



# THE WRAP

## Round 9

Horrible, icy conditions greeted us in Round 9 which made for very low scoring games.....more in line with World Cup Soccer. The U11 Stars won their match with neither team kicking a goal. The U14 Girls were successful in claiming back to back wins.

### AJAX SENIOR WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

The AJAX Football Club is proud to support AJAX Women. Please join the club on July 22nd at 9:30am at the Albert Park Club Rooms for our inaugural Women's Breakfast to celebrate all the women of AJAX - our female players, parents and supporters. The special guest speaker is Chyloe Kurdas, a former elite Australian Rules footballer, television and radio sports commentator.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please click on the following link:

<https://www.mycase.com.au/events/ajaxwomensbreakfast>

U17 Comets **Sammy Guttmann** enjoying this week's muddy conditions



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# THE WRAP

## Around the grounds





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## Around the grounds





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## Results

### U8 Rockets

Photo day at the Club. Accordingly, the Rockets all turned up with teeth brushed, hair styled and jumpers freshly laundered, one even off his sick bed. What the parents evidently did not count on was the arctic temperature, sheeting rain and gale force winds, which meant prising the under and outer layers off the players proved tricky, and there will be some adults looking back many years from now and wondering at how they could have been such a wimp. The fact the shoot ran over time, meaning the Vampires were left to brave the conditions waiting on the Jackas was not received warmly by our opponents and they proceeded to take it out on us for the next three quarters, making us look second rate. The major difference appeared to be the preparedness of the Vampires to bend over and pick up the ball, while the Rockets waited for it to be handed to them. As we all know, this is not how footy works, and after an old fashioned spray from the coach at 3/4 time, the message clearly getting through loud and clear, the response was swift and brutal. 2 goals within as many minutes and it was game on. The end result was a strong lesson in the importance of footy basics, with the coach continuing his subtle endorsement of fun over score, by again leaving out the “up the ladder” line from the club song. Footy smarts right there.

### U8 Stars

The day started with the boys all very excited to have the team photo.... once we had finally coordinated that, the Stars received some great inspirational words from captains Ari Trayer and Toby Davis...the sons of course of our very own legendary coaches (and runner) Adam and Jamie. The boys were pumped, and the freezing temperature combined with light rain could not hold them back as they raced out of the team rooms towards oval 4! The first quarter was a tough contest, the Stars playing against a bellowing wind that kept the ball in the Vampires scoring end. The ground was very muddy, and the boys fiercely defended in very wet and slippery conditions.

The second quarter was also a tough fought context with the wind and rain refusing to let up. A rousing 3rd quarter speech from Coach Adam (Tutti) was so amazing. The boys were all thoroughly rain soaked when suddenly the thunder struck, and the game had to be called off for safety reasons. Well done boys.... everyone played very well despite the trying conditions (and how lucky our photo was pre-game and not post!)

### U9 Stars

Today the boys went up against Port Melbourne in the midst of a wet, cold and windy Melbourne morning. The boys pumped themselves up for the game with JJ and Luca K as this week's captains - telling the team to bomb the ball into the forward line, tackle hard, man up, and kick goals. We came out strong, wanting the ball more than the opposition and willing to put our heads over the ball. Zac O got a lot of the ball as a defensive mid-fielder. The forward line played tough and got one goal by Luka F, while Luca K used the “get it and go” philosophy to break away from opposition tackles, while also causing trouble for the defenders more broadly. Leo's instructions from the coaches at half time were to “get dirty”. He responded well coming off at 3Q time covered in mud and having taken 5 strong marks through the midfield. Eden, still on a high from last week's goal, harassed and competed all day, as did Nadav who's pace, tenacity and reading of the play are becoming a weekly highlight. All up, it was good application by the team in tough conditions and against a good opposition side.



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### U10 Stars

Special thanks to all parents who braved terrible conditions to attend this match against Prahran. We really appreciate the support. Also special mention to Ari Younger who didn't play due to injury, but he stayed for the entire match to help the coaches in the wet. This is great team spirit and we want to thank Ari. No doubt that it was a momentous weekend of sports across the world. In Russia, the Socceroos fell just short against France in the World Cup. In England, the demoralised Australian cricket team padded up against the Poms and in Melbourne, Shaun Burgoyne played his 350th AFL game. But the really big news was not from any of these. The real news came today from Dover Street, South Caulfield where it rained, hailed and hurricaned while the Ajax U10 Stars took on the Prahran A-Listers. A huge crowd braved the elements and this reporter was one of the lucky few who was able to squeeze in to the Ajax coaches' Press Conference at the end of the game and tape it.

