

Dee's Claim Big Scalp

By 'The Haymaker'

De La Salle Old Collegians Amateur Football Club has firmed as genuine premiership contenders in Premier Division after comprehensively disposing of second placed Collegians by 56 points at Harry Trott Oval in the first round after the break. Before the match, De La welcomed first gamer John Nicolopoulos and the experienced Michael Duggan into the side for his first match of the year who came in for Aaron Shields who was ill. The win was led by a welcome return to form by Leigh Harrison who booted 4 goals, and worked hard for 4 quarters.

In the first quarter De La's early midfield pressure was good enabling them to win the clearances and kick the first the goals of the game through Tyson Hunt and Luke Semmel. There was no doubt that De La were up and about, looking to consolidate on a good first half of the year. Michael Duggan had an immediate impact when he came on, setting up Tyson Hunt for his second of the afternoon then kicking one himself. Late in the term, the momentum swung. With Collegians controlling the play for the last 10 minutes, their spread from half back then run down the club house side wing impressive. They were able to kick two late goals keeping them in touch at the first change, with De La leading by 5 points.

De La dominated the second quarter, with 12 scoring shots to 2. De La's pressure was again terrific causing turnovers all over the ground but making it hard for Collegians to cross half forward with any real potency. Nathan Harris was excellent down back putting his body on the line with desperate spoils and setting up numerous rebounds, along with Ben Oakley and Tom Moloney. They were able to kick long to an open forward line to Leigh Harrison who kicked 3 second term goals. Nick Roberts was doing an excellent job on the dangerous Nick Stone across the De La half forward line. At half time De La had stretched the lead out to 40 points.

Collegian's came out strongly after half time but to no avail, with Ben Oakley and Tom Moloney starting the term well, with desperate spoils, standing up strongly as always. De La were able to take the ball down the other end and kick the first two of the third to almost seal the game, early in the third, going up by 53 points. The first was a fourth to Harrison, and then John Nicolopoulos took a strong mark deep and kicked his first goal for the senior side. Collegians answered with a good goal to Bull but De La again had all the answers, with Mick Duggan kicking an excellent goal from 40 out on a considerable angle, followed up by a classic Duggan fist pump celebration. The Dee's were well in control at the final change leading by 47 points.

In the last Leigh Harrison was leading up well and taking some strong over head marks. While midfielders Luke Semmel and Jordy Pollard applied the pressure in close and running hard to provide options. But Collegians looked on top for the most part of the last, even though the score board may not indicate that. They still looked to spread across half back and run down the wings, but wasted the ball across half forward, enabling De La to rebound easily. Sam Williams, who was mostly quiet, provided a blistering run down the wing, setting up John Nicolopoulos for his second of the afternoon. The match finished with two late goals to Josh Oakley, who battled hard all day, and also Justin Baxter, who was thrown forward and showed he can be very versatile.

De La finished off well, winning by 56 points. They will now focus on next week when they have another massive match against cross-stonnington rivals Old Xaverians in a match which will have a lot to say about where these two teams are at.

DE LA SALLE

Goal Kickers: L. Harrison 4, M. Duggan 3, T. Hunt 3, J. Nicolopoulos 2, J. Baxter , J. Oakley , L. Semmel , S. Pickett

Best Players: L. Semmel, J. Pollard, T. Moloney, B. Oakley, L. Harrison, J. Moloney

G B PTS

DE LA SALLE 16 16 112

COLLEGIANS 8 8 56

Reserves:

De La Salle have propelled to top of the Premier Reserve ladder with an impressive 37 point win over Collegians at Harry Trott Oval.

Collegians had most of the play early but wasted opportunities in front of goal, with 6 behinds in the first. De La took advantage of this and were able to take a 7 point lead into the first change. From then on De La kept a 2 to 3 goal buffer for the remainder of the match, before kicking away in the last to claim a good victory.

Good for De La were Steve Muller who continues to impress with his good hands. Also, Michael Stinear was promising in his comeback from injury.

De La now will gear up to face Old Xav's this weekend at Toorak Park.

G B PTS

DE LA SALLE 13 6 84

COLLEGIANS 6 11 47

Thirds:

The thirds have also rocketed to second on the ladder with a good win over Collegians. De La led at every change and proved too strong for Collegians. De La now takes on the undefeated Old Xav's next week.

G B PTS

DE LA SALLE 10 10 70

Under 19 Blues:

De La Salle continued their incredible run and remain undefeated in 2010.

De La dominated early, with Tom McMahon all over his Beaumaris opponent in the ruck. At his feet, first gamer Jarryd Lyons – free from TAC cup duties – and Brad Wilson were in and under feeding the ball out to runners such as Dave Gullan and delivering to Ben Nethersole and Hugh Nicholson.

Mc Mahon was best on the ground with 3 goals and a freakish ruck display, while Eddie Espinosa continues his good form with another 3 goals and was well supported by skipper Ben Humphrey, Hugh Nicholson and Ben Nethersole who all contributed 2 goals.

De La will be looking to continue their form next week against Old Xaverians.

DE LA SALLE

Goal Kickers: T. McMahon 3, E. Espinosa 3, H. Nicholson 2, B. Humphrey 2, B. Nethersole 2, B. Wilson, D. Gullan, X. Murphy, M. Fort-Williams, L. O'Connell

Best Players: T. McMahon, E. Clinch, T. Humphrey, B. Wilson, D. Gullan, B. Pratt

	G	B	PTS
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DE LA SALLE	17	14	116
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BEAUMARIS	4	4	28
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Under 19 Gold's:

De La Salle has kept their finals hopes alive with a strong win over Old Haileybury at Waverley Park. In an even start, the Gold's led by a point at quarter time, but a strong second term proved the difference, with De La leading by 29 points at half time. The Dee's were able to maintain that buffer to win by 35 points.

De La must keep winning if they want to feature in September. Next week they face Ormond.

DE LA SALLE

Goal Kickers: A. Kanellopoulos 4, T. East 3, G. McDonough, J. Wood, N. Hyland, C. Athanassiou, B. Forrest, L. Hogan

Best Players: D. Murphy, A. Kanellopoulos, S. Hillier, J. Duhau, M. Nolan, T. East

	G	B	PTS
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DE LA SALLE	13	11	89
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OLD HAILEYBURY	8	6	54
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Warriors:

It always give me great pleasure to announce that De La Salle yesterday traveled to the snake pit to face St Bernard's and crushed them to the tune of 65 points.

In a dominant display De La were clearly too good, all across the ground. Tom Kovarik led the win with 3 goals up forward for De La.

Next week De La face University Blacks at Waverley Park.

DE LA SALLE

Goal Kickers: T. Kovarik 3, C. Coyle 2, A. Coffey , J. Adams , D. Colman , D. Ellis , N. Higgins , J. Davies , T. Nicholas

Best Players: M. Lafferty, W. Dwyer, A. Coffey, J. Davies, S. Kelliher, T. Nicholas

	G	B	PTS
DE LA SALLE	12	10	82
ST BERNARDS	2	5	17