



THE WRAP

Round 9

Despite cooler Round 9 conditions, our U11 Comets sizzled playing scintillating Division 1 footy. The U12 Jets played their best footy for the season, notching up their first win of the year. We also had solid wins from the U14 Comets, U14 Jets, U15 Comets, and U17 Comets. As we approach the business end of the season, we have a number of teams in finals contention. Our U8s, U9s and U10s continue to develop their skills in the modified rules competition as they start their early preparation for their lightning premiership carnivals.

Be sure to check out the club's [website](#) for our leading goalkickers and upcoming [milestones](#).

U12 Jets enjoying their win



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Milestones

Aharon Ossip - U12 Comets



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Around the grounds

U8 Stars





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Results

U8 Rockets

The U8 Rockets, led by our captains Mordy and Ethan Sacks, ran out against Prahran in blustery conditions at our home ground, Princes Park. Everyone was raring to go after having 2 weeks off and the focus for the week was on "teamwork" – running hard for each other, creating options, passing and handballing to players in space and tackling. Well, didn't the boys follow instructions to play their best game yet.....there were many examples of great team play as the boys linked handballs through the centre, resulting in the ball moving quickly into our forward line. Krasnostein, Gelfand and Smorgon got to every contest and demonstrated real "footy smarts" and Hyams presented strongly up forward all day. Rubin, Suss and Ami had their best games for the year with some important touches and Mordy and Theo showed everyone what great tackling pressure looks like. Raleigh and Feldman were dangerous in front of goals, and Zohar battled hard and created many opportunities. The boys relentless effort continued in the last quarter as the Rockets finished the game off strongly. Berley in the midfield was unstoppable and Kave and Cooper Majman gave everyone some magic moments in front of goal. It really was an unbelievable effort by everyone and the boys showed what playing like a team really looks like!

U8 Stars

The U8 Stars showed what they are capable of at Princes Park today. All 24 players on the list played, and turned in a great four quarter effort. Noah and Giddy were co-captains (positions earned from listening carefully to coach instructions at training on Thursday), and urged their teammates to handball, run to space, and - most importantly - make sure they kicked the right way! They won an important coin toss and wisely chose to kick with a solid breeze in the first quarter. The mids and forwards took advantage straight away, with Noah's frenetic attack on ball and player, penetrating left foot kicks by Jake, and a clever handball from JJ to Eden to set up a goal being the highlights. As a result, we went into quarter time well placed. The second quarter was a bit tougher, into the wind. But good positioning on the ground, hard running at the ball, and fierce tackling of the opposition kept things pretty even. It was more of the same for the rest of the game. There were some great goals including a beautiful set shot by Nadav and a snap into the wind by Ty. At the same time, the backline stayed on their men and in position, with Giddy and Joel Krause standouts on the last line of defence, and Josh Beebe taking some trademark intercept marks. There were a lot of good players today - too many to mention here. The coaches are pleased to see everyone playing to position and following instructions such as kicking out of defence down the far wing to take advantage of the wind. The runner is particularly pleased because it means he doesn't have to run as much! All up, a good effort on-field that was matched by the loudest singing of the song we have seen all year.

U9 Rockets

A chilly morning greeted the U9 Rockets as they played away to Mordialloc Braeside JFC. The Rockets opened the match strongly against a gale force wind. The forwards were licking their lips in the second quarter when playing with the wind and had 8 scoring shots. The midfield worked hard all day in their various rotations and the Rockets trademark ferocious tackling was on display yet again. The boys toiled tirelessly throughout the morning. There were great efforts in each quarter, including strong marking, hunger for the ball, great stoppage work, intercept marks and hunting in packs.

The team was led by Noa Fridman and Archie Edelsten who both offered great quarter time speeches and special mention to Archie's inspiring rap! The game was played with great spirit and sportsmanship. Once again, a huge thanks to the loyal band of supporters getting behind this great bunch of boys in the cold conditions. A special mention to both umpires, who presided over the game fairly and in the right spirit. Looking forward to next week back at home. Go Rockets!



