



THE WRAP

Round 13

Some good results in Round 13 as we edge closer to the end of the season. Both U11 teams had comfortable wins, the U13 Jets regained their winning formula, with the U14 Comets, U14 Girls, U15 Jets, and U17 Comets all recording important victories. We wish the U8s and U9s all the best for this week's Lightning Premiership Carnival – enjoy the day!

Thank you to our club members in supporting a very worthwhile cause last Sunday. We collected over \$1000 dollars for the Robert Connor Dawes Foundation (<http://rcdfoundation.org/>). Thanks to Elana Alford and Vanessa Brott for their efforts in managing the fundraising activities.

Max Gawn joining the girls at training



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Around the grounds



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Around the grounds





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Results

U8 Rockets

Our last “Home and Away” game of the year was played at home in front of a large crowd. The team’s biggest and proudest fans were out to support the Rockets knowing that this would be the last time this year to cheer on the kids whilst trying to keep warm by eating kosher hotdogs and wearing beanies at 9am on a Sunday morning. Despite early drizzle threatening, nothing would dampen the spirits of this team that has been progressively improving each week under the firm, yet fair tutelage of their coaches. The opposition, Prahran JFC, go by the moniker “The Mighty Blues” and at a glance some of the boys on the other side looked taller, stronger, and faster – but our boys showed guile, determination, and grit. This team has been listening to their coaches as many a bone crunching tackle was rewarded with a free kick and staying on their men prevented easy marks being taken by our opponents. This team certainly showed several glimpses of what this side may look like in the years ahead. With a strong breeze blowing towards the Café D’Lish end our boys did well to lock up play time and again. Obviously the wind made goal scoring difficult and our (equal) youngest team battled gallantly all day. Back in the rooms with another kosher snag sizzling nearby the song was sung with passion and vigour. Parents and friends were happy too knowing that the Lightning Premiership would begin at the twilight time of midday. Bring on the Carnival.

U8 Stars

It was the last match before the LP and the boys arrived ready to give it everything they had. Inspirational speeches were made by team captains Zac Landau and Benjamin Wilson. During the first quarter, rain started pelting down...and it took a few minutes to adjust our game plan for the very muddy and wet conditions. By the second quarter we found our groove and the boys draw on lessons learnt from training. We communicated well and worked hard as a team. Adam made a particularly rousing speech and the boys rallied. We did even better in the last half of the match...successfully winning many contests and having lots of fun (in muddy puddles!) The game was our last of the season. On behalf of the team, we would like to acknowledge the amazing efforts of Adam and Jamie in leading our boys throughout the season. They took our sons from a bunch of passionate and excited boys and moulded them into a great team. They invested Thursday nights and Sunday mornings and countless hours in between to make sure our boys all had a great experience! Special mention should also go out for Darren as assistant coach, Rob as head medic and Adam B and Ilan for umpiring. There were several parents who consistently helped and assisted at training. Thank you – it made a massive difference for the team. Lastly, thanks to all the parents.... we made it through the season and I appreciated everyone’s help and flexibility in jumping into whatever role we needed on the day.



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Results

U9 Rockets

The U9 Rockets were led out for their last game of the year by their captains, Hyams and Oliver. Their opposition were the East Malvern Knights and conditions were very blustery making good footy very tough. With first use of the breeze in the first quarter, Suss snared a smart goal by roving off the pack. The opportunity was as a result of a great tackle by Krasnostein further up the field. Despite some great efforts in the middle by C.Majman, Gillis and Rose, the boys just couldn't convert on the scoreboard. Against the breeze, the backline stood tall with Smorgon, B. Majman and the speedy Kalb defending well. Zohar was hard at it and Theo was sent to East Malvern's most dangerous player. The rest of the match was a real arm wrestle but East Malvern just seemed cleaner all day and were taking their chances, kicking some important goals against the wind. In the last quarter, the U9 Rockets did everything to try to get back into the contest with Hyams, Sacks and Ami starring in the midfield but they just couldn't score when they needed to. It was a great hit out before the lightning premiership and served as a great reminder to the boys about the need to run hard all day and make good decisions with the ball. Everyone is fired up for a great end to the season next week!

