



# THE WRAP

## Finals Week 2

Congratulations to the U11 Rockets and U13 Jets on a fantastic season, making it all the way to the last Sunday in August. Unfortunately, they are unable to get the job done but still enjoyed an amazing day and memorable experience. Well done.

This week we turn our attention to the U14 Girls who will be going all out to achieve premiership glory in their first season of footy. **In this week's wrap we have a special Grand Final preview prepared by Harry Jacobs.** Read on to get the inside scoop on what to expect from our girls. Good luck Jackettes.

Date: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Game time: 8.30am

Venue: Le Page Park in Cheltenham

Opponent: East Malvern



Photo credit: Snaps From Here and There Photography/Jenn Aarons



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## Around the grounds







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## Around the grounds





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## U14 Jassettes Grand Final Preview

by Harry Jacobs

“From little things, big things grow...” so go the words to the Paul Kelly classic, and hopefully on Sunday, 2nd of September at 8:30am at Le Page Park, Cheltenham the U14 Jassettes will reap the big rewards for what was only a little dream for the AJAX Junior Football Club 12 months ago.

Registrations for the team were slow at the start but after the club held a Girls Footy Open Day on Feb 25th, and once preseason training kicked off, the team started to take shape. By the time the jumper presentation was held before Round 1, the girls were excited and ready for their first game together. 19 girls took to the field that day against Sandringham, and whilst the result did not go the club's way, there was so much spirit and camaraderie between the players that we all knew it would only be a matter of time before the team 'clicked'.

But we had to wait - the first 4 week grading period in Division 3 was difficult, but after regrading to Division 4, plus the influx of 5 exciting new players, the games got closer and in Round 8 the team finally broke through for their maiden win against East Malvern in front of a thrilled crowd at Princes Park. With that win came some confidence and self-belief and the momentum started to shift. And what a shift it has been! The team has won 7 of the last 8 games and had a superb win over the undefeated top team in the Semi Final in atrocious conditions where the girls just fought and fought to lock the ball in and hold on to their lead in the final quarter against the howling wind.

The girls have made history becoming the first AJAX Junior girls team to make a Grand Final – can they now take the next step to become premiers? The following players will line up on Sunday against East Malvern where the season results are 2 to 1 in AJAX's favour – here is the Grand Final preview of what we will hopefully see on game day.

(2018 Jassettes games, goals in brackets) – Actual starting line-up may differ to that previewed here.

### Back line:

**Elisheva Belfer (11, 0), Carlia Slade (11, 0), Lexi Herszfeld (13, 0)**

This is the best and meanest defence in the league – they have not conceded a single goal in their last 4 matches! They now know how to defend as a unit and back each other up, and if they can continue with their recent form, then the team will be on its way to victory on Sunday.

**Belfer** has made the going tough for opposition forwards all season. She isn't afraid to get physical or take a hit for the team as long as it means her opponent does not get a touch. Shevy just runs straight at the ball and nothing will get in her way on Grand Final day.

**Slade** plays the game like Richmond champion full back Alex Rance. She backs her judgement and never panics on the last line of defence. Carlia has the pace to outrun any forward and is a long clearing kick. She is the team's 'goalkeeper' - nothing gets past her and she will be a key to the big game.

**L Herszfeld** is rock solid in defence, a hard nut who knows how to defend her territory. Lexi likes to run through packs, not around them and knows that the best way to stop the opposition from scoring is to get the ball out of their forward line as quickly as possible.



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## U14 Jassettes Grand Final Preview

### Half Back line:

**Maya Herszfeld (14, 0), Ortali Arzouan (12, 0), Ruby Jacobs (14, 0)**

The half back line is the springboard to attack for the team and will play a crucial role in the Grand Final with the game being played on a large ground. All 3 players have good skills and aren't afraid to back themselves and keep pushing the ball back into the forward line at all costs.

**M Herszfeld** is another player with fantastic judgement who will take risks and leave her opponent to attack the ball head on. Maya's aim is to get to the ball before her opponent and the rest will take care of itself. She is a reliable mark and is the dashing, driving force across the half back line for the team.

**Arzouan** is a big tackling defender – the opposition know about it when Ortali brings them to ground. The key to any big game are the one percenters, and Ortali brings these pressure acts to the half back line. The opposition forwards will be hesitating with this player around and that is a massive advantage to the Jassettes.

**Jacobs** has played most of the season on the wing but now finds herself helping shore up the defence for the finals. Ruby brings a touch of class and skill to the team, and has the ability to clear the ball out of the backline with her long raking left footers and she can be relied upon to hit a target with precision every time she gets an opportunity.

### Centre line:

**Yael Alford (14, 1), Romi Amira (13, 0), Mina Baron (13, 3)**

The centre line is the engine room of the team – none of these players will take a backwards step and it's all about getting the ball forward at any cost. They are all tough and relentless and work hard both ways to support the backline and build a wall to keep the ball in the forward line. In any Grand Final, a winning centre line is a key to the match outcome.

**Y Alford** is a hard working player who doesn't mind getting in and under packs all day. You get a consistent effort from Yael every game and her teammates can rely on her to win the contests on her wing every week. Her penetrating kicking into the forward line is also a big advantage for the team.

