



THE WRAP

Round 12

Round 12 saw the U16 Comets return to the winners circle with a fantastic Division 1 victory. The U14 Girls reclaimed their winning form with a thumping win and now hold second spot on the ladder. Impressive performances were also on show from the U11 Rockets and U12 Comets. Looking forward to seeing other teams hitting their straps as we approach the finals.

Jethro Gunn and Hugo Krasnostein celebrating their 50th game



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Around the grounds





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Results

U8 Stars

There was a chill in the air as the boys descended on our hallowed home turf. The coaching team swapped things up with season veteran runner Jamie Davis acting as head coach (Adam still at the secret offsite “training”), Darren Lurie stepping in as runner and Rob Greenberg playing medic and assistant coach. The team were led by rousing speeches given by captains Zac and Max. The coaches strategized pre-game and in all the breaks maximizing the team set up as well as using the wind for some extra help. Everything came together today, and the boys remembered all the great coaching over the season. The boys played one of their best games. They used their voices and moved the ball very effectively. They scored goals and points and overall had a great time. Of note was a particularly great play in the 4th quarter. Rostkier marked the ball in a big pack and kicked to Greenberg, Greenberg marked and found Joel who then marked. Joel ran, bounced and found Weinstein who marked. Weinstein pulled up his socks, and booted it high right between the goals! Great teamwork!

U9 Rockets

The U9 Rockets were led out by their captains Miselowski & Levy in very blustery conditions for their game against St Bedes Mentone. Kicking against a strong breeze in the first quarter, the midfield and back line were under constant pressure. Oliver was a rock at full back and together with Levy, stopped numerous opposition attacks. Schimmel and Ami, two of the smallest guys on the ground were in and under every contest and when the ball got down to our forward line, Kalb looked dangerous. With the wind in the 2nd quarter, the boys followed instructions well to kick the ball long into our forward line. Sher had his best quarter for the club and was in everything, tackling hard and created numerous scoring opportunities and eventually got reward for effort with a goal of his own. In the 2nd half Hyams attacked the ball strongly in the forward line and kicked an important goal against the strong breeze. Zohar also took some important marks and presented as an option. Krasnostein laid some great tackles and Rose contested hard in the midfield. With the wind in the last quarter, the Rockets were held goalless and the message from the coaches was to remind them to stay focused for 4 quarters and don't think that "the wind will do it all for you". In really tough conditions, it was a pleasing result and what is clear is that the Rockets don't need to rely on the same players each week and there is real improvement across the board. Well done boys.

U9 Stars

The U9 Stars were playing back at home this week, pitted against Mordialloc-Braeside. Lex and Hugo were Captains and told the squad to run hard, share the ball and tackle. We started off kicking into a strong wind, but with the mids attacking the ball we managed to get a few opportunities up forward including a flashy left-foot goal from JJ, (followed by an equally flashy aeroplane celebration). The following quarter we continued to implement the key focus areas of tackling, running with the ball, sharing the ball and running hard. This continued for four quarters with the whole team playing well. Dean fought hard to be first to the ball, Luca K attacked the ball ferociously, Guy took a crucial mark in the backline, Josh and Josh both stood up under pressure, Gid became a marking target up forward, Oren took on four opposition players in one play, Noah put his body on the line and copped a sore head for his efforts, and Harley had the ball on a string. But as per above, it really was a team effort to thwart all the opposition attacks and stop them scoring goals. We look forward to the last training and game of the regular season this week, followed by pizza night and the Lightning Cup the following week. Well done to all the kids.



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Results

U10 Stars

The boys of the U10 Stars played in sunny conditions against traditional rivals East Brighton Vampires. The venue, was a new one for our boys. A picturesque oval in the heart of Brighton, surrounded by a white picket fence. To answer Taj's question, the William Street reserve, although used by the Vampires, is actually the home of the Cluden Cricket club, a club with some 95 Year club history. For the benefit of our property developing umpire Adam, Cluden CC sits on a sub division of the Cluden Estate which encompassed an area stretching between Nepean Hwy and Wilson Street (worth millions). Cluden house remains as does Cluden Street in East Brighton, part of the estate was willed to the community with the condition that it be used for public recreation. What a wonderful gesture from developers back in the day.

