

De La Salle Stumble... Again

By 'The Haymaker'

De La Salle have dropped to third on the Premier ladder after going down to another premiership fancy, Uni Blues at Sportscover Arena by 42 points in wet and slippery conditions. After a positive start De La couldn't keep up with the well drilled and aggressive Uni Blues line up.

De La started slowly in the first, taking time to adjust to the wet and slippery conditions. Uni Blues opened the scoring after only 30 seconds after some sloppy defending. De La then began to run in numbers and increase their ferocity at the ball. This was the catalyst for the next three goals; all to the Dee's who looked in control early on. All the major ball winners, Jarrod Moloney, Michael Stinear, David Lowe and Luke Semmel were all getting plenty of early possessions. De La let the ascendancy slip late in the quarter though, allowing the students to kick the last three goals of the quarter and sacrifice their 11 point lead, which became an 8 point deficit at the first change.

Uni Blues started the second just as they had finished the first, full of run and confidence; kicking three of the first four goals for the term, with the margin all of a sudden out to 21 points. Although De La were getting plenty of the ball, disposal and efficiency especially by foot was letting them down. With 6 more entries into the forward 45, De La still weren't able to outscore the students in the second. Highlighting that bombing long to a 3 on 1 isn't the way to go. Although the frontal pressure that De La applied was positive. Johnny Nicolopoulos who has only played a handful of games chased hard in the forward half and was rewarded when he caused a turnover which resulted in a Jake Gotch goal. At half time De La were still in touch, with Uni Blues leading by 6 points.

The third was a terrific quarter for the Blues; they demolished De La on the scoreboard. Kicking the first 6 goals of the second half, Uni took the game away from the Dee's. Their ball use was superb and their run and spread into space was also a highlight, exposing De La's structures. At three quarter time the De La coaches weren't happy with the quarter, with the stats not looking too one sided; but more the effort and willingness to run and defend that the coaches implored needed to improve.

De La had a glimmer of hope after 5 minutes when Nicolopoulos put his second through after a good lead up mark, but after 10 minutes of contested footy and constant stoppages the game was well out of De La's reach. De La ended up going down by 42 points in a very disappointing second half.

After going down to two top four teams in the past month, doubt may start to be cast over De La, as people begin to wonder whether they can keep up with the best. De La Salle will be keen to redeem themselves next week and return to the winners list when they face Old Scotch at home.

DLS Goal Kickers: J. Nicolopoulos 2, S. Nethersole , S. Pickett , N. Stewart , L. Harrison , J. Gotch , J. Pollard

DLS Best Players: M. Stinear, L. Semmel, D. Lowe, N. Roberts, J. Nicolopoulos, M. Collins

	G	B	PTS
DE LA SALLE	8	10	58
UNI BLUES	15	10	100

Reserves:

De La Salle have gone down to Uni Blues by 24 points.

After a good start, De La trailed by only 3 points at half time. Feeling confident they could over run the students; but after a lacklustre second half ended up going down by 24 points.

The club congratulates Skipper Peter Harrison on playing his 200th match.

	G	B	PTS
DE LA SALLE	6	4	40
UNI BLUES	9	10	64

Thirds:

The thirds had a strong win over Uni blues by 42 points.

De La were too good for the students and had a lot more of the ball, which was reflected on the scoreboard, with De La having 7 more scoring shots.

De La will be looking to next week when they face Scotch away.

	G	B	PTS
DE LA SALLE	12	8	80
UNI BLUES	5	8	38

Under 19 Blues:

De La Salle has continued their unbelievable run, defeating Uni Blacks by 96 points.

De La started well, having Uni buried at half time, leading by over 10 goals. This allowed Coach Jon Edgar to change it up a little bit and allow back pocket Tom Humphrey and centre half back Ben Humphrey time up forward, both kicking goals.

Brad Wilson was again excellent in the middle, along with Xavier Murphy who has been terrific since returning from a shoulder injury earlier in the year.

De La will be looking to continue their form against Old Scotch at Camberwell Sports Ground next week.

DLS Goal Kickers: M. Todd 4, H. Nicholson 3, T. East 3, E. Espinosa 3, B. Nethersole , T. Humphrey , B. Humphrey

DLS Best Players: B. Wilson, B. Humphrey, X. Murphy, E. Espinosa, M. Todd, L. Williams

	G	B	PTS
UNI BLACKS	2	4	16
DE LA SALLE	16	16	112

Under 19 Gold's:

De La Salle has gone down to St Kevin's by 112 points.

In a disappointing performance, St Kevin's were too big, too strong and a lot more determined than their De La opponents.

Although Nick Hyland produced some highlights for De La with his best game for the year, overall the Dee's were quite disappointing.

De La will be looking to redeem themselves next week when they face Hampton Rovers at Waverley Park, in the first of a triple header.

	G	B	PTS
ST KEVINS	22	14	146
DE LA SALLE	5	4	34

Warriors:

De La Salle had a bye this week. They play Prahran at home next week in the final round.

With no chance of playing finals De La will be looking to finish off the year on a positive note with a win.