



THE WRAP

Finals Week 1

In near freezing conditions, 5 Ajax teams fronted up to week one of the finals. Congratulations to the U11 Rockets, U13 Jets and our all conquering U14 Girls on recording convincing wins earning a place in the Grand Final. Commiserations to the U12 Comets and U17 Comets who both battled hard but were beaten by better teams on the day. Both teams had good seasons competing against very strong division 1 opposition.

Grand final schedule:

U11 Rockets

26th August at 9.00am vs Caulfield Bears at Essex Heights Reserve, Mt Waverley

U13 Jets

26th August at 2.15pm vs Mordialloc Braeside at Highett Reserve

U14 Girls

2nd September – time and venue to be confirmed





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Around the grounds





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Results

U11 Rockets

Ajax 4.6 (31) def Beaumaris 0.1 (1)

Goals: Gunn 2, Lakman, Krasnostein

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

Sometimes we make memories that will last a lifetime. 25 boys and their parents will never forget the semi-final morning at Port Melbourne. We saw the forecast coming all week. It was bad. Then it got worse. Then we woke up and it was diabolical. Despite these conditions the U11 Rockets had a job to do and nothing was going to stop them. The coaches reminded the boys that while playing in a semi final is a big game, we need to treat it like any other game. We are here for a reason so lets keep doing the things we have done well all year. They were also reminded of our team first attitude, where everyone contributes. Doesn't matter if they are on the bench or on the field. When you are on the ground make sure you make the most of it. The Melbourne players, Stretch and Spargo told them at training to make every moment count. Jake Mehl and Jason Brott were playing their 50th games and led the team through two banners to the cheers of the spectators braving the cold. They tossed the coin and we were kicking slightly against the wind that was more of a cross wind than favouring the other end too much. The coaches had liaised with the worlds greatest team manager, Sean Ickowicz, to get some hand warmers for the boys knowing how cold it was going to be. Each of them grabbed one and started warming those freezing fingers trying to get some feeling back and hopefully give us a slight advantage over our frozen opponents. This group has something special about them, they play for not only themselves but for each other. The celebrations on the siren and the post match song will stick with this group for a long time. Lets hope that next week we can turn this season into something that we will all share forever. It is that team first attitude that will hopefully see us defeat Caulfield and be premiers this time next week. Who am I? I'm a Rocket.

U12 Comets

South Melbourne 8.14 (62) def Ajax 1.3 (9)

Goals: Fell

Best: Casper, Fell, Mohr, Rozenes, Sormann, Wrobel

Well, what a way to end the season!! Five weeks ago we were 2 games and percentage out of the 4. Dean and I had a frank conversation about what we wanted to get out of the remainder of the season, and to be honest, we were not sure where we were at. What we witnessed over the following 4 weeks was nothing less than a sensational effort from all our boys. The fact that we were able to not only reach finals but knock off the team who will be the 2018 premiers is testament to a group of kids who are resilient and capable of playing compelling, attractive and highly competitive football. Unfortunately, today was not our day. In rough conditions which challenged our boys, South Melbourne showed why they have been the standout team for the year. The boys held on for the best part of 2 quarters but were ultimately overrun in the second half. We hope that you all have a great summer, with lots of running and fitness. On behalf of Dean and myself it has been an honour and a privilege to be given the task of coaching and mentoring these boys. Cant wait for 2019. Go Comets.



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Results

U13 Jets

Ajax 6.3 (39) def East Sandringham 2.3 (15)

Goals: Goldfarb 4, Schenk, Worth

Best: Dahan, Goldfarb, Green, Jacobs, Lindell

Today, we earned a win through 4 complete quarters of focus and effort, which was very pleasing to see, after we put focus on doing exactly that pregame. Our physicality was phenomenal and our boys worked tirelessly all day to get to and make an impact on each and every contest. We asked the players which of them would stand up as 'finals players' and so many of them truly did. We face Mordi Braeside in the Grand Final next week, and we couldn't be more excited for the challenge.

U14 Girls

Ajax 3.11 (29) def St Pauls McKinnon 0.1 (1)

Goals: C Efron, Kascser, Klooger

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

The U14 Jackettes created history today being the first Ajax Junior Girls team to play in a final, and turned up with full focus and intent to win. After an inspiring rev up from the coaches pre game, captain Amira won the toss and elected to kick with the wind. The Jackett's made good use of the breeze and led 13-0 at the end of the first quarter. Kicking into the wind in the second proved a harder task, and the centre's, backs and on-ballers had to fight hard to keep the margin to 13 points at half time. The game became congested in the 2nd half with both teams showing desperation to get hands on the ball and drive forward. The Jackettes managed to break the lines on a few occasions and were rewarded with two second half goals. Flooding back in the final quarter and kicking against the wind, the Jackettes defence was virtually impenetrable again, with the opposition managing only 2 points despite a number of forays into their forward line. All in all, the girls played above themselves, defeating the 'minor premiers' who had not lost a game all year. The Jackettes will again create club history by being the first girls team to play in a Grand Final in 2 weeks' time, and if they keep to current form, will favour themselves as a good chance to bring home the Flag.

Go Jackettes!



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Results

U17 Comets

Northvale 7.7 (49) def Ajax 3.15 (33)

Goals: Gold, Krongold, Spicer

Best: Bryer, Jacobs, Krongold, Lincoln, Michelson, Smart

There's no question that finals footy is a different beast to home & away games. Despite finishing above Northvale on the ladder and outplaying them in most of our encounters this year, we couldn't quite match it with them in the Semi final.

A hard fought first quarter into the wind appeared to set us up well for the second, but it wasn't to be. Northvale's talls dominated in the air, providing strong targets all over the ground. However, it was our kicking for goal which proved to be our Achilles heel. With 4 more scoring shots, we definitely had our chances to take the game by the scruff of its neck, but we couldn't convert.

Ultimately, Northvale's desperation staved off our mini-comeback late in the final quarter, bringing the curtain down on an otherwise impressive 2018 season by the U17s.

Ryley Michelson continued his fine form with another dominant display. Matt Lincoln and Benji Krongold fought valiantly all day, winning the hard ball and setting up teammates. Ball magnet, Lior Smart extracted everything out of himself and Sam Jacobs was a shining light in defence. Adam Ossip provided spark in the open spaces and Aaron Bryer, Brandon Efron and Justin Spicer put their bodies on the line in every encounter.

Congratulations to all U17s who have completed their junior careers. Without exception they can look forward to plenty of senior footy in the years to come. And good luck to the boys who have one more season of Juniors.



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