U11 Rockets

Ajax 11.21 (87) def East Sandringham 0.2 (2)

Goals: Lakman 4, Levy 3, Gunn, Ickowicz, Mehl, Sormann

Best: Cohen, Gunn, Ickowicz, Krasnostein, Lakman, Levy

We wanted a strong showing and knew that we had a chance to increase our percentage as East Sandringham had been struggling this season. As they were celebrating their 50th games, our captains Hugo Krasnostein and Jethro Gunn, won the toss and like Scarlett O'Hara they decided to go with the wind. It was important that the boys attacked through the middle. Nico was told to take it easy in his first game back and just settle in as we had to ensure he would be ok for finals. Well, that plan must have got lost somewhere as he booted the first 3 goals of the game in about 5 minutes of scintillating football. Once again our goal kicking could have been better as we pilled on a further 6 behinds before Lakman kicked through his first of the day giving us a 30-0 lead. Our midfield were absolutely dominating with both the milestone men racking up the possessions. Hugo and Jethro were everywhere and constantly pumping the ball forward. Mehl was doing a great job in the ruck while Nathan Cohen was sweeping up off half back on the rare occasions that the ball went past the centre. The second quarter would be a challenge as we were now kicking into the wind. The boys were asked to try and keep the Zebras goalless and try to keep the ball locked up. If we had a chance to get it into our forward line then we wanted to keep it in there. However, the boys went a step further and while keeping the Zebras to a solitary behind we managed to kick 3.1 for the quarter. Cabelli, Rubin, Naphtali and Ickowicz were sensational in defence helping out Mehl and Gunn whenever the ball came into their 50. Goldwaser and Mini worked hard on the wings and built the wall with Ovide and Cohen to ensure the ball didn't leave our 50. Apelbaum provided a great target at centre half forward and when Dylan Sormann marked and kicked a goal the quarter was ours. Lakman kicked the other 2 goals of the quarter taking his half time tally to 3. As the wind continued to blow into that pocket of the ground the boys were told to bring the ball along the members wing. Gunn, Ickowicz and Mehl) found the middle. Mehl was brilliant in the ruck giving Krasnostein, Lakman and Ickowicz silver service. The final change and we knew the Zebras just wanted to get one goal on the board. Leo Fink looked dangerous as did Bailey Apelbaum and Avi Goldwaser at the full forward line. Toby Rubin and Harry Naphtali provided a great target at Centre Half Forward and Dylan Swart had a sensational quarter on the ball. A couple of really creative handballs allowed the congestion to break open. Lakman finally ran into an open goal to kick our 11th goal for the game after the boys managed to kick another 7 behinds. The final score was a convincing 11.21-87 to 0.1-2 win.



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Results

U11 Stars

Beaumaris 2.11(23) def Ajax 2.4 (16)

Goals: Alford 2

Best: Alford, Katz, Micmacher, Moalem, Pitt, Zukerman

Today against Beaumaris our boys fought hard early. We started the game really well dominating possession and it showed on the scoreboard. Dion Zukerman played his 50th game and lead from the front with excellent clearance work from the centre. Around the ground our players were winning their 1v1s and we went into quarter time in front 14 to 0. From then on we scored 2 points for the rest of the game allowing our opposition to have 13 set shots to our 2. It wasn't the result we wanted but from every game there are both positives and negatives to take away. We as a team did a wonderful job today of tackling and running to defend when the ball was in dispute. Where we were let down today was when we had the ball and when the opposition had the ball. We need to be better with our disposal. This means we can't blaze away and kick to a pack hoping someone will take a mark or we will somehow manage to keep the ball going forward. We have to use our skills and footy smarts to kick the football to a teammate in space or in a dangerous position. They were able to do this much better than we did and often they had passages of plays where they had a chain of kicks to their teammates in space allowing easy movement from our forward line to theirs. The effort you boys put in was evident all game and we can see that when we play the game on our terms like we did in the 1st quarter we are a hard team to stop. Being able to continue this for 4 quarters is the key to our teams success.

U12 Comets

Ajax 2.6 (18) def Brighton Beach 0.3 (3)