U9 Stars

It's important for high performance footy teams to be able to think through situations, deal with adversity and be prepared to adapt as events unfold in a game. To put that into practice we had the team managers deliberately give out wrong match details this week, correcting them only 40 minutes before the game starting time. Pleasingly, everyone reacted without fuss, and most of the team made it to the new venue - Hurlingham Park - in time for the warm up. Oren and Nadav were team captains and urged their team mates to run hard, tackle hard and find team mates. Critically, they also managed to win the toss and have us kicking first with a strong breeze starting strongly. The run, carry and sharing of the footy were highlights today. One afternoon of footy is left for season 2018 – the Lightning Cup. The focus will again be competing hard for the ball, tackling the opposition, and getting the ball and running with it. Ahead of that is Pizza night on Wednesday - with all kids encouraged to bring a joke to share with the team.

U10 Rockets

With only a few weeks left before the end of 2018 season, the U10 Rockets turned up focused, fired up and ready to play. You can see in every player, a steely eyed determination that they have the unfinished business of showing every opponent what it feels like to play against this disciplined, well drilled champion team of contested ball beasts. This team continually comes up against teams that have bigger players and quality ball handlers but that doesn't faze our Mighty U10 Rockets. Each player knows the basic footy fundamental of manning up and you can see them directing each other to make sure every opponent is accounted for. Each week when they take to the ground, their mission is to make ensure no opponent has any easy possessions. They make every effort to contest ever mark, they get numbers around the ball and either win possession or through their hard work and fierce tackling eventually cause a turnover and win the hard ball. When this Champion Team win possession, they share the ball with smart hands and ever improving precision kicking to leading players. It is a privilege for all to watch this group of boys grow into this champion U10's team. They stand together as one, never taking a backward step, supporting one another and showing great pride to represent the Ajax Football Club.



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Results

U10 Stars

The boys hosted traditional rivals South Melbourne. South Melbourne's day got off to a rough start when one of their players turned up at Princes Park in Carlton. The wind was howling and the conditions were very hard however we still managed to play some sensational passages of football, and we kept the pressure on for most of the match. A tough day, lots of sore and battered bodies, see you all at training.

U11 Rockets

Ajax 9.10 (64) def Beaumaris 2.5 (17)

Goals: Levy 3, Gunn 2, Brott, Krasnostein, Lakman, Rothfield

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

The parents, grandparents and friends that ventured out to Donald McDonald reserve got to see a brilliant show from the Under 11 Rockets. It was first versus fourth in a game that recent form-lines would suggest would be a very tough contest. The boys were primed. Never have a bunch of footy cliché's rung more true than Round 13 sitting a game clear on top of the ladder. We started the day by reminding the boys to not get ahead of themselves. We needed to focus on what Ken Sheldon told us at training. Set the grand final as an aspiration or goal at the back of your mind, then break it down to each game, each quarter and focus on each contest. We need to take things one week at a time OR every game as it comes.

U11 Stars

Ajax 6.9 (45) def Brighton Beach 0.10 (10)

Goals: Alford 2, Factor 2, Szwarc, Felman

Best: Alford, Katz, Pitt, Szwarc, Zukerman

With 3 games to go, today's match against the top team Brighton Beach was a must win. This was an enormous challenge and the boys were pumped to celebrate the 50 game players Eiden Pitt, Raph Schwartz, Josh Shaw and Jake Factor. This quartet of players have been wonderful contributors to Ajax and their teammates over the last few years. They were the four Captains for this match. The challenge was set to go back to our winning ways of being first to the ball and tackling if we didn't have the ball. Today was the most outstanding performance of the season, with the pressure on, the team excelled, and produced our most complete and comprehensive match of football for the season. With two games to go, we are a chance for the finals and we ask the kids to all contribute their maximum effort each moment on the ground. It is better to be tired and exhausted after a game knowing you have contributed your best, and as we saw today the extra effort makes the result more satisfying. How good was the song after the game!