THE WRAP

Results

U9 Stars

Fresh from a great game against the Lexus-loving cartel of Brighton Beach, the U9 Stars saddled up again today to face another formidable foe from the bay – Beaumaris. The game was scheduled for an altogether sensible start time of 12.20pm and while everyone was not entirely sure what to expect from this new opponent. Meanwhile, there was some unfortunate news on the injury front. Gideon Pastor had failed to pass a medical through the course of the week and James Rotstein injured his hand by an alleged mishap at school. However, the two injured comrades nevertheless attended the game and watched from the stands. This was a massive inspiration for our Stars and a great credit to the injured boys, the team as a whole and all of the coaches. Morale was through the roof and the boys focused purely on the job at hand for the start of the game. Earlier, the coach had urged the players to go for it and create highlights for themselves and for the team. The final quarter was the scene for the ultimate highlight and perhaps the highlight of the year, although once again, we do not like to single individuals out.... Anyhow, just when the side needed some inspiration, Jonty Israel decided to leave an imprint on all who were present. "The Jont" had been outstanding all match, his clearance work, raging runs and long kicking all over the ground had provided massive drive for the team and it was in the last quarter when he chose to give everyone leaving the ground something to talk about. He took the ball in a heavy pack around 70 metres from goal and firstly burst through a number of tackles to get himself clear. He slalomed around another set of tough half backs and he charged like a road-train towards the 50. Soon he had taken his bounce and he was into the attacking zone running full tilt. He somehow balanced himself, straightened and launched an incredible long-distance goal from 40 metres at around post-high. The goal umpire just lent backwards, watched the ball sail straight over his head and the stunned crowd let out a massive disbelieving roar. Goal of the year! So impressed was Beaumaris, that its coach awarded Jonty the award for the best AJAX player on the ground, well done Jont!

The other award that Beaumaris handed out was equally important and equally satisfying for the team. They awarded the best sportsman award to Reuben Goldfarb, who saw that a Beaumaris player was injured and then helped up the player to seek assistance with his team runner. This should be a proud moment for Reuben and his family, and shows that he is not just a fine footballer, as evidenced by his outstanding goal (and Platoon-like celebration) from last week, but a real young mensch as well. Well done Rueben!

Overall this was a fine and strong effort by the boys against a fine and strong opposition. All should be very proud that they continue to take great steps forward and the morale around the team is sky-high. The attendances by Gideon and James today lifted the boys and hopefully they will be back for next week, as the next chapter awaits. Go Jackers!

U10 Rockets

Our boys learnt some great lessons today while having a fantastic match with the Benteigh Demons. We are seeing some serious improvement from all the players around the ground and were really impressed by some of the ball movement. Before the game each player was spoken to in front of the whole group with things they are doing really well and things they need to focus on. We were really proud of the efforts and the way each individual responded to their coach feedback. The day started with a rousing rendition of happy birthday to the birthday boy and captain, Hugo Krasnostein. He had a few words to the boys before he led them out telling them to crack in and go hard. That's exactly what they did against a very good Benteigh side.

U10 Stars

Another terrific performance again today! Showed a lot of heart to run out the game the way we did and finish as strong as we started. Again, the goal is to string together a 4 quarter effort as good as our first and last quarters which will come with the longer we play together and progress through the season. ~ Special Mention ~ to Ethan for winning the best team player of the day and Dion for kicking 4 goals in the last quarter and winning himself the coveted fidget spinner award! See you boys on Wednesday night for our intraclub match against the Rockets. Go Stars!



THE WRAP

Results

U11 Comets

Ajax 8.14 (62) def Hampton Rovers 3.1 (19)

Goals: Haeata 2, Nussbaum 2, Rozenes 2, Flinkier, Newett

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

A late 3.40pm start at the end of the weekend was always going to be a challenge for you boys. Dean and myself were very keen for you to get off to a good start, if you put early pressure on we thought that you could jump out of the gates and kill the contest. The first quarter was a dour affair, with a lot of scrappy tight in and under football. Hampton Rovers really came to play and applied a lot of pressure that created some skills errors on your part. The game was largely played on their terms, but I thought we fought hard to kick a couple of goals and head into the break with a lead. At the first break we stressed the need to play more as a team and to work hard not just when getting the ball but also in supporting your team mates. The second quarter was fantastic and you were able to apply great pressure on your opponents, your work rate lifted across the ground and you really started to kick into gear. Tackling, shepherding, and running in numbers improved and you kicked a few more goals into the wind.

