



DE LA SALLE OLD COLLEGIANS AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

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

ROUND NINE MATCH REPORT

The half way point sees the seniors on top of the ladder after yet another heart stopper while a win to the Reserves sees them consolidate second spot. A bye for the undefeated Thirds who remain on top. A bleak day for the unders but all remain in finals contention.

SENIORS

For most De La folk the journey to St Bernards in West Essendon is easily the longest road trip of the fixture. While they sit at 1 - 7 they are a much better side than that and their season in many ways mirrors our start to 2015. In 7 of the 8 games completed so far St Bernards have led or been within a kick at three quarter time. They have lost three games by two goals or less and with a bit of luck could be on the cusp of the four.

In the 8 contests between the clubs since their reintroduction to 'A' section in 2012 the ledger stands at 4 wins each. Interestingly, in that time we have not won at their ground nor they at ours but every contest has been a close, hard fought affair.

While his presence will be sorely missed it is fantastic to see Adrian Indovino selected for his first game at VFL level after banging the door down at Collingwood for a season and a half. Returning from injury was past B&F winner Tom Humphrey and young gun Josh Tyquin while Ed Clinch was rewarded for some solid form in the 2s after an early season injury set back.

With their Premier section status well and truly on the line the home side would be desperate for a win. The first really wet day of the year combined with a big (and increasingly vocal) St Bernards crowd, swelled by a past players day, ensured that the Snake Pit would live up to its reputation as a hostile venue for visiting teams. The challenges just kept coming – dominant ruckmen Ant Forato's day was done within 10 minutes and while they both battled the game out, defenders Tom Humphrey and Ed Murphy were hobbled by leg injuries by the mid way point of the first quarter. The star studded St Bernards midfield was proving a real handful, and with Forato off the ground they took full advantage around the stoppages. Schroder, Macleod and Sullivan in particular were hard to collar and a terrible quarter in every way imaginable saw St Bernards with a comfortable quarter time lead. The 17 point margin probably flattered us.

We started the second quarter with much more intent. Clinch and Hogan goaled early and when Gotch snapped truly we had leveled it up. But St Bernards got it back on their terms and with consecutive goals again took control. Late in the quarter Clinch bagged his second from a mark 45 out to reduce the margin to 6 points at half time.

The arm wrestle continued in the third quarter. No score for 10 minutes until Harrison hauled down a big mark in square and we were back within a point. But they got away from us again and a dominant period saw them open up what was a very handy lead in the conditions. Despite our best efforts we struggled to quell the influence of their midfielders as they continued to generate forward entries. Moved into attack,

CORRESPONDENCE PO Box 561 Bentleigh East VIC, 3165 | Email: president@delasalleocfc.com.au | secretary@delasalleocfc.com.au

Tom Humphrey goaled from close range and then a brilliant mark and goal from Pickett reduced the margin to 7 points at the final change. Tight games seem to be a weekly occurrence for both these clubs but unlike our hosts we had made a habit of winning these and were confident we could do it again.

The last quarter was an absolute slog. Rain had fallen all day and the heavy conditions were starting to take its toll. Both teams had chances but approaching time on neither side has managed a goal for the quarter. Nick Curwood was leading a miserly defensive unit which had been well on top since quarter time and Hogan proving plenty of drive around the ground. At the 19 minute mark the match was turned on its head. Clever play from half back created a forward entry and Rayson runs onto the loose ball to reduce the margin to a point. A minute later a brilliant intercept mark and goal on the run from Jake Williams put us in front for the first time for the day and from the re-start Nicholson drives it forward, Clinch roves the pack and his third goal put us 11 points up. Three goals in as many minutes and we grab the game by the throat. The home side keep coming and for long periods the ball seems permanently locked in their forward zone. With the clock showing 32 minutes ex Geelong player Jordan Schroder demonstrates his class with a goal from a long way out to bring it back under a kick. With plenty of stoppages we figured it would be a long quarter but with just 4 goals scored most were surprised it had gone this far. At the 33 minute mark we again force it forward and a clever Nicholson snap finally put the game beyond doubt with the siren mercifully sounding after nearly 35 minutes of torrid football.

Full credit to the opposition. They threw absolutely everything at us and for much of the game looked the winner. We did not lead until the 20 minute mark of the last quarter but with 5 of the last 6 goals managed to scratch out another brave victory. The belief is clearly evident - this time last year we could not buy a win in tight games but this season in 5 genuine heart stoppers we have got the points in 4 of them.

A solid team performance but we did have few stand our performers. Nick Curwood and Steve Hogan were outstanding and took their games to new levels today. Clinch, Gotch and Nicholson were creative ball winners while Brendan Close put in another solid display in the back half.

A well earned week off then a massive home game against Trinity. They are one of the two sides to knock us over this year and sit 2 points behind us in second place.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
St Bernards	4.4 - 28	6.8 - 44	9.10 - 64	10.13 - 73
De La Salle	1.5 - 11	5.8 - 38	8.10 - 58	12.11 - 83

Goal Kickers: E. Clinch 3, J. Gotch 2, S. Pickett, H. Nicholson, D. Rayson, J. Williams, S. Hogan, T. Humphrey, L. Harrison

Best Players: N. Curwood, S. Hogan, E. Clinch, J. Gotch, H. Nicholson, B. Close

RESERVES

Round 9 and we make the trip out to the Snake Pit to take on St Bernards. We are still second on the ladder but are facing a difficult team who are coming off a good win last round. A real 8 point game and we know that we have to be at our best to get the points. For three quarters it was a real arm wrestle. We trail by a point at 3/4 time and its game on as St Bernards have all the momentum on the back of dominant 3rd quarter.