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Results

U12 Comets

Ajax 6.11(47) def Prahran 0.6(6)

Goals: Jacobs 2, Nussbaum 2, Edwards, Newett

Best: Benzur, Casper, Flinkier, Mohr, Newett, Rozenes

After beating second place Brighton Beach last week today was another must win game and with the weather threatening it was always going to be a tough test for the boys. Kicking into the wind in the first quarter the boys got an early goal and fought hard around the contest keeping Prahran at bay. As they promised, every player committed to each other and played selfless football. Kicking with the wind in the second quarter the team was instructed to go long, take the game on and keep the ball out of the dead pocket. Again no one could question the effort by all 22 players however a lack of structure meant the ball was congested in our forward line and we struggled to put a major on the board. Despite that the boys took a lead into half time. Kicking into the wind again the boys were reminded to be first to the contest and to move the ball with run. Despite declining conditions and fatigue setting in the boys dug deep, kept Prahran goalless and even managed to kick one for themselves. A notable mention needs to go out to the backline who were rock solid, well positioned, tight on their men and instrumental in setting up our plays. Having learnt from the second quarter the coaches opened up the forward line, instructed all players to go long and to finish off a great game. It was an absolute pleasure to watch as our boys showed the class we saw so much of last year. With several goals in the last quarter and an unrelenting effort all round the boys had a well deserved win.

U12 Jets

East Malvern 15.11 (101) def Ajax 5.4 (34)

Goals: Chrapot 2, Pacanowski, Segal, Kranz

Best: Chrapot, Gottlieb, Houseman, Kranz, Werdiger

U13 Comets

East Malvern 9.13 (67) def Ajax 0.2 (2)

Best: Faigen, Feder, Nathan, Segman, Zielinski

The Comets were outgunned and outsized by a well drilled East Malvern team but never dropped their heads or gave up. It is a credit to the Comets that they keep trying and putting their bodies on the line, even when carrying an injury as Michelson did bravely today. Good effort all over the ground by all the team was complemented with some flair in bursts, including from Nathan, Segman, Zielinski, Feder and Faigen. It has been a long season for the Comets in a strong Division 1, and with only 2 games to go there is an opportunity to play out the season with a strong effort and giving our all, beginning with a good showing at training this Wednesday.



THE WRAP

Results

U13 Jets

Ajax 8.9 (57) def St Peters 2.2 (14)

Goals: Goldfarb 4, Cohen, Jacobs, Roff, Schenk

Best: Carracher, Goldfarb, Jacobs, Hershan, Schenk

Today was a clinical win. It was important that we bounced back after a tough game last week, and we did exactly that. Today the emphasis was improving the defensive side of our game, as we've conceded a lot of points relative to the other top teams in our division for 2018. We managed to achieve exactly this, conceding just 1 point in the first 3 quarters. This was on the back of our midfield setting up the wall effectively, good structure and a few players moving to our backline and playing important roles. We're now on the lead up to finals and we're going to keep trying to achieve the consistency that's necessary to succeed in the post-season. We have a massive game against Mordi Braeside next week (1st vs 2nd) and will treat this with a finals like focus and intensity, as a win will secure a top 2 spot.

U14 Girls

Ajax 6.9 (55) def Oakleigh 0.2 (2)

Goals: Baring 3, C Efron, Gold, Kascier

Best: Y Alford, Barring, Efron, Gold, Jacobs, Kascier

In a windy and cold day, the Jackettes fronted up with a full complement of players, and the coaches took full advantage, rotating the bench well all throughout the game. This gave the team plenty of run through ground and they Jackettes kicked away to be 25 to 1 at half time. In another solid team effort, Allegra Barring was a sharpshooter in the blustery conditions, snapping 3 goals. Whilst not seeing as much of the play as the forwards, the backs were solid and kept the opposition to a miserly 2 points for the second week in a row. With a bye next week and the ladder still close, the Jackettes must still in their final game to ensure a finals berth, but go into the game in good form having won 5 out of their last 6 games.

