitsel, Nathan, Segman

Best: Faigen, Graham, Joseph, Nathan, Pike

It is hard to know what is more satisfying: to win the game by one point after coming from behind, or to see how much the Comets have improved in all areas since the previous game against these strong Division 1 opponents when they proved too good for us. Actually, it is both these things and the Comets knew it and they sang the song with real gusto and pride. The most complete performance of the year featured the usual suspects in the midfield, including Graham and Pike who were into everything and Nathan and Nirens who positioned themselves smartly and made telling spoils and interceptions. Faigen and Michelson backed up really well after filling in for the U13 Comets only an hour before, and Zielinski continues to develop and show versatility in key positions all over the ground. Well done to the backs who kept to their task all day, led by Smithson who is tough and smart in equal measure. But when the game needed to be won it fell to the forwards to step up and show how far they have come, to cope with an opposition who had flooded back and then take the chances that were earned through skill and hard work. Everyone contributed, with Feder, Kister and Smorgon in particular doing important things at critical stages, before the decisive shots were taken by Joseph and Becker, the former having earlier dominated in the ruck again. Well done Comets. It was a day to remember and a win to savour. Let's now finish off the season strongly.

U12 Jets

St Bedes/Mentone 4.5 (29) def Ajax 3.8 (26)

Goals: Gaspar 2, Worth

Best: Gaspar, Green, Lowinger, Miltz, Worth

As the rain started to pour down just before the first bounce it was clear that the match was going to be a scrap. Unfortunately, the boys were too often second to the contest, and struggled to match the work rate of St Bedes. We were brought back into the match late in the 3rd quarter on the back of hard in and under efforts by Elliot, Raphi and Beau, but were unable to hold onto the lead in the last quarter. Nadav battled all day despite carrying an injury, while Jack and Asher worked hard in their 50th games.

U13 Comets

East Malvern 7.10 (52) def Ajax 0.1 (1)

Best: Alford, Chrapot, Herman, Jotkowitz, Kaye

The U13 Comets were under the pump from well before the start of the game when they lost their ruckman and two opening midfielders to a Bar Mitzvah and to injuries. Gone was virtually the entire starting midfield line up and with others also out through injury and illness we were facing a crucial game without a full list of players. Had they come to the game ready to play and with the right attitude given that so much was on the line, they might have done better but the opposition were intent on tackling and running hard and they took the advantage with four goals to nil in the heavy rain in the opening term. After that, the horse had bolted. East Malvern closed up the game and the Jackers were unable to make a dent on the scoreboard. They have a last chance to redeem themselves with a must win game against St Kilda City in the final round. Also thanks to Asher, Jack and Saul from the 13 Jets who helped out by playing two games for the day and to Brodie and Jonah from the Under 12 Comets who also came in to ensure we had a full side. Your contributions were valuable and much appreciated.



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U13 Jets

Ajax 6.3 (39) def Mordialloc Braeside 4.13 (37)

Goals: Haeata 3, Alford, Sable, Savitz

Best: Alford, Bierenkrant, Edwards, Haeata, Star

Character is about what you do when you get knocked down. It's not what you do when it's easy. That was the challenge today. Cold & early, tired (after barmis galore) and down a full 1/3 of the team. However, the real challenge was to bounce back from what was a VERY disappointing performance last week. We were playing against a team playing for the finals. And one we owed after they knocked us over earlier in the season when we had the better of them that day. Well I am pleased say that every single one of your boys showed REAL character and real grit. I personally could not be prouder of them. EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM. We won today for two reasons:

1. We wanted it more
2. We played smarter footy

To be honest, Mordy had a number of really good players and generated more opportunities. However we were DESPERATE and we played the wind smarter. Whilst they bombed it long from the dead pocket we switched more times today then the rest of the season combined. That gave us better shots at goal that we converted.

Mayhem at the siren and were in front for one of the gutsiest wins ever!!!!

In case you ever wondered what team sport can deliver for your kid.... Today was it. I am sure that every one of them feels that they uniquely contributed to something special.... Because they DID!!!!