**Amira** is the bulldog in the team that never gives up. As shown in the Semi Final victory, if an opposition player has the ball anywhere near Romi, she can expect to be bulldozed, ball grabbed out of her hands and 'Skip' to be off and running in the other direction setting up another forward foray. Put simply, the team walks taller with Romi around, and the opposition duck for cover!

**Baron** has slotted on to the wing the last few weeks and can be relied upon to work hard to keep the ball moving forward at all times. Mina can also kick a goal when required so she can move forward and be another attacking option for the team. She is adaptable in numerous positions.



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## U14 Jassettes Grand Final Preview

### Half Forward line:

**Allegra Baring (9, 8), Amira Kacser (11, 8), Eve Slonimsky (7, 1)**

The half forward line is made up of 3 players who joined the team 4 or 5 weeks into the season and what a difference they have made. They all offer something different, but they all have the potential to be long term football players with their pace, height and skills. For the Grand Final they all need to bring their A game and then the game will be almost won. These 3 are the strike force that can take the game away from the opposition.

**Baring** has been a revelation since joining the team and averages nearly a goal a game. Nothing lights up the team more than seeing Allegra grab the ball and take off, not afraid to take a bounce and kick it long towards goal. She will hopefully be the wildcard for the team after missing the final H&A game and coming off injured early in the Semi Final – a fully fit Allegra is massive bonus for the Jassettes.

**Kacser** is the 'Superboot' of the team! With her massive and accurate kick she has consistently hit the scoreboard all season and it's no coincidence that the team's stocks have improved since she joined the team. Amira is also quick across the turf and more than happy to keep working up and down the ground where she can provide a target for those further afield.

**Slonimsky** is arguably the quickest player in the team and is perfectly suited to the half forward flank where she can use her pace to run down any loose balls and keep pushing it forward. Eve is also tough and not afraid to get into a pack and fight hard for the ball and has been another wonderful addition to the team mid-season.

### Forward line:

**Dahlia Cohen (12, 3), Dahlia Gold (11, 4), Sophia Efron (10, 1)**

The forward line players all have the ability to snag a goal or two. With the ball spending so much time on the ground they have the ability to rove a pack but most importantly they can lock the ball in and create multiple opportunities for themselves and their teammates.

**Cohen** epitomises the little goal sneak in modern day football. When given some space Dahlia loves to weave her magic and often has to take on much bigger opponents which she does with courage and skill. If Dahlia works hard, she'll will get many opportunities to kick or create goals for the team.

**Gold** is a hard leading full forward who knows how to find a goal. Like the other forwards, the team's success does not rest on Dahlia's ability to kick the goals, but rather to lock it in and create repeated opportunities, and this is what Dahlia does – she fights hard for the team and takes her chances when she can.

**S Efron** is the youngest player in the team at just 10 years old and is another sneaky forward pocket player who also joined the team mid-season. However teams that discount Sophia due to her size or age may get a surprise as she is more than capable of bobbing up in the goal square and making an impact on the scoreboard.





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## U14 Jackettes Grand Final Preview

### Followers:

**Freeda Werdiger (12, 0), Coco Efron (10, 5), Romy Klooger (13, 8)**

The on ballers for the Jackettes set the tone for the rest of the team. If they can get on top of their opponents and keep fighting and pushing the ball forward the team will be on its way. If they can play as well as they did in the Semi Final than the team will be well placed to lift the premiership cup.

**Werdiger** is a tireless and athletic ruck or follower who often seems undersized compared to the opposition ruck, but they often discount the size of her heart and her never give in attitude. Freeda just follows the ball all game, fighting for tap outs and giving her onballers first use. Her first half in the Semi Final was instrumental in getting the whole team going and the team needs her to reproduce that effort once more – we know she can.

**C Efron** had the honour of kicking the first goal of the season and has been a versatile and skillful player for the team all along. Coco is the true modern midfielder who can also go forward and kick a goal, or help out in defence when required. She has all the skills and determination to make Grand Final day her own.

**Klooger** has the skill and pace to tear the opposition apart. In the latter half of the season as Romy's confidence has grown she knows she can take on an opponent, run around them on to her trusty left boot and more often than not slot a long goal on the run. She is one of the team's leading goalkickers and one of the most damaging players in the league and has an amazing football future ahead of her.

### Interchange:

**Ashleigh Jaffe (9, 0), Romy Mihalovich (12, 0), Victoria Eckstein (10, 0), Livia Alford (10, 0), Amber Kausman (11, 0), Sara Pincus (8, 0), Amy Dodge (12, 0), Tali Reuben (9, 0)**

The 8 interchange players provide balance and coverage for the whole team and all 8 will have roles to play in the big game. Many big games have been won by a player making the most of his big chance (think Teddy Hopkins in the 1970 VFL Grand Final) – these 8 know they need to be ready to take their chance when the moment comes.

**Jaffe** is an athletic forward who suffered a serious knee injury in the first quarter of the season opener and missed the next 5 games, but has now played 8 games in a row. Ashleigh is slowly getting her confidence back and is now making solid contributions to the team. A highlight was her piece of play that setup the final and only goal of the Semi Final into the wind that guaranteed a place in this week's Grand Final for the team.