Go Jackettes!



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Results

U14 Comets

Ajax 6.9 (45) def East Sandringham 0.1 (1)

Goals: H Sheezel 2, Light 2, Aladjem, Flescher

Best: Chrapot, Lowe, Potash, Schauder, H Sheezel

Wild and woolly conditions greeted the U14 Comets for their afternoon clash with, East Sandringham, but a little wind and light rain wasn't going to put the Comets off their game. Celebrating team talisman – Maor Chrapot's 100th game, the Comets came out firing to put on two first quarter goals into a strong and swirly breeze. Aladjem capped off some good work by the midfield kicking truly to get the Comets on the scoreboard early followed by another team goal shortly after to take a two goal lead into the quarter time break. Kicking with the wind in the second quarter the Comets stepped up their intensity with a superior attack on the contest and greater desire for the ball proving the difference in a 3 goal to nil second quarter. The highlight for the quarter came from a beautiful passage of handball linkages finished off by a superb over-the-shoulder snap from Raphy, tight in the forward pocket. Strong in defence, Schauder, Lowe, Wrobel, Star and Sheezel C were all comfortably beating their opponents in their one-on-one's giving the running brigade of Potash, Alter, Rothfield and Sheezel H optimum use of the ball. The third quarter saw scoring drop-off with both teams struggling to find avenues to goal in the difficult conditions. Despite some tired legs starting to take effect, the Comets ran out the game in style keeping their opposition scoreless and putting one more on the board to cap off a fitting tribute to Muz in his milestone game. A big mazel to Maor on 100 games of courage, skill and ferociousness. With only two more home and away games to go, the Comets remain a statistical possibility to play finals football but irrespective of the season outcome, this team continues to show they can match it with the best when fully fit and focused.

U14 Jets

East Brighton 5.6 (36) def Ajax 4.7 (31)

Goals: Jotkowitz 2, Edwards, Sunshine

Best: Alford, Fell, Jotkowitz, Peleg, Thurston

As usual we lost the toss and were kicking into the wind! Following on from the second half of last week, the boys were asked to ATF – attack the footy. That they did. Today was one of our best four quarter efforts for the year. There was desperation and fight on every line from the first bounce until the final siren. It was a very even effort. Whilst we were not able to get the win, the boys really fought hard.



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Results

U15 Comets

Cheltenham 7.8 (50) def Ajax 5.8 (38)

Goals: Jacobs 3, Sheezel 2

Best: Davis, Flinkier, Kanat, Ostilly, Sheezel

U15 Jets

Ajax 8.12 (60) def Ormond 3.4 (23)

Goals: Atzmon, Katz, Rostkier, Schwarz, Segman, Tobias

Best: Goldberg, Paluch, Rostkier, Schwarz, Tobias

U16 Comets

Beaumaris 22.25 (157) def Ajax 1.2 (8)

Goals: Freeman

Best: Brick, Deane, Feldman, Freeman, Smorgon

U17 Comets

Ajax 13.10 (88) def Ormond 5.6 (36)

Goals: Zielinski 5, Gold 3, Antman, Bryer, Cowan, Lincoln, Michelson

Best: Efron, Krongold, Michelson, Schwartz, Zielinski

Ajax got off to a sluggish start against Ormond, but managed to turn it on when it counted. Ormond turned up the heat late in the first half, but we overpowered them with superior skill and strength to run away with a 52 point win. Brandon Efron put in yet another solid performance in the Ruck. Corey Zielinski showed no signs of an injured finger, booting 5 goals. He was supported by Kai Gold's 3 majors and Benji Krongold was his typical dominant self. Ryley Michelson continued his strong performances and Corey Schwartz found form following his ankle injury, controlling the half back line.



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