In the second half, Dean and I wanted more team-orientated play, and to open up the forward 50 which had been quite congested throughout the first half. We really want to teach you, that it is as important to pass the ball and create opportunities as it is to be the goal kicker. Unlike in previous weeks, you did not stop running all day, and you were able to apply yourselves for the 4 quarters. It was an even contribution across the whole game and we are very proud of what you have been able to achieve so far this season.

Let's keep working on what has already been a fantastic year

U11 Jets

Hihett 11.12 (78) def Ajax 2.0 (12)

Goals: Belfer, Gottlieb

Best: Belfer, Gross, Paneth, Rabin, Weller

The U11 Jets responded well this week to a big week on the training track and our development continues to improve as the season goes on. We have asked a lot more from the U11s in terms of training commitment and practice away from the club and the early signs are that it is already having a positive effect. Today we played South Melbourne who are a very strong side and have only been beaten once this season by a single point. It took South Melbourne a long time to finally control the game largely due to the discipline and selflessness of Aiden Gelbart and Benji Cohen who were excellent in shut down roles on their top players. JJ Paneth was solid as a rock again at full back and saved the day on several occasions with strong marking and desperation while on ballers Juzi Gross, Arin Rabin & Jesse Weller gave us great drive through the middle all day. Zaki Belfer (who informed us at half time that he got a new puppy during the week) showed us how players can improve their skills with lots of practice. He did some amazing things with the ball in hand today that would be as sharp as any player in the U11 league. Maybe all of the boys should get a new puppy this week!!! But at the end of the day we lacked 4 quarter fitness and concentration which we can still work on for the last 5 games of the season. We will continue to coach the boys hard, train hard on the track and reward boys who work on their game and show the right kind of attitude at training and on game day. Well done Jets.



THE WRAP

Results

U12 Comets

Beaumaris 12.9 (75) def Ajax 1.1 (7)

Goals: Faigen

Best: Graham, Grodski, Nathan, Ossip, Pike

The final score suggests otherwise, but the U12 Comets were never overawed or overrun by Beaumaris, the clear ladder leaders in Division 1. A focus on tackling and defensive structures was implemented well by the team, and the coaches were proud of the effort shown by all. Some deserve a special mention. Ossip was simply excellent in his 50th game, leading by example down back and deservedly winning today's SMJFL award. Graham topped the tackle count and Pike was also courageous and everywhere. Grodski and Kister provided much needed drive off half back, as did Nirens and Nathan through the centre. Okun, Mitsel, Marabel-Whitburn and Krongold fought hard and with good effect. But there was commitment shown by the team all over the ground, and sensible use of the ball throughout. Comets, let's train hard this week and bring the same intensity to next week's game - a must win game before the break.

U12 Jets

Ajax 5.10 (40) def St Bedes Mentone 4.3 (27)

Goals: Gaspar 2, Worth 2, Jacobs

Best: Appel, Dahan, Gaspar, Goldenberg, Green, Jacobs

The team came into the match confident that they could secure victory against a side in a similar position on the ladder. Despite having much of the play in the first half, the team was unable to capitalise on their opportunities, as St Bedes began to go harder at the contest. The third quarter was our best for the season, as midfielders Elliot, Raphi and Ayden began to win the contest in the middle. Two goals from Beau had the team in the lead going into the final break, with the tough ask of defending the lead against the wind. The backline, led by Zac and Riley, stood up in the last quarter to ensure they team recorded a much deserved first win of the season. Good luck to Charlie, who leaves this week for the Maccabiah Games in Israel.

U13 Comets

East Brighton 13.13 (91) def Ajax 3.0 (18)

Goals: H.Sheezel, Siegel, Spicer

Best: Chrapot, Green, C.Sheezel, H. Sheezel, Spicer

It's a rare day that the U13 Comets lower their colours as badly as they did on Sunday against undefeated East Brighton. The team started strongly and held the lead on a couple of occasions in the first quarter and they maintained the pressure in the second to trail by 9 points at half time. However, after the break they lost composure against a strong side with a dominant 192cm ruckman and a team that brilliantly switched play, ran and carried the ball and marked strongly all around the ground without any let up. The good thing about the loss (if there is such a thing) is that the players have seen the competition's bench mark at close quarters. They know they have to commit themselves to their training and to work hard and learn how to reach the standard necessary to play and beat East Brighton later in the season. It can be done.



