



THE WRAP

Round 8

A momentous Round 8 saw our U14 Girls win their first game of the season. A great day was enjoyed by all and hopefully just the first of many great wins ahead.



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Around the grounds



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Around the grounds





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Results

U8 Rockets

It did not take long for the Rockets to be introduced to a disciplined, skilful, fast and talented bunch of juniors. And by game's end, most were licking the wounds of a whollop - not that anyone was keeping score! Having said that, our Rockets were dealing with some adversity; the withdrawal of a player to sickness on the morning of the game, a lost tooth (albeit, a wobbly one which fell out on the bench) and too many shoelaces coming undone at unfortunate times to count. Football wise, we played a second quarter of sublime football against a red-hot opponent, which allows us to believe that we can do it when we are 'on'. It is now a matter of finding the switch. For now, the Queen's Birthday bye comes at an opportune time for young bodies, desperate for a rest after the hectic first half of the season..

U8 Stars

It was a cold and chilly morning but the sun was shining and the Stars were pumped. Even a last minute kick-off reschedule couldn't throw the boys off their game. Rousing speeches by captains Ariel and Josh put the boys in the right frame of mind. As always coach Tutti (Adam) gave an inspirational talk that paid immediate dividends. Ajax were first to score and snapped a quick goal only minutes into the game. The opposition were tough but the Stars managed to work well together, passing and using their voices. The late start time meant a big crowd cheering on the boys throughout the fierce contest. The stars played another amazing match and look forward to a well-earned break next week.

U9 Rockets

On a brisk morning, the U9 Rockets were led out against East Malvern by their captains Rosenberg & Smorgon. They started the game on fire with relentless pressure in the midfield by B. Majman and Smorgon ensuring first use of the ball. Kave dominated the 1st quarter kicking 3 goals of his own and Feldman produced some strong leads to space and jostled nicely to win front position. At quarter time, the coaches reminded the team not to relax and ensure they stayed switched on for the whole game. The boys responded with a great 4 quarter effort. Gelfand took some great marks and always took his time to find the right option. Ami, the smallest guy on the field, put his head over the ball and showed a real hunger for the contest. Oliver took some strong marks in defence and Szwarc and Suss showed quick hands to get the ball out of congestion. Sacks and Factor were really dangerous and were part of some great linking plays. In an incredible 3rd quarter effort, Rosenberg's marking and ability to win the ball had him kicking 3 goals, which could have easily been more. It really is unfair to single out players as this team is combining so nicely each week and everyone is doing their bit when it counts. The boys are looking forward to the Queen's birthday break and then hitting the 2nd half of the season hard! Well done boys.



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Results

U9 Stars

The U9 Stars came to Princes Park early Sunday morning to kick off the first game on Oval 4. Captains Jack S and Zac B gave a stirring speech that Barrassi would have been proud of, and led the boys onto the field with pride, bringing their families plenty of Nachas. The chopped liver and challah must have worked from Shabbat Dinner, as the midfield dominated early with Nadav racking up possessions at will, and Captain Jack leading by example. The forwards held their structure well and capitalised, while the backmen set up the impenetrable wall. The second quarter was a scoring frenzy as Josh Beebe got a hat trick of goals, Jaxon fought hard to keep the ball inside our 50, and Zac O kept his scoring from last week alive. Unfortunately we fell asleep a little in the third quarter, where the backline came under heavy attack and tried to hold on for dear life. This fired up the team for the big fourth quarter, where Jake, Harley and Josh L controlled the midfield, constantly sending the ball forward. The forward line structured perfectly with JJ and Gid each guarding space to pass it in to Noah, Zac B, Ethan and Jordan. The team looks like they are gelling together well – learning their positions and passing to each other. It is a pity we can't carry the momentum into this week due to the Queen's Birthday Bye.