### U11 Rockets

Prahran 4.6 (31) def Ajax 2.10 (22)

Goals: Gunn, Lakman

Best: Gunn, Ickowicz, Lakman, Mehl, Rubin, Swart

After the Queen's Birthday bye the boys looked to continue their unbeaten season against Prahran. We arrived to a Como Park that looked more like Lake Como than a junior footy ground. Most of the boys were excited to get into the mud and give their parents washing machine a good work out. We wanted a focus on effort, getting first to the ball, long kicks and keep the ball in front. The forwards were told to defend and keep the ball in their zone while the defenders had to get back. Jason and Kovi were captains and won the toss (this week the umpires used a \$50 note which was somewhat strange) and after eventually finding the pineapple floating across the wing we kicked to the Toorak end. Ethan Lakman in his 51st game burst through the banner and the game was on. Unfortunately the coaches words stayed in the warm change rooms as the boys started very slowly and before we knew it we were 3 goals down. A couple of position moves saw us get back into the contest and Lakman and then Gunn slotted great goals to keep us in it. A goal down at quarter time felt manageable. The second quarter saw Prahran continue to attack as they managed 4 behinds to our 1. No doubt, the highlight of the second quarter to all those who withstood the rain and cold was our fearless goal umpire. David Werdiger braved the conditions facing mud and puddles to ensure the flags were waved. Unfortunately for him (and fortunately for the crowd) an over-exuberant signalling of a behind saw David hit the turf. After the life guard fetched him out of Lake Como a soaked David had a good laugh at half time. Nobody was more deserving of an orange. The boys were cold, wet and 9 points down. This was their second game at Como and their second big challenge for the year. A very inaccurate quarter saw us kick 5 points to 0. The highlight of the quarter was Nathan Cohen smothering a Prahran kick on their goal line saving a certain goal. Jethro Gunn had completely asserted himself on the game and was by far the best player on the ground. Toby Rubin and Samuel were sensational in the conditions being first to the ball and working well of half back. The final quarter equation was a simple one. We were 4 points down and needed an early goal. We started the quarter well and unfortunately missed 3 gettable shots bringing the margin back to 1 point before Prahran took the ball down the other end and kicked a goal. 7 points was a tough assignment. We continued to work the ball forward but Prahran eventually locked the ball in their forward line and after scoring another behind went on to win by 8 points.





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### U11 Stars

Ajax 0.11 (11) def South Melbourne 0.2 (2)

Goals: Nil

Best: Gordon, Janover, Katz, Klein, Pitt, Zukerman

With an early start to the game and a classic cold wet winter day, it was imperative that the boys began the game well. Playing on the same ground as the Ajax Seniors team, this was a motivating factor. The game structure and positioning of the players played an important role and this was discussed with the players in the lead up to the game. Many of the players were given specific roles to carry out in pursuit of our first win in the season proper. After winning the toss we kicked with the Albert Park breeze. The boys 'hunted' the ball in packs constantly pushing the ball forward. We had the ball in our forward zone for most of the quarter and we kicked a number of behinds to take the lead at the end of the first quarter. In the second quarter, against the wind, the team was shuffled around. The boys laid many tackles, bumps, short and long kicks, again trying to push the ball to our advantage in soaking wet conditions. With a lead at half time the pressure was on to perform in the third 'premiership' quarter. It was a dour struggle with the ball like a piece of soap. Slipping and sliding was the norm but our persistence and resilience got us to a handy lead in a very low scoring game. The last quarter was there to be won. The 'hungrier' team was going to get the four points. The Stars came out with grit and determination to succeed. The team structures were crucial with all players contributing to their role. At the final siren we won 11 behinds to 2 behinds. The first time we had won a game without a goal being scored! It was a marvellous effort by the whole team with all players contributing. With all involved this was the reason we won. It was a team effort of tackling, pushing the ball forward and supporting our teammates. This is the recipe for success to work for each other and help each other on the field. Special mentions to the efforts of Gordon, Manny, Itai, Zac, Zuky, Katz and Adam. Good leadership from our captains Eiden and Phoenix.

### U12 Comets

St Bedes / Mentone 3.6 (24) def Ajax 1.3 (9)

Goals: Haeata

Best: Flinkier, Haeata, Klein, Newett, Rozenes, Sormann

Winter Football arrived in spades today - wet, cold, muddy and strong winds were the order of the day. We knew how important a win was, and we gave the boys very clear instructions: show commitment, attack the ball and do the basics well. With that in mind the boys got off to a good start, but despite dominating the first quarter, and having the wind behind us, we were only able to lead by a goal at quarter time. Injuries to Wrobel and the departure of Mohr, meant that we were going to have to work much harder to cover their loss. In the second quarter, Newett was getting on top of his opponent until he was heavily knocked into the post, and all of a sudden, we were three down. The midfield was working overtime to keep us in the game. At the main break the teams had managed just one major each, and we were still well and truly in the game. To the boys' credit, they stood tall throughout the second half, and despite being a few good players down, the team slogged out a narrow loss to a team that were more physical at both the ball and at the man. A special mention goes to Newett for being able to get back on the field and finish the game off.