Goals: Balter, Hart

Best: Flinkier, Gance, Mohr, Newett, Nussbaum, Wrobel

On a beautiful sunny afternoon the boys came ready to play a full four quarters to make up for two terrible losses where the team had virtually stopped after they had delivered great opening quarters. The conditions were extremely windy and Ajax started with the wind. Once again they got off to a flying start - The boys used the wind well, kicked long to targets, shared the ball and created space. Hart and Balter kicked the two goals for the quarter that put the team into what turned out to be an unassailable lead. In the second quarter, the boys were told to take the ball wide to stop Brighton from getting long kicks into their forward line. Across the board, everyone on the team played with intensity and to the game plan which forced Brighton into making mistakes. At half time, although Ajax did not score in the second quarter, Brighton Beach only managed 2 behinds despite having a 2 - 3 goal wind behind them. The third quarter gave Ajax every opportunity to stretch their lead further, but the boys were unable to capitalise - kicking 4 behinds for the quarter but looking like they had the game sewn up as long as they could continue to lock the ball down on the near wing for the final quarter. The fourth quarter was a great exhibition of tough and intense football. Against the wind, the entire team kept Brighton from getting the run and long kicks that they were aiming for. Strategically bringing the ball to ground and locking it in time and time again showed maturity and strength. All round - this was a great game with the whole team playing the way the coaches wanted.



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Results

U12 Jets

Ashwood 3.14 (32) def Ajax 3.5 (23)

Goals: Chrapot 2, Kranz

Best: Chrapot, Gross, Gunn, Krasnostein, Lakman

Missing 10 of our regular players, and playing against one of the top teams in the division, the Jets had their work cut out from the first bounce. Special thanks to Brott, Ickowicz, Gunn, Krasnostein, Lakman, and Swart from the Under 11s who, not only made fielding a team possible, but all took the step up and performed brilliantly. Tough defence when kicking against the strong wind in the first quarter and some great ball movement and attack in the second, left the Jets with a small lead at half time. The standout highlight of the half was a long range goal from Chrapot, which never looked in doubt. Gross rucked with his usual poise and was also strong around the ground, taking several marks and feeding the ball forward. Gunn ran and was tackling all day long and Chrapot kept presenting to keep us in the game. At the end of the third quarter, after some desperate defending, the Jets went in to the huddle a few points in front and the coach urged the team to keep running to get first use of the ball. In a thrilling last quarter, the Jets ended up just short, with a late goal into the wind from the visitors giving the impression that the game was not quite as tight as it actually was throughout.

U13 Comets

Ashwood 3.12 (30) def Ajax 0.3 (3)

Best: Becker, Levy, Marabel-Whitburn, Nathan, Pike

A low scoring affair at home against opponents who came out firing and didn't let up saw an opportunity for a win go begging for the Comets. We made a good account of ourselves and were never out of it, but in the end we just couldn't match Ashwood's manic effort or put goals on the board from our forward forays. Let's train well this week and bounce back strongly for the next game Comets.

U13 Jets

East Brighton 11.5 (71) def Ajax 4.4 (28)

Goals: Green, Jacobs, Schenk, Worth

Best: Dahan, Green, Harris, Hershan, Jacobs

We simply weren't up to it today. From the get go East Brighton looked quicker than us and beat us all over the field. After a 5 game winning streak, and a couple of weeks at the top of the ladder, it was a necessary wake up call for us. To win games against the top sides, we're going to have to be far more physical than we were today and simply must do better to adhere to our brand of football. With 3 weeks left in the regular season, we will hopefully secure a finals berth, and use those weeks to build towards a strong finals campaign. We need to start by bouncing back next week.



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Results

U14 Comets

East Malvern 9.3 (57) def Ajax 2.3 (15)

Goals: Green, H Sheezel

Best: Chrapot, Eliau, Schauder, H Sheezel, Wrobel

The U14 Comets have had a tough year with a long injury list but they came to play on Sunday and had a terrific crack for almost three quarters against premiership favourite East Malvern. After conceding two goals early in their game, the team defended strongly against the wind and then in the second term kept up their attack without much reward on the scoreboard. After the break, they worried the opposition with their crash and bash style of play but conceded two goals, one that bounced and bounced over a waiting pack and another scored from an impossible angle on the boundary. The Jackers were still in contention at the final break, but with the wind easing a little, the opposition managed to find the goals and kick away to a well-deserved win but the seven goal margin did not do justice to the endeavour and the hard work of many of the players in difficult conditions against a well drilled team that is on the march to the finals. The season is not yet over for the Comets as making the finals remains a mathematical possibility and there's still much to learn and enjoy from the three remaining games, two of which will be on our home turf.

U14 Girls

Ajax 7.13 (55) def Mordialloc Braeside 0.2 (2)

Goals: Kacser 2, Baring, Baron, C Efron, S Efron, Gold

Best: Y Alford, Amira, C Efron, Kacser, Klooger

A top 2 spot was a stake today with Maccabi placed 3rd coming into the round taking on 2nd placed Mordialloc. The girls were on fire from the first quarter, and ended up with 3 goals to 0 at half time with a 24-1 margin. The margin could have been bigger if not for some strayed kicks. Forward, centres and backs were on top with some impressive runs down the ground, good passing and end-end football. The Jets cracked the game open even further in the second half, keeping Mordialloc goalless for the game, whilst kicking over 50 points for the first time, and securing second spot on the ladder.



