



THE WRAP

Round 1

After weeks of training and anticipation, the 2018 season kicked off in fine form. Our new coaches Ken Sheldon, Ted Richards and Stephen Zaylor all enjoyed first up club victories.

It was a momentous day for many, as the U14 Girls enjoyed their first game at Ajax.

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

U14 Girls making their debut



Instagram
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THE WRAP

Around the grounds



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Results

U8 Rockets

BYE

U8 Stars

In terrible conditions the U8 Stars kicked off season 2018. Most of the kids were making their debut but you could not tell based on the skills and desperation that was on display. All the players listened to their coaches and stuck to the team rules and the team was in control for much of the game. The smiles on the faces of the kids (and parents) at the end of the game told the story and the team song was sung with great gusto back in the change rooms. A big congratulations to all the kids for showing the grit and determination to tough out the game for all 4 quarters. The teamwork they displayed showed it will be an exciting season. Lots to work on at training this week but a fantastic start to the season. GO STARS!

U9 Rockets

The U9 Rockets were led out for the 1st game of the year by their captains Ashton Zohar and first gamer, Joel Schimmel. Playing away against East Malvern, the conditions were really tough with wind and rain the whole match. The instructions to the team were to play wet weather footy, nothing pretty, just move the ball forward at all costs. Theo, Remy, Kave and Brad Majman were ferocious at the ball all day and laid some critical tackles. Raleigh was dangerous in front of goal and Factor and Kalby were busy presenting as options. Gillis had some outstanding runs through the middle of the ground, using his size and strength and Oliver showed real courage to play on after getting hurt. After a close first half, East Malvern were able to move the ball quicker in the 2nd half and create more scoring opportunities. Our boys never gave up though and there were some great lessons to take forward into the season, in particular, to be more disciplined in defence. It was a great team effort for the first game of the year and there was plenty to build on! Well done boys.

U9 Stars

The U9 Stars took to Princes Park in tough weather conditions on Sunday to start their season against the Hampton Rovers. Jake and Zac were team Captains, both having worked hard and attended every training session. The team battled hard in the first quarter, with some good drive out of the middle by Harley, Eden patrolling the goal line, and Jax taking on four opponents at one stage to hold the ball up - but the Rovers had a little extra run and polish to take a solid lead. It was similar through the second and third quarters, although there were a few notable efforts by the Stars. Dean Banky shirked tackle after tackle to keep pushing the ball forward, Leo took a nice mark on the goal line, while Hugo showed a knack for running into packs and getting contested ball. The best quarter for the day was the last. At one stage end to end football saw Lex have a good shot at goal - unluckily hitting the post. JJ provided much needed run out of the backline and Jake starred through the mid-field. Continued persistence saw a good goal for Ethan to top it off. It was a good response from the team and encouraging to see the results toward the end from hard work and a bit more urgency. Well done to all that played, including 5 new players who all had an impact.



THE WRAP

Results

U10 Rockets

Over the last few weeks, the U10 Rockets have been training hard, working on their skills, improving their footy IQ and set out to improve with every session. It is amazing to see the improvement and growth of the boys since last year. With another preseason under their belts, the mighty U10 Rockets were raring to get out there and play their opening match against the Hawks. While we have all been spoilt with unbelievable weather over the last month, today promised to bring on winter and it delivered it in spades. Despite the driving rain and cold, a fantastic crowd made the pilgrimage to Columbia Park to support and cheer our boys. From the opening bounce, the game was played at a ferocious pace and our boys' intensity, attack on the ball and tackling pressure was a privilege to watch. The ball was continually driven long to our forwards and the team was rewarded with multiple goals. Our boys played beautiful team football, sharing the ball with smart hands and kicking with precision. They fought hard through every quarter and were rewarded with the joy of singing the club song with great pride and gusto.

Overall it was a great opening match. We are looking forward to working hard as a team, to improve each week and most importantly have fun.

U10 Stars

The AFL might be four rounds in, but the real footy finally got underway today. The Stars are back. They are back in a big way.

It has been a long-time coming, with some exciting new talent joining, a little bit more "meat on the bones" and a growing maturity in the team. This is not the same group that stood tall in 2017. This a professional, well-drilled outfit that is going places. And what a way to start!

In cold and wet conditions, the Stars recorded their finest performance to date against a determined Port Melbourne. No passengers. No excuses. Much to the delight of the coaches the boys all turned up ready to play. The effort was best summarised by the classy and generous comments from the Port coach who said, the Stars had given a "footballing lesson". Well done boys. Keep up the fantastic effort and see you at training.