U14 Comets

Ajax 5.5 (33) drew with Ormond 4.9 (33)

Goals: Bergman 2, Barsheshet, Davis, Jacobs

Best: Antman, Barsheshet, Carp, Efron, Rajch

U14 Jets

Beaumaris 11.7 (73) def Ajax 8.15 (63)

Goals: Israel 3, Baron 2, Braby, Katz, Maisner

Best: Baron, Brott, Israel, Mattatia, Rostkier

Today against a top opposition with key soldiers missing and only one bench rotation available, the team simply didn't get the reward they deserved. but that's exactly what they were today, a TEAM!

The focus was simple; take risks and never quit. it was a see-sawing contest all day with very little splitting the teams all day. After a tight first half, the boys were up against it at the final change trailing by 4+ goals. However this is where that 'Never Give Up' mentality shone through. after conceding 2 very sloppy goals early in the term, the team's resolve was strong and in the driving rain managed to trim the margin to 10 points at the final siren, sending a real scare to the opposition. A magnificent team performance was personified by certain players.

Marley Israel, Jake Mattatia and Dov Rostkier and Maxy Kol were monsters all day, and drove the standards with them. Dion Klooger and Nicky Hershan played their best game for the year and it was marvellous to see Timmy Brott get a chance on the ball and take on that terrier role in the absence of key personnel. All players genuinely deserve a mention for their games today, and it's so pleasing to see these boys mature and step up when things looked insurmountable. Thank you also to Coby Felbel for showing up and helping out, even though he is on the injured list and to Jeff Israel for ably filling in the assistant couch/running duties.

Well done to all involved for a fantastic effort. but never be satisfied, we want to finish this season with a WIN!



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U15 Comets

Ajax 8.17 (65) def East Brighton 2.4 (16)

Goals: Weeden 4, Herskope, Marabel-Whitburn, Micmacher, Sheezel

Best: Grodski, Herskope, Marabel-Whitburn, Micmacher, Mills, Taranto

For us today was all about the boys' attitude and willingness to get back to playing the sort of football we are capable of playing. To say our Wednesday night training session was deplorable would be an understatement. We, in effect, told the boys this, and it was how they would respond was the important thing here. To the credit of each and every one, they responded in the best possible fashion in what were horrendous, wintry conditions. We were extremely pleased to see Toby Sheezel and Josh Bursztyn back out on the park today. Both boys had injuries and surgery earlier in the year and to their credit they still maintained a presence at many training sessions and supported the boys on game day. Toov played just the first quarter and clearly left his mark on the game with our first goal and then a magnificent centring ball from the boundary line to set up our second goal. Pure class. Joshy B played his part, laying 4 tackles and getting involved with many of our thrusts forward in conditions which made it very difficult for our tails. He will certainly be better for the run and it was great to see him back out there with his mates. Well done to both boys. Just on our injured players, we are thrilled with Marcel Meltzer's progress and form after a serious ankle injury which then caused significant pain to his heel. Marcel, all your hard work in getting yourself right has paid off and these few runs you have had over the past couple of weeks are invaluable for us, as you are a key player in this team. We look forward to you building on this as we enter the pointy end of the season. Great job. It was terrific to see Aiden Mitsel play a different role for us today. Usually Aiden plays a tagging role and we have nicknamed him the 'pest' as he does such an amazing, annoying job in this role. The 'pest' was freed up today playing forward and his tackling and attack on the ball was first class. We love having Aiden in this team as we know he will give 100% effort all the time. Aiden, don't get too comfortable up forward as your services may be required in 2 weeks' time. Well done mate!! So with 1 game to go in the home and away season, we look almost certain to make the finals. It is a great achievement for the boys to play finals, and we want to prepare them the best way possible for this. We look to St Bedes next week and despite school camps, we want to get out there and have a great hit out, and win, and go into round 1 of the finals series with momentum. If we get the attitude right, we are a really solid team. We will work on this to make sure the attitude is spot on.