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### U12 Jets

Ajax 4.6 (30) def Murrumbeena 3.2 (20)

Goals: Chrapot 3, Segal

Best: Chrapot, Cohen, Gottlieb, Gross, Kranz, Rockman

At home in wet and windy conditions, the Jets faced a big test against the Murrumbeena Lions who had come up a Division with us earlier in the season. Kicking against a strong wind in the first quarter, the Jets held the Lions to a single goal thanks largely to the strong work of our defence with Harris tackling overtime and Rockman and Gross holding their ground with the slippery ball. The second stanza saw the Jets hit back with the wind and despite attacking for most of the quarter we went in to the rooms at half time with a narrow margin against us. Hard running from Cohen, Kranz and Gottlieb and a willingness from the whole team to put their heads over the ball and play tough footy resulted in the Lions remained scoreless with the wind in the third. This set up the contest for a thrilling last term. In pelting rain, the boys were implored by their coach at three quarter time to get to the ball first and move it quickly with the wind. They listened and soon the ball was in the open forward line with Chrapot converting to give us the lead for the first time in the game. Against the flow of play, Murrumbeena then hit back almost immediately and the determination of the Jets was challenged. But today the Jets were on a mission and they showed real guts and grit to run the game out, scoring 2 more goals and securing a second win in a row.

### U13 Comets

Port/South Melbourne 4.5 (29) def Ajax 1.2 (8)

Goals: Nirens

Best: Feder, Faigen, Nathan, Pike, Rockman

The Comets tried hard in filthy conditions all game and a win was within reach until the final few minutes. With numbers to the ball and a no nonsense approach to getting the ball forward, the Comets had much of the play in their forward half. Pike, Faigen and Nathan got us moving forward time and again and Feder showed real class and grit around the stoppages. The backs were strong throughout and the conditions especially suited Rockman, who loves a contest and crashed into packs with good effect. Key absences made for some players in less familiar positions and only limited rotations, although Sormann provided good dash as a welcome fill in. Alas, we couldn't register the elusive win today, but with the commitment and good spirit shown by all a win cannot be too far away - and maybe even next week, before the break.

### U13 Jets

Ajax 7.3 (45) def East Sandringham 3.5 (23)

Goals: Schenk 2, Worth 2, Cohen, Goldenberg, Jacobs

Best: Green, Hershan, Jacobs, Lindell, Miltz

Today was a clinical win by our boys. We got out to an early lead and stayed focused for nearly the entire game, really all but a 10 minute patch in Q3. It's great to get this momentum building. It was a wet game, but we played the conditions really well. We played long and direct, and maintained physicality at the contest. We have a big test next week against St Bedes, hopefully we can use today to build into a big performance





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### U14 Comets

Ajax 2.4 (16) def Beaumaris 2.1 (13)

Goals: Schauder, H Sheezel

Best: Chrapot, Herman, Israel, Schauder, Wrobel

The game was played in wild, woolly and wet weather on a rain sodden ground, the ball felt like a cake of soap and the opposition played a tight, hard brand of football but the Comets weren't going to let those things worry them on Sunday morning. The boys played as a team and with great spirit and endeavour to earn a well-deserved victory against finals contenders Beaumaris. Despite the gloomy conditions, the wet surface and the absence of several key players due to a school camp, the Jackers played positive, attacking footy from start to finish and it paid off when Harry Sheezel scored the winning goal with what turned out to be the last kick of the game. The win was a tribute to the work rate of a team that battled out every contest in trying conditions and every player should hold his head high and be proud of his contribution. The four points that went with the win keeps the Jackers well and truly in the finals race. Many thanks go to Lachie Eliau who came out of retirement and played as he always does – with pace, strength and vigour. Next week sees another tough match up which is part and parcel of participation at the highest level of the junior game in Division One.

### U14 Girls

Ajax 3.9 (27) def Beaumaris 1.1 (7)

Goals: Y Alford, Amira, Baring

Best: Y Alford, Amira, M Herzfeld, Kascier, Klooger

The Jackettes backed up their first win last week to go back-back with a strong win against Beaumaris in blustery and wet conditions. The girls kicked the first goal and led at every change to run out comfortable winners. A large squad of 26 girls patiently shared the field throughout the match, with good contributions across the board. At the end of the game the opposition coach specifically called out Werdiger for her blind spins through tackles which assisted to keep the momentum moving forward in the wet. The girls will need to train hard with a few players away next week as they front one of the stronger sides in the competition.