THE WRAP

Results

U11 Rockets

Ajax 12.14 (86) def Murrumbeena 3.2 (20)

Goals: Lakman 6, Levy 2, Gunn, Ickowicz, Krasnostein, Swiatlo

Best: Cohen, Gunn, Krasnostein, Lakman, Owide

It's been 244 long days since the Rockets ran out as a team and today they launched with a bang. The team welcomed new additions Jethro Gunn and Toby Rubin into the side both of whom made their presence felt. This was the teams first game for premiership points and their first game without zones. We have spoken throughout the preseason that we need to see effort. It is our teams non-negotiable. Effort might be in laying a tackle or chasing someone down, picking up an opposition player or just using your voice on the field. Today we saw plenty of effort and a fair bit of skill too.

It was a fantastic start from every boy on the list. A special thanks goes out to our injured number 5, Jason Brott who did a brilliant job encouraging his teammates and helping the coaches with the magnetic board. His presence certainly helped the boys on the day.

U11 Stars

Ajax 9.7 (61) def Hampton Rovers 3.5 (23)

Goals: Alford 2, Pitt 2, Zukerman 2, Gordon, Shaw, Szwarc

Best: Katz, Klein, Micmacher, Pitt, Zukerman

After a solid preseason completed, the Lightning Premiership Champions were excited for today's game. Training has been in glorious sunshine with dry grounds. The conditions today were not what the players were used to with wind and rain, on a wet surface. After learning from the Coaches about showing respect and taking pride in representing the Ajax football jumper the boys came out with a scintillating start to the game kicking first 5 games in 13 minutes!

The tackling, kicking and pressure was first class as the boys played some great team play involving all players. They were asked to be first to the ball which they did and this helped set up a number of plays forward. The run on of great play continued into the fourth quarter kicking the first nine goals of the game before Hampton kicked their first goal. The team's performance was inspiring and the boys sung the team song with enthusiasm. A great start to the season.

A special mention to the first game players, Benji Felman, Joseph Rink (Co-Captains today) and Zev Gordon. They all played as though they had been part of the team for a long time.

Also mention to our team manager Jeff Alford and Marcel Pitt for all the behind the scenes work to get the team out on the ground! Well done to the Under 11 Stars. We're excited for the year ahead to see more improvement as individuals and to see team develop further.



THE WRAP

Results

U12 Comets

Ajax 7.5 (47) def St Kilda City 3.3 (21)

Goals: Rozenes 2, Casper, Haeata, Isaacs, J Schwarz, O Sormann

Best: Balter, Baring, Flinkier, Haeata, Jacobs, Klein

In very wet conditions the Comets came out against their arch rivals from last season. After winning the toss, and choosing to kick with a stiff tail the boys slammed on 3 goals and open up a handy lead at the break. The tackling pressure was great, and we gave the opposition very little space to execute their game plan. By half time City had been able to kick two of their own, and the game was delicately poised. Comets were getting too far forward of the ball and were caught out on a number of occasions where they were able to score easy goals. The second half was a well-controlled effort by the comets who switched the ball on a number of occasions with great success. We kicked 4 more goals to run out easy winners.

U12 Jets

Ajax 7.5 (47) def East Sandringham 2.4 (16)

Goals: Chrapot 2, Pitt 2, Gross, Houseman, Segal

Best: Aladjem, Benzur, Chrapot, Pacanowski, Rockman, Shostak

In wet and windy conditions, the Jets came out to play before a healthy crowd at home. Within minutes their intent was clear and it had immediate effect on the scoreboard. Following the coaches' specific instructions, the second and third efforts of the team led to several scoring opportunities, which were swooped upon. Chrapot and Pitt kicking 2 goals for the quarter helped the team to a 5 goal lead by the first break. The tone having been set, for the rest of the game the whole team gave 100% to ensure the victory. Harris and Moss, two of the new players to the team, made a notable difference and the tough in and under work of Benzur, Pacanowski and Shostak ensured that the early lead was built upon. Ultimately it was a great first up victory for the Jets with lots of positive signs for the season ahead. After forming a guard of honour to welcome the U14 Jackettes for their historic first game, the boys returned to the rooms and sang the club song to much delight.



