



DE LA SALLE OLD COLLEGIANS AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

FOUNDED 1955, AFFILIATED, V.A.F.A
REG. NO. A0001867L ABN 42 381 867 521

ROUND TWELVE MATCH REPORT

SENIORS

The horrible state of the Harry Trott last week looked like the MCG in comparison to what we encountered at University oval today. With rainfall sitting at around average for June it seems that the ground is suffering from both poor drainage and extreme overuse. Mercifully the covers had been on so ironically the best patch on the entire ground was the centre wicket area.

At some stage of the season most clubs will encounter some significant personnel challenges and for us that time is now. We cannot use that as an excuse and have to focus on the positives such as the opportunity it provides to reward consistent effort in the Reserves and U19s. With that in mind we introduced another young debutant today in Michael Greichen who looks a real player. Michael joined fellow U19s Josh Tyquin and Andrew Walker in the seniors today and despite the tough conditions and high quality opposition they all acquitted themselves well.

The scoreline probably indicates that there were not too many highlights today. We managed the first goal of the game compliments of some smart roving from Jacob Gotch but for most of the half we were under extreme pressure on the back of a lopsided forward entry count. After not threatening for a long period we had several good opportunities just before half time but three gettable shots all went begging. We started the second half well and should have drawn closer early in the quarter but a crucial set shot from close range missed. With goal scoring chances at a premium the failure to convert was hurting us. Sam Pickett hauled down a big mark and with a heavy ball converted from beyond 45 to breathe some life into the contest. Unfortunately Blacks replied immediately from a smart stoppage set play and maintained the 2 goal buffer at final change. A decent gap in the conditions.

In the last quarter we tried to take the game on but in doing so left ourselves somewhat exposed. We fought it out but the home side managed the only 2 goals for the quarter and in the end recorded a comfortable 26 point victory.

Unlike the second half capitulation last week, the effort today could not be questioned. Our tackle count was enormous and we cracked in hard all day. In general play we matched the opposition but their experience and bigger bodies seemed better suited to the conditions. Credit to them as they took all we could throw at them and ground out a good win.

Not surprising that our defenders figured prominently in our best players, particularly the quartet of lefties - Sam & Jake Williams, Brendan Close and Tom Humphrey who have been rock solid all season. Nick Curwood and Tom McMahon were also good contributors and flew the flag all day against a big Uni Blacks team. Youngsters Tyquin, Walker and Greichen also deserving of some recognition.

Without laboring the point made last week, as a club we have limped to the bye and the week off provides an opportunity to re-stock and refresh. We expect a good number of players to return for the Rd 13 clash at home against Old Xavs. They are in red hot form and this will be one of the biggest and most important games of the season.

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	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
University Blacks	2.1 - 13	3.3 - 21	4.4 - 28	6.10 - 46
De La Salle	1.1 - 7	1.4 - 10	2.6 - 18	2.8 - 20

Goal Kickers: S. Pickett, J. Gotch

Best Players: S. Williams, J. Williams, B. Close, T. Humphrey, N. Curwood, T. McMahon

RESERVES

With playing stocks taking a hit, the last two weeks have been a real struggle. We welcomed back Nick Roberts, a 'team of the decade' forward who was playing his first game for the club since 2013. Just a few weeks back Nick completed a full distance Iron Man event so there can be no question on his fitness! Also worthy of mention is Dan Close who returned from overseas early this morning and came virtually straight from the airport to the game - a truly great clubman. Thanks also to a number of players from the Thirds (who played Sunday) who answered a late call up to help make up the numbers.

We hung in for much of the game and while the Blacks always looked the winner, we showed plenty of fight. They had a dominant period each side of half time which ultimately proved to be the difference.

Hamish Curtis, Harry Haley and Dan Close kept throwing themselves into the contest while Ned Murphy and Jordy Bull were outstanding in defence. Great to have Nick Fyfield back in the side and he was also a good contributor.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
University Blacks	2.3 - 15	6.5 - 41	9.9 - 63	10.13 - 73
De La Salle	1.1 - 7	2.2 - 14	3.5 - 23	4.6 - 30

THIRDS

Continuing what was a very ordinary weekend for the senior group, the Thirds lost their first game for the year to a good Ajax side. They have run us close the two previous times we have met this year and there is little doubt we will meet again in finals. Despite a good start a lack of numbers impacted and we fell away badly in the last quarter. No cause for panic as for three quarters we looked pretty good.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
AJAX	2.1 - 13	2.6 - 18	4.9 - 33	11.12 - 78
De La Salle	4.5 - 29	6.6 - 42	7.9 - 51	7.10 - 52

Goal Kickers: N. Stewart 2, J. Bull 2, J. Oakley, T. Kovarik, P. Monaghan

Best Players: P. Mercoulia, J. Bull, A. De Luca, J. O'Brien, L. Jarvis, O. Keaney

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19 BLUES

Fifth placed De La Salle Blues took on sixth placed St. Bernards in one of the ugliest yet most satisfying of wins. This win showed how 23 blokes can simply contest and persevere and wait a long time until the limited opportunities come our way.

St. Bernards were big, talented and determined but just kept running into the DLS collective roadblock time and time again. Yet another disciplined four quarter effort when we really needed it. Hopefully a sign of good things to come. We must make this our standard operating procedure.

The Blues have now played 46 different players this year and have slowly learned more about each other, the game plan and some genuine belief. The improvement of young players in their role continues to amaze, including Matt Tyquin and Nick O'Sullivan playing a second game for the day and adding small but vital contributions to the cause.