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### U14 Jets

Mordialloc Braeside 5.9 (39) def Ajax 3.3 (21)

Goals: Fell, Thurston, Shaw

Best: Shaw, Edwards, Sunshine, Thurston, Peleg

It was a chaos morning..... buckets of rain, a strong wind and team photos! However once the game started we were kicking with the wind and rain eased. We started well and really applied a lot of pressure. We struggled to convert the forward pressure and whilst we had most of the play we could only slot one major. The boys responded well to instructions about how to play wet weather footy. We really had the run of the play and were able to move the ball effectively up the field on numerous occasions. The 2nd quarter we were into the wind. We started really well, held them out and created some opportunities. Then Mordy Brae got a good run along and kicked 3 goals during the middle part of the quarter. Their onballers really lifted and we struggled to go with them for that period. This turned out to be the difference in the match. We fought back hard for the last part of the quarter, again creating opportunities that just did not find a way through. The 3rd quarter we played some great footy and kicked a few. We shared the ball and looked good. At three quarter time we just a goal down. The 4th into the wind was a really even quarter, whilst they created opportunities, so did we had 3 or 4 genuine opportunities to score. What was really pleasing was that at one point in the quarter, when they were pressing hard we had 3 amazing smothers in a row. In the end Mordy Brae were a little stronger over the baller and ran the ball through the water logged centre better than us.

### U15 Comets

Ajax 7.8 (50) def St.Kilda City 4.7 (31)

Goals: Jacobs 4, Spark 3

Best: Carp, Mitsel, Rajch, Rosenbaum, Spark

### U15 Jets

Ajax 5.8 (38) def East Sandringham 4.3 (27)

Goals: Atzmon, Felbel, Katz, Rostkier

Best: Felbel, Reitberger, Rostkier, Schwarz, Tobias

The time was early, the conditions terrible, side way artic winds and torrential rain...all the elements that does not augers well for an Ajax side to perform at their best but we challenged the boys at the start and at half time to dig deep and grind out a win and that is what exactly they did. We could not be prouder of the boys as they fought with passion and hardness at the ball, in a fashion that we have not seen yet this year. Aply led by Coby Felbel, yet again dominating in the centre and controlling the game off his own boot. Jake " the hardman" Swartz was equally impressive and time after time ran the ball out of defence and into our front half. Harley Reitberger and Jeremy Goldberg revelled in these conditions always hard at the ball and at the bottom of every pack. But this was not only a couple of individual efforts that won the day it was an all round team effort. The heart that was shown by this group was incredible and we have now built a foundation that we can grow on and challenge any team in this competition. Well done boys and looking forward to maintaining these very high standards in the coming games.





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## Results

### U16 Comets

East Sandringham 14.12 (96) def Ajax 1.9 (15)

Goals: Micmacher

Best: Brick, Chrapot, Freeman, Grodski, New

It was a very challenging day with atrocious weather conditions, only 14 available players and the prospect of playing the undefeated East Sandringham Rovers. The mud and slippery conditions indicated that it was going to be a hard slog. In a show of sportsmanship by East Sandringham, they agreed to loan AJAX a player each quarter and play the same number (15) throughout the game. The game was played in great spirit and after struggling against the wind in the first quarter, with a 39 point deficit, all the AJAX players showed incredible tenacity, courage and desire to play two very even quarters. Only a couple of unfortunate injuries prevented a similar pattern in the final quarter and despite the loss, the players should all be proud of their efforts today.

### U17 Comets

Ajax 8.8 (56) def. Northvale 4.5 (29)

Goals: Gold 2, Guttmann, Hendel, Levine, Ossip, Spicer, Zielinski

Best: Guttmann, Krongold, Levine, Ossip, Smart

Dismal conditions prevailed throughout the hard-fought encounter with Northvale. It was good old-fashioned football which rewarded those who attacked the ball front-on and withstood the hits from those second and third to the contest. It was another great team effort, with every player giving 100% on the slippery surface and centre square glue pot. Kicking with the wind, Northvale came out strong from the first bounce and AJAX did well restricting them to 2 goals going into the first break. A 4-goal second quarter saw AJAX take control of the game which they maintained through to the final siren. A mud-splattered Sammy Guttmann looked like he had just emerged from a coal mine rather than the usually bucolic surrounds of Princes Park. He was in and under all day in another impressive display. Benji Krongold handled the conditions beautifully, landing the ball on the chests of his teammates as if it were footy in the Spring. The ruck combination of Brandon Efron and Noah Micmacher never gave an inch and Hudson Levine made a welcome return with a dominant display running off half-back. Adam Ossip and Lior Smart racked up possessions and Matt Hendel marked strongly on a day that wasn't kind to "one grab" players. An away game next Sunday against traditional powerhouse, Beaumaris will test the boys who will need to maintain their focus and keep their heads down in the last match before the two-week school holiday break.



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