THE WRAP

Results

U13 Jets

Ajax 5.4 (38) def Oakleigh 5.4 (34)

Goals: Gunn 4, Schauder

Best: Alford, Gunn, Peleg, Schauder, Shaw

That is why we play footy!!! To come with your best game against top opposition, give it your all and walk away with a job well done in a TEAM. BEST – EVERYONE!!!!

This was a wonderful Team effort. EVERY player had their role and executed it. Bizza at FB, held down a tough position against a quality opponent. Ron at FF, who we asked to play, often outnumbered but who bullocked, pushed, lead and made space He never let the ball rebound away. And all in between!

What stood out was Q1 they attacked and for 5 minutes the ball was trapped deep in our backline, in the goal square. Everybody pushed down and committed. Not only did we not concede a goal, we did not concede a point. It was then that we knew we had come to play. The rest of the day, Oakleigh kept throwing down the challenge and every time we responded. It was clear that we were winning the contested ball on the ground but Oakleigh could move the ball quickly and were very strong overhead. Seriously, I don't know what to say!!!! Every player did 'their role', tackling, finding a man, pressure. We played with a lot more 'footy smarts' today and that was really pleasing. It was easily our most 'even' effort across all players. A game where small things resulted in team mates getting the opportunity. To give an example, Judah being out manned 2:1 but ferocious, halving the contest in an awesome tackle, Saul winning the tap, Sabe and Ben sharing it going forward and bomb from Goldfeld and Gunn running onto it. It was the halved contest that allowed it all to happen and that just kept happening all day.

U14 Comets

Ajax 15.16 (96) def St. Pauls Mckinnon 7.8 (50)

Goals: Spark 5, Rosenbaum 4, Sheezel 2, Efron, Jacobs, Nissen, Shostak

Best: Glick, Kanat, Kavallero, Nissen, Rosenbaum

This win was reward for some very good performances over the year but always just falling short. After kicking against a strong wind in the 1st quarter, Ajax managed to outscore St Pauls and went into quarter time with a solid 15 point lead. Our 2nd quarter was really disappointing with St Paul's adding 4 goals to Ajax's 3 goals, leaving us with a slender 10 point lead at half time. To the boys credit, they responded well to a stern half time speech and kicked 4 goals to St Paul's 2 in the 3rd quarter setting up a 21 point lead. Finally, the last quarter saw our game style come together with Spark and Rosenbaum hitting the scoreboard, as we added 4 unanswered goals and ran out with a comfortable 46 point victory. Well done boys you deserve credit for your hard work and persistence.

U14 Jets

Ajax 7.15 (57) def Ormond 5.3 (33)

Goals: Maisner 2, Braby, D. Hershan, N. Hershan, Mond, Olcha

Best: Braby, Israel, Lindell, Mimeran, Mond



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Results

U15 Comets

Ajax 9.5 (59) def St Peters 4.11 (35)

Goals: Deane 2, Weeden 2, Fibishenko, Rawack, Schauder, Taranto, Zuker

Best: Deane, Herskope, Micmacher, Mills, Taranto, Zuker

We really defined today's game as a bit of a 'crunch' game. The difference between a win and a loss to us was enormous. Do we go ahead of the ledger as far as wins and losses go or do we fall behind and put ourselves in a precarious position with some big games coming up? To the boys' absolute credit, we dug deep in what was a pretty scrappy game at times to get the all-important 4 points.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation goes out to 'The Big Man' in Tahl Marabel-Whitburn. For those of you unaware, Tahl is about to embark on a very exciting trip to Israel, playing basketball for Australia. Tahl played last week against St Bedes and was instrumental in our incredible 3rd quarter and win, and he then fronted up again today, and played a crucial role in our victory. Tahl is arguably our most important player 'structurally'. The fact that he was willing to do the ruck contests and compete boundary throw ins and ball ups around the ground (not including centre bounce ruck work), allowed us to keep our structures in place. You cannot underestimate how important The Big Man is to this side, and Tahl we thank you for playing today and wish you all the very best of luck in your quest for gold. Well done mate.