THE WRAP

Results

U13 Comets

Ajax 9.4 (58) def East Sandringham 5.13 (43)

Goals: Zielinski 2, Faigen, Gaspar, Graham, Kister, Marabel-Whitburn, Nirens, Pike

Best: Graham, Nathan, Nirens, Pike, Zielinski

First up assignments do not come much tougher: away to a strong Division 1 side which beat us well twice last year. We knew that it would take maximum effort just to compete against much taller opponents who love to run and spread. Enter maximum effort. The U13 Comets were everywhere, hunting the ball in numbers and providing support to one another through countless tackles, smotherers and bumps. Clearances were won, marks were held and the forwards kicked straight. We were immense. Make no mistake, there are areas of our game that need improvement. Lapses in concentration at the end of quarters resulted in goals, which could prove telling on another day. We need to keep working on our skills and practice hard, at training and at home. The season has only begun. But today was our day, and singing the club song with gusto was just reward for a fantastic team effort in which EVERY player played their part. Sigokeor, Gaspar and Liberman enjoyed their first win in this team, each making important contributions. Well done U13 Comets.

U13 Jets

BYE

U14 Girls

East Sandringham 4.5 (29) def Ajax 2.1 (13)

Goals: Efron, Gold

Best: Y Alford, Amira, Efron, Klooger, Werdiger

In Red, Black and White the girls ran out to play their first ever game of football. Neither rain nor hail was to stop these girls as they emerged as a strong side grasping the first goal off the ferocious boot of Coco Efron. Freeda Werdiger was a strong presence throughout the match as she dominated the ruck, strongly supported by a focussed team with special callouts to Yael Alford, Romy Klooger, and newly appointed captain Romi Amira. The team was rewarded late in the 4th quarter when Dalia Gold scored the team's second goal. While the team fell short of the win it was clear to those on the side line that the girls worked hard and exceeded all our expectations with an all round tremendous effort. As coaches we are extremely excited to watch as the girls improve their skills every week in the hopes of bagging a win for the team.



THE WRAP

Results

U14 Comets

Ajax 7.8 (50) def Hampton Rovers 1.1 (7)

Goals: H Sheezel 2, Chrapot, Lowe, Light, Michelson, Potash

Best: Green, Light, Lowe, Potash, H Sheezel

In windy and wet conditions the Comets started the year with a tough hard fought win over Hampton. A new look Comets for 2018 with 3 first gamers and Steve Zayler coaching at AJAX for the first time, started the game well and had a 4 goal lead by quarter time. Co-captains Rafi, Brad and Harry led by example and set the tone for the day. The first gamers in Eitan, Mikey and Daniel attacked the ball hard and backed themselves at every contest. The defence stood tall and worked hard together to repel attacks. Our on ballers controlled the midfield and centre clearances. Our forwards attacked the ball and created many opportunities for our smalls to get into the play. Each player contributed and it was a fantastic team effort in round one. With a game plan, more practice and injured players returning in the coming weeks this team will be great to watch.

U14 Jets

Ajax 4.3 (27) def East Sandringham 1.7 (13)

Goals: Alford, Biran, Mushin, Rose

Best: Alford, Gaddie, Jotkowitz, Peleg, Shaw

Welcome back to footy! How good is it?! Especially with a good win like that! Today the boys were up against East Sandy in wet and blowy conditions. We were led by Jack as Capt, who made his usual strong contribution, leading the boys, taking overhead marks and driving the ball deep. Fantastically we had 6 new boys in the team today! Each and one of them made an awesome contribution! Lachie was outstanding down back with his 'partner in crime' Behm. Easy highlight was the chase down and tackle on the goal line saving a certain goal. Reuben played across half forward. Created chances and most importantly really went hard at the footy. Wally was played deep in the forward line with clean hands fed the ball out a number of times and was always a threat. Callum was dangerous up forward, strong on the ball and then in the last quarter a commanding presence in the back line. Muggsy celebrated his birthday with what will for sure become his trademark, attack, tackle, fight for the ball and then just kill it! Jasper was a amazing across half forward. Attacked the footy hard, was always creating chances and kicked a 35m check side on the run to ice the game! Overall it was a fantastic team performance. With all of our goals coming from real team play. We looked dangerous whenever we went forward, especially Gabe, Saul and Jasper. Bizza was strong and used the ball really well, Ron got on the end of one and there is nothing better watching Rosey rove the pack and snap truly! The Moose ran hard from the wing and half forward. Coby Gun covered more kilometres then anyone, burning up the wing and from the full backline all the way to the forward 50! What also delighted was the way the backline worked together. Took on HUGE opponents and took numerous fantastic contested marks, including Behm, Lachie, Savo. Behm's game was outstanding, marking, winning contested footy and driving the ball out of the backline. In the middle Saul worked like a monster and was a dominant player whilst Gabe in his first game as a ruck was a force both in the middle (a few huge tackles) and VERY dangerous up forward. Benny Shaw was outstanding running flying off the edge of the pack and laying a game changing chase down tackle. Tatzi smashed his way out of the backline and in the middle. A highlight being a huge bump on centre wing, pick up the footy, hands over the top that put a teammate into space and resulted in a goal. Zargis was a controlling influence in the backline with a few strong marks and then on the ball was the tough in and under that we know! Sabe worked hard all day and gave great drive out of the midfield. Well done boys!!!! What an awesome start to the season!