U10 Rockets

On a gorgeous, albeit chilly winters morning with clear skies and sunshine, the mighty U10 Rockets lined up against the Benteigh on the opposition's home oval that rivals Princes Park. Once again, our opposition had a few bigger players but that does not faze the Rockets. The Rockets look forward to playing any team and are now well drilled to play accountable, man on man, contested footy. Rarely are the opposition allowed easy possessions or uncontested marks. From the opening bounce, the Rockets fought hard to win the ball and get it moving forward to an open forward line. Every time the opposition win the ball and look forward, they are faced with every one of their teammates having an U10 Rockets player by their side. This group of boys play disciplined, team football. Their skills and footy IQ improve with every outing. Their hard work and determination was exemplified by one passage of play that was arguably AFL quality. Our boys moved the ball from deep in our backline to the forward line without the ball touching the ground or the opposition getting near it. It was a highly skilled chain of 6 kicks and 6 marks. Once we won the hardball, our Rockets ran to the open space to create the option, used their kicking skill to hit their targets on the run and kept the ball moving quickly and it ended with a strong lead and mark by our full forward. The icing to this perfect sequence was hearing the siren blow and watching our player go back and coolly slot the ball straight through for the six points. This was football at its finest. Every week the Rockets come up against quality opposition and every week they show that they have what it takes to play with the big boys. No more blow outs for this team. Every game has been fiercely contested and has gone down to the wire. It is a privilege to be witness to this group of boys becoming a strong football team. We never get tired of hearing them belt out the club song.



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Results

U10 Stars

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. It was a day of light and darkness, of hope and of despair. But, in the words of Winston Churchill, “if you find yourself in hell, just keep going.” So it was, on this winter’s day, that the Stars found themselves on the dark side of the moon with only the light of their collective endeavours to guide the way. The Bloods had assembled a formidable force of tall, strong and disciplined players. The Stars, led by captains “A great left foot step for mankind” Taj Gross and “Watch me whip or watch me nene” Gab Paluch, knew it was going to be tough. In the spirit of those who dare to go where no others dare, Taj set the tone with his stirring speech noting that toughness in the tackle will see them through. Both Captains set about leading by example throughout the first quarter. Taj with his trade mark hard running (and bicycle kick for goal) was able to finish the first quarter with a goal and Gab with his lightning dash and running clearing kick out of the backline was in every contest. After a series of inspired coaching moves, the Stars would explode into the super nova of their potential. In this moment, we saw the men these boys would one day become. Stronger together. The rucks and rovers were first to the ball, the centres would hunt in pack, the back line was a fortress and the forwards tireless and electric. The Bloods launched repeated attacks deep into the Star’s defence. Ethan’s tackling, Harry’s kick- outs and contested possessions and Gabriel’s defensive marking held them at bay.

U11 Rockets

Ajax 10.7 (67) def St Paul’s McKinnon 4.1 (25)

Goals: Levy 2, Lakman 2, Cohen, Gunn, Ickowicz, Mehl, Rothfield, Sormann

Best: Gunn, Krasnostein, Lakman, Sormann, Simmons, Werdiger

A beautiful sunny day with a forecast temperature of 15 degrees made for a spectacular day at the footy. The Rockets hadn’t played a home game in front of the South Caulfield locals for a few weeks and were keen to show off the form that has seen them as the only undefeated Ajax team. In their 4th season of Ajax football, Ethan was the first to reach the milestone of 50 games. The coaches reminded the group to focus on winning each contest, help out their teammates and tackle hard. Do that and the result will take care of itself. Captains Kagan and Naphtali led the team out to face a formidable foe in St Paul’s McKinnon. The first quarter saw a tight contest with two goals apiece. Nico Levy, who was wearing a black armband to honour his great grandmother who passed away overnight, was on fire. He completely blitzed the St Paul’s backline managing to kick both our goals including one over his head. The second quarter saw Nico continue where he left off, this time playing as rover. He was sensational as he had three kicks on the far wing, each time following his kick and impacting the next play. Then the unthinkable happened as he got crunched and had to come off. He was incredibly brave as it was later discovered that his collarbone had been fractured. He will be sorely missed and we hope to welcome him back for the last few games of the season. The third quarter was another huge quarter from the Rockets as we smashed on 4 goals to 1 behind. Lakman scored his second while Ickowicz and Gunn also got on the score sheet. Mehl joined them with a huge goal that bounced through. The final quarter saw a tight tussle. Werdiger was continuing to play an excellent game, highlighted by a couple of solid marks down back and long clearing kicks. Jethro, Ethan, Mini and Samuel were great until Ethan got crunched and had to end his 50th on the bench. Nathan Cohen was swung into the forward line and snagged a good goal giving us a solid 42 point win.