U15 Jets

East Malvern 10.6 (66) def Ajax 0.3 (3)

Best: Anidam, Braverman, Meyerowitz, Paneth, Weller

It was a day that provided a really good opportunity for our boys today. Whilst we were going in with a severe disadvantage against the top team with just 16 players it meant that our boys had to play a really smart style of football. It was great to see the boys play with this level of maturity. What started out as a miserable cold and windy day was made worse by rain that started early in the second quarter. To the boys credit they all played their role for the team working hard in around the contest. Zac Weller after his week off came out with a vengeance and won. His work spoiling, tackling and winning the ball was fantastic and he led the way for the boys on that front. Ben Braverman continued his form from last week with outstanding intercept marking and setting up from defence. Miles Gelfand continued running all day providing great energy from the midfield. Amir was also excellent with his ball use and his class and decision-making was a standout. Jordan Engel and Charlie Gladstone both played their best game in a while winning many whilst in the ruck. Sammy Paneth worked hard all game pushing himself to the max and Kivi Franks gave great drive as well through the midfield. Josh Kessell was a rock in defence sweeping up everything coming. Tom was also fantastic with his endeavour to take the game on and showing great mateship in staining up for his team mates. Litai was another who, with a little more opportunity in the midfield, provided great physicality and a strong presence. Overall it was a fantastic effort and all the boys worked very hard for each other to be as competitive as possible.



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U16 Comets

Mordialloc Braeside 14.13 (97) def Ajax 1.10 (16)

Goals: Siegel

Best: Bryer, Elbaum, Krongold, Nirens, Schwartz

The U16 Comets fell well short in their “do or die” encounter against Mordi-Brae at home on Sunday. Ajax got off to a strong start with Corey Schwartz starring in the back line. Going into the quarter time break 4 points down, hopes were high that they could do what no other team has been able to do this season, namely to beat the talented Mustangs. It was not to be. From then on they were out run, out gunned and out played by the unbackable Premiership favourites. Jason Nirens and Benji Krongold did their level best to drive Ajax forward. Aaron Bryer put in another massive “never say die” effort and Liam Elbaum put his body on the line for 4 quarters. Goal sneak, Ethan Siegel kicked our only goal and was his usual creative self up forward. Final game against Ormond next Sunday at home. A big effort could well see the boys finish up the season on a winning note.

U17 Comets

St Bedes/Mentone 10.11 (71) def Ajax 10.8 (68)

Goals: Nankin 3, Hymans 2, Nirens 2, Lincoln, Spicer, Zielinski

Best: Nankin, Nirens, Reichenberg, Smart, Spicer

In what was the final chance for the Comets to be a finals team in 2017, we fell agonisingly short by 3 points to our old rival St Bedes. Having played them 3 times this season and winning by 4 points, losing by 4 points and now 3 points the game was a toss of the coin from start to finish. Using the mantra of “hard work” and “playing the conditions” the team never gave up and played a disciplined accountable game for the 4 quarters. Zac R played his best game for the season at CHB totally overshadowing his opponent, Haydos in his 50th kicked 3 early goals to set the match up for us and Ryley, Smarty & Brad N worked tirelessly on the ball for 90% of the game. ToTrue, Felix, Jess, Rothy, Alon and Brendan never gave up down back with Brendan having a turn in the ruck showing his fitness levels. Matty H & Matty L always looked dangerous, Campbell floated in & out of the game for some scoreboard pressure with Kai & Brad A trying to impose themselves on the game — especially Brad A after half time. Corey, Charlie, Gid & Oli ran hard and gave us some great link play while Spiker never took a backwards step when the hard ball needed to be won. With one final chance to sing the song against City, if we bring our “Ajax Comets” game we will get the result. We may not be winning on the scoreboard the past 2 weeks but the way the Comets have approached the game we have won in many areas that aren't seen and have a lot to be proud of.

U17 Jets

Ormond 30.25 (205) def Ajax 0.0 (0)

Best: Braverman, Gradman, Hurwitz, Kramer, Lowinger



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