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Results

U14 Jets

St. Paul's McKinnon 11.2 (68) def Ajax 6.1 (37)

Goals: A Fell 2, Edwards, Gunn, Peleg, Shaw

Best: Edwards, Margis, Peleg, Rose, Shaw

We were undermanned today and the wind was blowing. We continued our tradition of losing the toss and kicking into the wind. What happened in the first half however not about being undermanned. By half time we were down 9-1 goals. This was because we did not seem prepared to attack the ball, to run defensively we were coasting. They worked harder and had the reward. At half time we regrouped and focused on two things. Be on your man. Pick up the ball or kill it in the pack. No loose balls. We did this really well for the first half of the quarter. Though we were kicking into the wind we ran the ball brilliantly and actually had some of the best passages of play all year, with 4 or 5 handballs and kicks to marks. 1-1 was the score for the third. That was fine. What was great is that we sustained the attack on the ball in the last. We really hit it hard, kick to position, and ran. Also we were winning the ball out of the middle. In the last we kicked 4-1 a really solid win in that quarter, which is what we set ourselves. Jack tried hard all day, Sabe and Ben found some fire in the second half particularly. Rosey fought really hard down back and then had a real impact on the ball in the second half. Zac Margis was provided some toughness. Callum was asked to do a big job in the ruck and really fired for the second half and Behm put in 4 quarters of contested footy. What was good in the second half was when we ran it with Judah, Jamie and Yoav really getting involved.

U15 Comets

Bentleigh 12.9 (91) def Ajax 5.7 (37)

Goals: Efron 2, Jacobs, Kanat, Kavallero

Best: Davis, Efron, Ehrlich, Mitsel, Rajch

U15 Jets

Beaumaris 9.19 (73) def Ajax 1.2 (8)

Goals: Tobias

Best: Goldberg, Maman, Mimeran, Schwarz, Tobias



THE WRAP

Results

U16 Comets

Ajax 12.4 (76) def South Melbourne 10.5 (65)

Goals: Weeden 4, Chrapot 3, Micmacher 2, Feldman, Smorgon, Zuker

Best: Brick, Chrapot, Grodski, Micmacher, Taranto, Waislitz

A breezy and sunny day welcomed the team to its big game against South Melbourne. We also had the benefit of starting with 20 players and a bench. Winning the toss was very useful and Ajax took full advantage of the conditions, getting off to one of its best starts for the season, kicking 5 goals to 1 in the first quarter. Using the ball and conditions well, confidence grew throughout the quarter and they continued to extend their lead in the second quarter, outscoring South Melbourne into the wind. Our opponents began the second half well and started to peg back the lead but the boys dug deep and despite a couple of injuries and playing with only 17 players for much of the final term, Ajax held on for a well-deserved victory by 11 points, the result of an excellent all-round team effort. The club song was sung with gusto in the change rooms and enjoyed by families and friends.

U17 Comets

Beaumaris 18.9 (117) def Ajax 9.7 (61)

Goals: Antman 2, Bryer, Cowan, Efron, Gold, Michelson, Ossip, Zielinski

Best: Antman, Bryer, Cowan, Efron, Nankin

Up against one of the two strongest teams in the competition, it was always going to be a challenging affair down at Highett Reserve. Highett/Cheltenham are a skilled outfit, boasting some outstanding TAC Cup representatives for the Sandy Dragons. We came at them in patches, but ultimately their class shone through, kicking 7 goals to 2, running away in the final quarter. Ajax was led throughout by the lion-hearted Brandon Efron. His 'never say die' effort over 4 quarters really set the example for his teammates. Brad Antman was a powerhouse and he was supported by the reliable skipper, Aaron Bryer. Natan Cowan continued his good form from last week and Hayden Nankin shook off his rib injury to return to the high standards we've come to expect. Adam Ossip and Ryley Michelson showed class and Corey Zielinski was a strong target in the tricky windy conditions. The boys will take away a lot from their well-drilled opponents. They will do well to remember those lessons if they want to be a force in the finals. Before that, we have games against Ormond, Northvale and league leaders, Beaumaris; so it's heads up, clear eyes and 100% focus from here to the end of the season.



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