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Results

U11 Stars

Hampton 9.11 (65) def Ajax 5.4 (34)

Goals: Szwarc 2, Alford 2, Katz

Best: Borsky, Katz, Micmacher, Pitt, Zukerman

We had the best training session of the season on Wednesday. There was lots of teamwork, communication on field, great contesting work and a fine display of foot and hand skills. The boys were enthusiastic and were confident for today's game. The first 15 minutes was again our best for the game. If we had kicked straight we could have had 5 or 6 goals and had a handy lead. Nevertheless we had a good team effort with lots of tackling, running and quick delivery to the forward line. The second quarter was a letdown with our backmen leaving the opposition unchallenged allowing many goals to be kicked. We tried to fight back with a reply goal, still giving us a chance at half time. In the second half, many positional changes were made to rotate the players positions. There were patches of good play, particularly in the fourth quarter where we had the ball locked in out forward line for a good period of time. Unfortunately, only two goals for the half. Special mention to Asher Moalem for celebrating his 50th game. We had many good contributions today from Jeremy Borsky who has elevated to a new level, Eiden Pitt for his tireless efforts in the ruck, Dion and Hayden for their hard ball gets, Manny for his exquisite skills, and Itai and Raph for providing targets up forward. We also need to mention Zac Nathan for his solid ruck contribution and Zev Gordon for his running attack out of defence.

U12 Comets

Ajax 12.6 (78) def St Kilda City 1.6 (12)

Goals: Haeata 3, Schwarz 2, Sormann 2, Fell, Isaacs, Mimeran, Nussbaum, Rozenes

Best: Incredible team effort

Today was an incredible opportunity for the team to put into practice the structure we have been working on in the last month. The weather was perfect with sun was shining and not a breadth of wind.

Pre game, the coaches messages were kept simple but consistent. We emphasised the importance of running in numbers, sharing the ball and using the centre-man and wings as we move the ball from the backline forward. Inspired by a pre match talking from Ben, the boys were firing from the first bounce and very quickly we could see that they were on and ready to play. A clean clearance out of the centre was followed with some neat hand balling and strong numbers at the ball and bang we kicked our first goal. For the whole quarter the boys were relentless in their endeavour and they shared the ball beautifully to come in at quarter team with a strong early lead. The commanding lead allowed the coaches to move players around and in the second quarter it was fantastic to see the boys who were out of their normal positions work hard and create chances for our forwards. At half time the coaches asked for the boys to make the most of the opportunity and reminded them that they needed to run in numbers and waves and as the boys always do they took it literally. As a result their second half was a pleasure to watch for everyone and I have no doubt even better to be a part of for the players. All 22 players today did things that were special, be it hand balling to running players, centring the ball, punching from behind or honouring the leads from their team mates.



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Results

U12 Jets

Ajax 12.13 (85) def East Brighton Vampires JFC 1.3 (9)

Goals: Chrapot 5, Aladjem, Farkas, Gottlieb, Kranz, Pacanowski, Rheuben, Shostak

Best: Chrapot, Gottlieb, Gross, Kranz, Pacanowski, Paneth, Werdiger

Rhueben goaled early in his 50th and marked the ball well all day while his co-forward Chrapot was dangerous in front of goal all day kicking a bag of 5 goals. With Werdiger in the ruck, Gross played across CHB and was at his brilliant best, completely controlling marking contests all day dragging down at least 12 big marks for the day. Gottlieb, Pacanowski and Rockman dominated the mid field all day constantly driving the ball forward and when Farkas was moved into the middle he took off where his teammates left off playing a very clever role in the centre. Keddie had a breakout game and Shostak keeps on improving every week and is becoming a real weapon for the Jets with his run, carry and use of handball in tight situations. His miracle goal in the first half was a highlight. But the move of new captain Paneth from the backline into the middle set the Jets alight today. Also huge thanks to Michael Harris for running the boundary today even though Felix wasn't playing – another selfless team act. We have set the boys the task of working on their game at home and so far the results are showing. With the break looming it is crucial that the boys continue to improve their games every week.