We urge the team to take the game on and not to go into their shells and that exactly what we do. A great last quarter as we pull away to win by 17 points. Our leaders stood up and we go into the break in a good shape. Enjoy the week off and let's keep up the good work when we take on Trinity in a fortnight.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
St Bernards	1.3 - 9	3.6 - 24	7.10 - 52	7.13 - 55
De La Salle	3.2 - 20	7.5 - 47	7.9 - 51	10.12 - 72

Goal Kickers: S. Harrington 2, M. Moore 2, T. McMahon, A. Kneebone, H. Haley, L. Bull, C. Dooley, D. Commins

Best Players: L. Bull, T. Curry, H. Curtis, H. Haley, S. Harrington, A. Walker

THIRDS

Thirds had a bye and at the half way mark sit two games clear on top of the ladder.

19 BLUES

De La Salle Blues took on undefeated Old Xaverians. It was a heart-breaking yet fantastic effort that saw many individuals and the whole team raise their efforts to extract more than we have previously seen. It is very frustrating to have yet another honourable effort against a good team but I'm not worried if this effort is our "new normal". If it is, then I can't wait for the rest of the season.

Enjoy the week off because I'm looking for revenge and payback for ourselves in the next game. I will be very keen to elaborate further on our "new normal" as soon as we replicate it next game.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
De La Salle	2.1 - 13	3.6 - 24	5.7 - 37	6.8 - 44
Old Xaverians	2.2 - 14	4.6 - 30	5.8 - 38	8.10 - 58

Goal Kickers: A. Lvovskiy 2, H. Persson 2, D. Roberts, M. Simons

Best Players: M. Martinez, A. Lvovskiy, S. Pennell, G. Nagle, M. Griechen, N. Catrice

19 GOLDS

This was a game which pitted 2 against 3, but both teams had a number of different personnel from the early season clash with Gherisi, Wright, Northey, Defterous and Cooper Morris all in the Blues and Harry Jarvis injured and the visitors had a number of taller boys back from their senior under 19 team along with some inclusions from the school 1st XVIII.

In a game where the scoreboard told the story the Old Xavs under 19 reserves were too good for the Golds in a rain affected and cold encounter at Waverley oval. These games seem to contrast all the differences between the 2 clubs - De La using their speed and quick hands to get the ball deep and kick running goals, and our opponents using their height and associated marking power to win the aerial battles and rely upon twin marking towers up forward.

A dreadful opening 10 minutes coupled with a 5 minute period in the 2nd quarter just before the main break saw the visitors establish a lead that was too hard to bridge on a day when scores were hard won and well earned.

Overall, whilst it was a loss, it could be argued that outside of the above 15 minutes noted above, we were able to match them, if not score as fluently as they did. An example is that in the 3rd we had 6 scoring shots to 7, and more than held our own.

Great to see the debuts of Jed Roberts a year 11 boy pitted against a near 20 year old and Ollie Gunning a year 12 lad, a running player, who both fitted in very well and did not look out of place in a game against one of the bigger teams we face.

Along with those 2 there are a number of positives for the future of the club with the continued development and fine tuning of the game style along with the efforts of Harry Morris, Paul Kony, Tom Brasher, the return of Ben Ahearn, Stef Taranto along with Liam McCluskey, Daniel Melissinos and Adam Monkman we had players prepared to work hard, but in the end it was the size and efficiency of our opponents which prevailed. After the break we take on Beaumaris in another double header and a chance to get back into the winners circle.

Thanks to Alice our new physio, Mick Ahearn for acting as team manager and goal umpire, Tim Wood as timekeeper extraordinaire along with Phil Taranto for helping with stats and key indicators.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
De La Salle	1.3 - 9	2.5 - 17	4.10 - 34	6.12 - 48
Old Xaverians	3.2 - 20	8.6 - 54	10.11 - 71	13.14 - 92

Goal Kickers: H. Morris, P. Cook, J. Galbraith, Q. De Luca, D. Melissinos, A. Cowan

Best Players: H. Morris, T. Brasher, J. Roberts, M. Canny, L. McCluskey, O. Gunning

19 COLTS

A very strange looking scoreboard, despite kicking more goals than Mazenod we lost by 17 points ! A wet and dreary day was the pointer to a lack lustre performance. Mazenod adapted to the conditions well and dominated the clearances and the ball spent the majority of the time stuck in their forward line. We need to learn to play wet weather footy, our first quarters all season have been our worst, when the grounds have been wet with dew. This is not taking anything away from Mazenod, they dominated the game and should have won by a far greater margin.

A week off to recharge is ideal, as the boys with school footy have had a solid 6 weeks of football. We need to regroup next week, work on our game and get ready for the 2nd half of the season.
Injuries – Zac Grundman sore foot – 26 kick outs!

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
De La Salle	2.1 - 13	4.3 - 27	4.3 - 27	7.3 - 45
Mazenod	2.9 - 21	3.13 - 31	5.23 - 53	6.26 - 62

Goal Kickers: J. Bailey 2, N. O’Sullivan 2, M. Riley 2, R. Watson
Best Players: M. Riley, J. Ingram, Z. Grundmann, J. Bailey, T. Shannon, R. Watson