**Mihalovich** is a tough forward who loves to tackle hard and lock the ball in the team's forward line. Pressure and the resulting turnovers are the key to Romi's game and that is what she needs to bring to the game on Sunday. It's the ability of Romi and her tough tackling team mates to wear down the opposition that is the key to success for the Jackettes.



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## U14 Jassettes Grand Final Preview

**Eckstein** is a player who does her best work up forward. When given the opportunity Victoria presents as a target and always puts enormous pressure on the opposition defenders. As in the AFL, forwards who can apply pressure to defenders and create turnovers are worth their weight in gold, and that is what the team will be hoping Victoria can do on the big stage. She can do it!

**L Alford** is another tall, mobile option up forward who knows how to use her height to advantage. Being one of the tallest players in the team, Livia could create a mismatch for the opposition backline as they will need to play one of their 'talls' on her and this makes her a wildcard in the pack. Livia doesn't need to mark everything, but just create a contest and bring the ball to ground where her smaller team mates do their best work.

**Kausman** is an athletic forward who can crumb the ball from anywhere and has been a key link in numerous goals during the season. Amber missed the first 3 games of the season due to injury and is gaining more and more confidence with every game and now knows she has the ability to make a difference on Grand Final day.

**Pincus** is another player who joined the team mid-season and with her height has helped negate the taller forwards and followers in the opposition teams. When down back Sara is hard to get past and when playing in the ruck, she can provide the midfielders with first use of the ball which will be a huge advantage to the team in the big one.

**Dodge** is one of the quickest players in the team and provides another pacey option in the forward line when called upon. As the Grand Final will be played on one of the bigger grounds, Amy's pace and her ability to dash clear of her opponents could help open up the forward line and provide another scoring option for the team.

**Reuben** is another one of the team's tough backline players who can lock down a player and won't take a backward step. Tali always runs in straight lines through the opposition if necessary to get the ball and is always looking to improve her game and will give her all for the team on Grand Final day. The team will also be thinking of Liav Allen on game day who played the first 9 games of the season before moving interstate. It would have been sensational to have all the girls who played during the year available for the big game.





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## U14 Jackettes Grand Final Preview

### Coaches:

Chelsea Fisher, Jeremy Klooger & Eliana Mihalovich

The Jackettes have been privileged to have some dedicated and fantastic coaches this season. What an inspiration for the girls to have **Chelsea**, the captain of the AJAX Senior Women's team as their coach, and the players have absorbed everything that Chelsea has taught them. It is no coincidence that the team plays hard, unrelenting, no nonsense football just as their coach plays it. To see how the girls play now compared to the first game of the season shows how much they have improved and the spirit and comradery within the team is a reflection on how well they have been coached.

**Jeremy** has been waiting all his life to coach football or so it seems given the enthusiasm and dedication he has shown, even before he stepped in to assist when Eliana made Aliya halfway through the season. As a parting 'gift' to **Eliana**, the team won their first match of the season, and now she must be sitting in Israel ecstatic with the news that the girls are in the Grand Final, which is just reward for the hard work she put in during the preseason and the early rounds. Jeremy is meticulous in his preparation for match day, and he leaves no stone unturned to ensure the team is as best prepared as they can be. He analyses the opposition to try and crack their weaknesses and makes sure there are no surprises for the players on game day.

The team is made up of players from 4 of the Jewish high schools, Mt Scopus, Beth Rivka, Yavneh and Bialik, and they have come together seamlessly to play as one cohesive unit representing all of the Melbourne Jewish community proudly.

Most of these girls had not kicked a football before preseason started and look at them all now. They may not be as skilled as the opposition, but they will not be beaten in the guts and determination department. The players will run, chase and tackle right to the end and if the team supports each other and plays team football throughout the match then nothing can stop them.

The scene is set for an unbelievable game.....

Good luck on Sunday – GO JACKETTES – GO JACKAS!!!!



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## Results

### U11 Rockets

Caulfield 5.2 (32) def Ajax 2. 6 (18)

Goals: Lakman 2

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

In every Grand Final the spoils go to the winner and the loser is left with the devastation of an opportunity missed. There is no doubt the Ajax players, coaches, parents and friends felt this after yesterday's game. As we highlighted after the game, it was a terrific season and the boys should be very proud of their efforts to make the Grand Final in their first year of competition football. Whilst yesterday was certainly a disappointment, and we won't shy away from that fact, the season should be celebrated and it's exactly what we did after the game. To have all 26 boys and their families together for lunch, drinks and laughs was the way in which season 2018 deserved to end.

To me the highlight was seeing how much this meant to the group of players and their parents. It has been an absolute honour and pleasure to coach this group for both Danny and I and we will miss our Thursday nights at training, our match committee discussions, our planning sessions and our Sundays with the Rockets.

### U13 Jets

Mordialloc-Braeside 3.13 (31) def Ajax 4.2 (26)

Goals: Gaspar, Goldfarb, Miltz, Schenk

Best: Adler, Dahan, Green, Harris, Hershan



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