Congrats to Michael Griechen for his first Senior game and best wishes to Matt Colak and Mason Martinez in their quest for VAFA State selection. Well done also to the Gold and Colts who continue to show guts and character when severely depleted and/or behind on the scoreboard. We would be lost if not for all our loyal coaches, helpers, officials, parents and supporters who add so much spirit and enthusiasm to a great club culture. Very happy for the break but can't wait for the charge to the finals.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
De La Salle	2.2 - 14	3.5 - 23	3.8 - 26	6.9 - 45
St Bernards	2.2 - 14	2.3 - 15	2.8 - 20	2.9 - 21

Goal Kickers: A. Trusler 2, W. Mackie, N. Catrice, N. O'Sullivan, B. Tokatlidis
Best Players: M. Colak, M. Martinez, A. Lvovskiy, M. Lvovskiy, H. Persson, W. Mackie

19 GOLDS

Sometimes games are won by very slim margins and Saturday was a case of slim margins. In pretty ordinary conditions the Golds held off a very determined and enthusiastic St. Bernard's. This was not a game which reached any great heights, but it was pretty gripping given it was in the balance all day, and it was only with a goal at the 21 minute of the last quarter by Matt Howard which extended the lead to 8 points that the game looked secure for the Golds. As a result the team heads to the bye with their 9th win of the season sitting in 3rd position.

It may not have been pretty, but it was a gritty and determined win by a group who whilst not playing at their best did enough to keep their momentum going and keep finals a real possibility.

The day got off to a dreadful start when we were rocked a bit when we heard of the news from our team manager Stuart MacDonald that his father had passed away and as such his steadying hand would be missing for the day. Thanks to St. Bernard's for giving us some much needed assistance on the day with administrative help and guidance along with helping us with a minutes silence. Their understanding on such very short notice was terrific.

The game was probably going to come down to who would be able to keep at it longer given the heavy ground and in the end it was the Golds who were able to breach the Bernies backline one last time to earn a well deserved rest with the win.

I suppose it could be argued that we didn't really have too many 4 quarter players, but given the conditions and the determination and doggedness of the opposition it was that in the end we were able to call upon some valuable cameos that allowed us to kick vital goals when required.

Ajay had a great start to the game, faded, and then came again, Matt Howard played on ball as a ruck, went forward and deep in the last took a strong mark and kicked truly when it was needed, Dean Krelle had a telling 10-15 minute burst in the 3rd to help get us up and about and then in the last 5 minutes gathered some very valuable possessions to help move the ball from the De La half back line to our forward line. Matt Horrigan played on ball, went down back and helped to slow the opposition attacks, Aiden Wood along with Yoss was one of the reasons we were to keep the ball running out of defence as he was always looking to get on the free side and open the game up with run and carry. Jack Vance gave us a cameo - I just wish he would hold his marks, Harry Morris along with Mick Canny, Nathan Monaco, Quinn De Luca and Daniel Melissinos were terrific in the middle allowing us to rotate bodies and numbers through the middle to help give us some drive out of the sticky sloppy middle of the ground.

Overall with numbers down a terrific win and a credit to the boys - to quote Michael Laoumtzis at the end - "it's July, that's when you grind out wins!"

To Jack Squires who played with us on short notice - terrific stuff particularly as he had already played 4 quarters in the Colts - so I'm sure he would have slept well that night! Thanks also to Mick Ahearn who stepped us team manager for the day and to John Laoumtzis who waved the flags along with the prince of timekeepers Tim Wood for running the clock and scoreboard.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
De La Salle	2.1 - 13	5.4 - 34	6.8 - 44	8.9 - 57
St Bernards	4.1 - 25	5.1 - 31	6.3 - 39	7.7 - 49

Goal Kickers: A. Nyanjok 2, D. Krelle, M. Howard, Q. De Luca, N. Monaco, J. Yosiffidis, D. Melissinos
Best Players: M. Horrigan, D. Melissinos, D. Krelle, A. Nyanjok, N. Monaco, Z. Grundmann

19 COLTS

Another wet weather game at home against Aquinas and again we adapted quickly to the conditions and had 5 majors on the scoreboard at qtr time.

We continued to work for each other in the 2nd and 3rd qtrs before we began to tire in last qtr allowing Aquinas to kick 5 goals, although we did manage four of our own.

Lots of changes before and during the game as our U19 sides had to manage playing personnel due to plenty of boys missing through injuries, work or being away on school holidays.

Again we had Jordy Brasher and Charlie Bird play and both played ripper games, Will Trewalla answered the call and played his first game and was a real solid contributor across halfback. Nick O'sullivan and Mat Tyquin played again with the Blues and Jack Squires also played another game with the Gold's. Thanks to all three boys, you all played important roles in helping all U19 teams win on the day. It was great to see Joe Squires back after a major leg injury and his attack on the ball and the contest was first rate all game.

Thanks again to Daz O'Neill who did a great job as TM and Greg Gill who has become a regular in the timekeeper's box. Enjoy your break.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
De La Salle	5.5 - 35	8.8 - 56	12.11 - 83	16.12 - 108
Aquinas OC	0.1 - 1	1.2 - 8	2.2 - 14	7.3 - 45

Goal Kickers: J. Epifanidis 4, R. Watson 3, J. Squires 2, J. Brasher, H. Gill, C. Bird, F. McCormack, L. O'Neill, B. Melissinos, T. Shannon

Best Players: J. Squires, M. Tyquin, A. Martuccio, R. Watson, J. Epifanidis, C. Bird