THE WRAP

Results

U15 Comets

Ajax 6.10 (46) def Highett/St Pauls 5.9 (39)

Goals: Jacobs 2, Spark 2, Rajch, Rosenbaum

Best: Davis, Kanat, Mitsel, Rajch, Spark

After a strong pre-season with plenty of hard work and commitment, it was great to finally to start the season and implement some of the things we have been practising over the summer.

Unfortunately, bad weather and slippery conditions turned it into a slog and it was always going to be the team that wanted it more were going to get the 4 points.

Our start against the wind was really encouraging, scoring 2.2 to their 0.3 pts giving us a handy 11 point lead at quarter time. The commitment and pressure was fantastic and to outscore Highett was a really strong effort and ultimately the difference between us winning and losing the game.

Again in the 2nd quarter we dominated the ball but wasted it but not putting it on the scoreboard adding only 2.6 and a late goal to Highett on the siren undid a lot of our good work leaving us with a 23 point lead at the half time break.

We are not sure what happened during the break, but we will definitely address this next week. Our whole game plan seemed to opened up by the opposition, and they were scoring at will adding 5.4 to us failing to score. We can see clearly now that if our work rate and pressure drops off, that other teams will take advantage and a lot of hard work goes out the window. At 3/4 time we were looking up against it trailing by 6 points and all the momentum against us.

But to our boys credit, we dug deep in the last quarter to get the game back on our terms and we kicked 2.2 to their 0.2 and won a close fought battle ending with a 7 point win. We commend the resilience to fight back, especially after getting behind at 3/4 time, but there are still many facets of the game we can improve in. Anyway, well done to the team and we hope this has given you some confidence and reward for your hard work.

This was a small step in our journey, lets continue to train hard and continue with a positive attitude.

U15 Jets

Mordialloc Braeside 8.20 (68) def Ajax 2.2 (14)

Goals: Atzmon, Katz

Best: Atzmon, Felbel, Maman, Mond, Schwarz

No match report supplied



THE WRAP

Results

U16 Comets

Ajax 13.11 (89) def East Sandringham 2.1 (13)

Goals: Weeden 6, Sheezel 2, Taranto 2, Erez, Freeman, Schauder

Best: Chrapot, Herskope, Marabel-Whitburn, Sheezel, Weeden

The season's opener was very pleasing for our U16 team.

In difficult windy and wet conditions we committed and stayed on task for the entire four quarters.

Led by our three acting captains – Cobi, Toby & Jack – we executed our team plan with a consistent high work rate and were without a “passenger” as every player including the injured Dylan as runner and Jonah as assistant coach for the match made a significant contribution.

U17 Comets

Ajax 26.18 (174) def St. Kilda City JFC 5.0 (30)

Goals: Zielinski 7, Gold 5, J. Nirens 3, Jacobs 2, Smart 2, Antman, Hendel, Lincoln, Nankin, B. Nirens, Schwartz, Spicer

Best: Krongold, Lincoln, Michelson, B. Nirens, Smart

PEANUTS, GET YOUR PEANUTS!!! And there were plenty to be had at Peanut Farm Reserve on Sunday – that is if “Peanuts” is synonymous with “Goals”. Ajax U17 opened their season with a 144 point thumping against an extremely undermanned St. Kilda City. AJAX had 12 different goal kickers, including bags of 7 by Corey Zielinski and 5 from Kai Gold. In difficult conditions, AJAX combined well, always looking to exploit their weakened opponents. The players were given the opportunity to play in a variety of positions and responded well. Special mention to the brothers Nirens who combined beautifully to open our account in the first quarter.

Thanks to all the parents who braved the weather to help out and support the team.

The U17's will need to keep their heads down and the lid firmly on as they take on Cheltenham/Highett at Princes Park next week.



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