U13 Comets

East Sandringham 6.11 (47) def Ajax 3.4 (22)

Goals: Faigen, Marabel-Whitburn, Segman

Best: Faigen, Kister, Nathan, Pike, Segman

At home on oval 1 in beautiful but chilly conditions, the Comets came out firing against traditional rivals East Sandringham. Great pressure all over the ground was topped off with strong marking from Marabel-Whitburn and excellent defensive efforts from Smithson, Michelson and Okun amongst others. In the second half the early efforts eventually took a toll and when some opportunities were missed up forward the chance for another stirring victory against these strong and aggressive opponents was lost. The Comets should feel that this was an opportunity that got away, that our best will see us compete with the best in this Division 1, but that it will take maximum effort and focus from everyone for the full 4 quarters to see us on the winners list again. Let's make sure we make it happen next game.

U13 Jets

Ajax 9.9 (63) def Murrumbeena 4.2 (26)

Goals: Goldfarb 4, Miltz 2, Gasper, Jacobs, Worth

Best: Cohen, Gasper, Goldfarb, Green, Harris

Our boys made us very proud today. Their performance was methodical and we quickly secured the win. Our defensive efforts were immense all day and it set us up on the way to a strong victory. Choosing the 5 best players today was genuinely a nightmare. Of our 20 active players, we were splitting hairs over 12-13 of them. We agreed today was a crucial game for us and we challenged them to play 'unsociable' and physical football. It's fair to say they responded to that challenge really well. From here we'll keep on building our season!



THE WRAP

Results

U14 Comets

Mordialloc Braeside 8.8 (56) def Ajax 1.5 (11)

Goals: C Sheezel

Best: Herman, Light, Potash, Schauder, H Sheezel

Another tough day at the office for the U14 Comets with injuries starting to play a deciding factor in an otherwise promising season. Coming off a super-competitive effort in Round 7, for the 3rd week in a row the Comets came into the match without a bench after Remy Spicer was ruled out for the season earlier in the week followed by the late withdrawals of Logan Siegal and Maor Chrapot. Despite the setback, the Comets still took the game right up to Mordy Brae with Harry Sheezel, Brad Lowe & Raphy Light leading from the front and doing everything in their power to drag their team to an-against-the-odds win. Binny Flescher & Callum Sunshine made the step up from Divvy 4 adding some much needed grunt to our defence stopping what could have easily become a rout. Dan Schauder, Ryan Herman and Eitan Potash also put in a power of work across the half-back line parrying Mordy's attacking bursts with their running game giving our half-forwards every opportunity. With many of our starting 18 carrying their own niggles and strains into the game, the frenetic pace eventually took its toll allowing Mordy Brae to run out comfortable winners in the end. Despite the result, the Comets showed yet again that they have the talent and desire to match-it with the top-of-the-table teams and one only wonders what this team could do with a full list at their disposal. Hopefully with a bye this week we will get to see what the Comets are really capable of after some much needed rest for their battle weary bodies.

U14 Girls

Ajax 6.10 (46) Defeated East Malvern 1.4. (10)

Goals: Klooger 3, Baron, Gold, Kacser

Best: Amira, Gold, Jaffe, Kacser, Klooger, Mihalovich, Werdiger

The Jackettes won their first win of the season with an emphatic 46-10 win over East Malvern. The girls were switched on and in command from early in the first quarter, kicking away to lead 24-6 at the half time break. With a full side in, the coaches rotated the full list of players to good advantage, which helped the team to score a further 3 unanswered goals in the second half, and finish with the teams highest score of the season. Romy Klooger was a standout with 3 goals, however it was a strong performance from the entire team, who are starting to gel together really well. The girls sang the club song with full gusto for the first time this season on the field, and then a second time in the club rooms as they farewelled assistant coach Eliana Mihalovich, who is making Aliya and joining the Israeli Army. All parent, players and club wish Eliana safe travels and success. Go Jackettes!!



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Results

U14 Jets

Ajax 4.9 (33) def Ormond 1.6 (12)