Sam Rosen had his best game for the season. Sam has a strong, hard body and he certainly keeps his head over the ball in tough contests. Sam is getting better and better each week and he was able to pick up really important possessions at crucial times. It is not easy coming in to a new team, where the majority of other boys have played so much footy together. We feel Sam has gained the respect of his peers for his tough, hard approach to the contest and we look forward to a big second half of the year from Sam. Well played today Sam - you were terrific. It was extremely pleasing to see Nick Zuker play his best game today also. Nick presented really well in the forward line, kicked a goal and was an instrumental player in our win. We recall Nick coming along to our first pre-season Sunday morning session, and it is great to say the hard work his paying off for Nick. Again to Nick, well done and we also look forward to you continuing your good form throughout the rest of the season.

U15 Jets

Waverley Park Hawks 9.13 (67) def Ajax 3.9 (27)

Goals: Anidam, Gelfand, Paneth

Best: Engel, Franks, Gelfand, Paneth, Port, Weller

After a few weeks of poor performances it was great to see the boys really compete hard and work for each other in what was an encouraging display. With no bench the boys started strongly but couldn't take their chances early only to see Waverley capitalise on their opportunities. With a very clear focus on structure and positioning we were much more competitive at the contest and it showed early on. A lacklustre second quarter meant we were behind and up against it to come back. However, after half-time we went back to our key aims for the day and came out firing in what was the best quarter of football for a long time. More importantly the boys continued to fight out the game in the last quarter and with no rotations showed a lot of heart and character. The two big boys in Jordy Engel and Tom Givoni were both fantastic in the ruck and provided not just valuable hit-outs but important work around the ground. Kivi Franks, our captain for the day, and Sammy Paneth ran and worked hard the whole day. Zac Weller put his body on the line countless times and the defence, led by Lochie Port, were fantastic all day with Sonny and Ash Morris continuing to punch the ball and never giving up. Miles Gelfand was enormous with his incredible work rate and a goal of the year contender. It was great to have Ben Braverman back as well with his smarts and athleticism proving pivotal. Ultimately, whilst we could not get the win it was a very encouraging performance considering the circumstances and the boys should keep their heads up high.



THE WRAP

Results

U16 Comets

South Melbourne Districts 7.6 (48) def Ajax 3.11 (29)

Goals: Cowan, Krongold, Siegel

Best: Bryer, Cowan, Krongold, Nirens, Sharp

The U16 Comets will have to regroup after a disappointing loss to an undermanned South Melbourne Districts. The boys have shown they are capable of outstanding football and will need to do it consistently in order to keep their finals hopes alive.

U17 Comets

Ajax 15.8 (98) def St Peters 8.6 (54)

Goals: Gold 3, Williams 3, Gross 2, Hymans 2, Zielinski 2, Michelson, Smart

Best: Cohen, La Sala, Shulman, Spicer, Williams

In what was a must win game for the Comets this week, we showed the spirit and fight that is required to match it with teams this year. With some updated structures put into place we won our key statistics for centre clearances and stoppages with solid contributions across the board. Ward was exceptional in his return from suspension, Brenden held off a bigger opponent and still made a great contribution, Brad A got amongst it as an inside ball winner and Zac R's ruck contribution was the best I've seen him play yet. It was a spiteful match on and off the ball. The message was - next tackle, next bump, next hard ball get is how we approached their tactics - not playing at their game but responding within the rules - making our statement that way, which we did on and off the scoreboard. Well done to Haydos for playing a quarter with a broken collarbone and Alon for playing on with a split eye — setting the right example to your team mates! The next month will decide the season's fate with "should win" games, mounting injuries & players away. The bottom line is - IF WE ARE GOOD ENOUGH!

U17 Jets

Mordialloc Braeside 15.12 (102) def Ajax 5.7 (37)

Goals: Brott, Davis, Hurwitz, Oberklaid, Slonim

Best: Briggs, Goldberger, Gradman, Procel, Slonim

The U17 Jets played against Mordialloc Braeside today in what was a gruelling competition. Although the Jets put in a solid performance in the first half, it was not enough as the away side managed to kick away after half time.



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