

ROUND 11 – Saturday 29^d June – Match Report AJAX vs Williamstown



It was a cold, rainy and blustery day at Fearon Reserve as AJAX fought against Williamstown. Kicking with the wind in the first quarter, the Jackas started slowly allowing easy marks in the forward 50 for Williamstown who quickly found themselves three goals up. The ship was steadied by Charlie Hamilton who snapped truly on his left foot from a forward 50 stoppage. Williamstown however showed superior endeavour in the first quarter and led 36-11 at quarter time. AJAX started the second quarter with a fantastic team goal. Brad Caplan's long clearing kick to the near wing was won by Charlie Hamilton in a classic one on one contest. Hamilton handballed to Justin Berkowitz who converted truly from the forward pocket. The goal came much to the surprise of the crowd who had believed Berkowitz to be too far from goal to score. However, due to the obscure direction of the ground Berkowitz was a mere 30m out and slotted his goal through at half post height. Williamstown answered the initial goal with vigour, kicking the next five goals with the wind and taking an almost unassailable 71-20 lead into the half.

At the half, coach Adam Andrews implored his troops to forget about the scoreline and put their best foot forward after a challenging week for the club. Injuries and travel had seen the team depleted, but Andrews expressed his faith in the team to compete and bounce back. A positional change saw Brandon Joel shifted forward to start the third term. Joel promptly obliged with two quick goals. Charlie Hamilton added another to cut the difference to 5 goals. Unfortunately, Williamstown added another from the goal square after a suspect free kick against Berkowitz. Reserves leader and strong clubman Joel 'Buzz' Burston later helped himself to his first senior goal after two 50 meter penalties put him at the top of the goal square. Swingman Brandon Joel scored another soon after. Late goals to Williamstown saw the scoreboard at 90-52 at three quarter time. Credit to Williamstown for their accuracy as they had kicked 14.6 in extremely windy and wet conditions. The strong third quarter showed the will of the team to compete through adversity. Supporters also battled through adversity as they marched into an extremely strong headwind on the way to the three quarter time huddle. At the huddle the team and supporters crowded together



to hear positive messages from the coach and also to keep warm. Coach Andrews exclaimed that he was “really proud of the effort” with the team fighting “contest by contest”.

The team fought courageously, holding Williamstown goalless for the first 20 minutes of the final quarter as the opponents kicked with a strong northerly breeze. Unfortunately for the Jackas, Williamstown was able to score the final four goals of the game which ended in truly torrid conditions. Kudos to the players who gave their all as some 7 millimetres of rain fell on Fearon Reserve. Charlie Hamilton was the Jackas best with 36 disposals and 3 goals, as Nick Lewis had a whopping 15 tackles. Richie Simon was stoic down back with 5 marks, while Brad Caplan and Jesse Velleman both had 3 frees for.

The team will hope to bounce back post the bye at Gary Smorgon Oval against Old Mentonians.

AJAX next take on Old Mentonians at Gary Smorgon Oval, Albert Park July 20 at 2:00PM.

Scores

Seniors – 7.11 (53) def by Williamstown 18.12 (120) - Goals: B. Joel 3, C. Hamilton 2, J. Berkowitz, J. Burston Best: C. Hamilton, B. Joel , N. Lewis, B. Krongold, A. Bryer, J. Goldberg

Development – 1.4 (10) def by Williamstown 19.19 (133) - Goals: B. Schauder Best: J. Tonkin, B. Schauder, A. Krongold, B. Sher, J. Broons, A. Den

Next Development are away against Old Mentonians at Gary Smorgon Oval, Albert Park July 20 at 11:40 AM.

Thirds – Round 11 Game scheduled Monday, July 1 at Banksia Reserve at 7:00 PM.

U19s – Game Cancelled

Next Under 19s are away against Kew at Leigh Park, Nth Balwayn at 9:20 AM on July 13.

The Jackettes travelled to second placed Richmond looking to win and get their season back on track.

Again low on numbers the game started in windy conditions with lots of rain about. After an even first quarter, Richmond started to get the upper hand and took a 2 goal lead into half time. Worth and Nankin were trying hard in the rucks but the defence lead by Abraham, Mrocki, Grek and Kurland were continually under pressure. Abelman made a welcome return to the team and Israel and Marget never gave up. Richmond proved too strong in the end and ran out 23 point winners.

The Jackettes go into the bye round well placed in 3rd position on the ladder and will look to consolidate during the last 3 rounds of the season.

Jackettes – 0.4 (4) def by Richmond 4.3 (27) - Best: L. Nankin, A. Caplan, J. Marget, I. Worth, H. Mrocki, D. Abraham

Next the Jackettes are away against Albert Park at Beaurepaire Pavilion, Albert Park at 9:20 AM on July 13.

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