Goals: Alford, Bierenkrant, Biran, Gunn

Best: Bierenkrant, Edwards, Gaddie, Peleg, Sable

Yeah! It's good to be back on the winners list!!! Today we jumped out really well and controlled the first quarter. We did really well but just did not quite the result on the scoreboard and went in with a 2 goal lead. Pressure was great and manning the mark actually earned us a goal (and in the third is saved us a goal). Luke was electric from half back to full forward. Q2 we the desire left our game and we seemed content to watch the ball and run second to it. With that we let Ormond back into the match. Q3 the fire was rekindled and the effort lifted, though it was not consistent. However there were some amazing efforts, like Muggsy across the backline. Yoav chasing their biggest player for 50m and forcing a skill error. Q4 we got it RIGHT. The pressure was HIGH, Bizza went from being an awesome fullback to taking towering contested marks up forward. Judah who had been good all day was a like a dog with a bone. 3 HUGE tackles, chases and plenty of the ball. Pacman – I mean Jack was amazing all day taking contested pack mark after contested pack mark as well as providing drive all around the ground. Sabe was fierce all day making the contest, in around the pack and running though and delivering the ball up the field. Ron played a great game, taking marks, playing in front and really making a contest. Never getting rebounded off! Behm was a tower in the backline, often the last man yet NEVER beaten. Luke, started brilliantly and ran all day. Always dangerous, and found some form again with his string overhead marking! It was great to see Coby Gunn surging forward from the wing, Reuben fight over the ball at both ends and Zac Margis's toughness. All up the run and effort of the boys was there in Q1, Q3 and especially in Q4.

U15 Comets

Ajax 11.4 (70) def Highett/St.Pauls 4.6 (30)

Goals: Jacobs 6, Kavallero 2, Shostak 2, Spark

Best: Baron, Bergman, Ehrlich, Jacobs, Ostilly



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Results

U15 Jets

Ajax 11.11 (77) def Ormond 4.3 (27)

Goals: Dzienciol 3, Katz 2, Mond 2, Atzman 2, Lindell, Maman

Best: Felbel, Kras, Reitberger, Rostkier, Segman

After such a dramatic and exhausting game last week it was a relief to all of our hearts to pick up the win on this occasion in relative style. The challenge was plainly laid down to the boys by Leigh, Joonie, and myself. To maintain the effort and intensity of last week. A shabby, almost despondent warm up had us worried but from the time the ball was bounced the team couldn't have been more focused. With the return of 'heart and soul' player Shai Chabat, and our skilful road-runner Jake Mattatia, we re-entered the sheds at HT well in front in terms of both the scoreboard and endeavour. We were challenged hard in that second quarter, however wrestling back control, we showed fantastic character and ability, never giving them a sniff again. First year player Harley was a GINORMOUS presence on the wing during this period. 2 consecutive chase down tackles the highlight of the day and swung the momentum back favourably. Thankfully the second half was more of the same. This is so promising as the base standards of the group proving to have risen dramatically since the bye. It was a team performance all round. But bookended by Jake Schwartz and Liam Maman in the backline and Jamie Dzienciol and Tamir (I don't know your last name) in the forward line, we had a strong foundation of attack and defence. Well done again to our Skippers Dylan and Coby for leading the team so maturely and commendably, and to the forward line as a whole, sharing the goals around and functioning their best all year.

So another win in the bank as we look to climb from the basement ladder position, and build an assault on the finals. The effort and mindset being displayed by the collective team is first class and must surely continue to reach our goal of finals footy. Great game, A needed percentage boost. Let's keep this up. Enjoy the win boys.

U17 Comets

Ajax 15.8 (98) def Ormond 8.3 (51)

Goals: Zielinski 5, Efron 2, Gold 2, Ossip 2, Hendel, Lincoln, Michelson, Siegel

Best: Efron, Jacobs, Krongold, Spicer, Zielinski

With a pre-game rev-up from Coach Ken Sheldon, the boys had the killer gleam from the opening bounce. Ajax moved the ball beautifully throughout the first half and completely dominated the opposition from Ormond. Brandon Efron continued his strong form in the ruck and around the ground, working superbly with the talented mid-field brigade of Benji Krongold, Matt Lincoln and first gamer, Adam Ossip. Aron La Sala marked strongly in defence, combining with Sam Jacobs to set up many scoring opportunities up forward. Corey Zielinski snaffled 5 goals in the first half and switched with Matt Hendel who was solid at both ends of the ground. Noah Micmacher was a rock at full back, despite a persistent leg injury that dogged him throughout the game. Justin Spicer used his pace to break the lines and was a dynamic presence throughout the match. All in all, it was a solid response after the disappointment of the previous week's match against the top side. The players grew in confidence, with each team member doing what was expected of them. They now go into the Queen's Birthday break in 2nd position with 3 wins and 1 loss.



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