

Dee's Hit a High after Nine

By 'The Haymaker'

De La Salle have finished off strongly at the mid point of the VAFA season, defeating Old Trinity by 40 points to snatch top spot off Collegian's who revealed a chink in their armour, going down by 108 points in the wet and windy conditions across Melbourne.

De La had plenty of the ball in the first term, dominating most of the quarter. Jarrod Moloney was good in the midfield. The tagger, who quietly goes about his business, was able to get a quick kick out of the contest in the middle of the field, down towards Josh Oakley who slammed home the Dee's first of the afternoon within the opening minute. The rain then started to fall, making it difficult to mark the ball. Inaccurate kicking left De La only 16 points up at the first break. However, the coaches would have been further impressed with the work of Tom Moloney in the backline, who continues his excellent season. Tom, who led the possession getters with 25 for the game (also finally to be honoured with a guernsey in the VAFA team!??) helped in keeping OT's goalless.

De La started the second as they had the first with young up-and-comer Mark Collins opening his account for the day with a goal. Sam Williams' run through the middle was excellent in the second, delivering to Sam Pickett to increase the margin to 27 points only 2 minutes into the term. Then the heavens began to open up and it became a scrappy affair very quickly. That didn't affect Joel Phillips silky skills, who with one hand gathered the ball and from the pocket, tucked up on the boundary snapped home a beauty for De La. Young gun Tyson Hunt continued his impressive debut season in the senior ranks with another good day. His footy smarts enable him to be very dangerous, especially around goal, and in the second he attacked the ball, gave a nice don't-argue and from 30 snapped home a great goal. By this stage De La had taken the lead to 34 points. Trinity were able to rally and kick a late goal, but still went into the break 27 points down.

In the third term, the heavens really opened up with most spectators retreating to the pavilion or underneath the biggest tree they could find. The game began to look more like the soccer world cup, with classy skill very hard to come by. In a scrappy second half, the De La midfield got right on top with familiar names such as Aaron Shields, David Lowe and Jordan Pollard all putting their heads over the footy and going in hard. Pickett and Semmel were both able to kick good goals in the trying conditions in the last half, with Nathan Harris kicking the other.

After the match Coach David Madigan spoke highly of the midfield "I was really impressed with the guys in the midfield today, in trying conditions they really did a great job"

With nine rounds gone and nine to go, De La sits on top of the Premier ladder by percentage from Collegian's. The De La coaches will be happy with their start to the year but still have a lot to work to do in the second half of the year. With huge matches straight up after the break against Collegians in round 10 and Old Xaverians in round 11, the Dee's will be looking for a positive break to come back raring to go.

A mid-season report will follow this report in the next week on the website.

DLS Goal Kickers: S. Pickett 3, L. Semmel 2, M. Collins 2, J. Oakley , J. Phillips , T. Hunt , N. Harris

DLS Best Players: B. Oakley, L. Semmel, M. Collins, A. Shields, T. Moloney, S. Pickett

	G	B	PTS
DE LA SALLE	11	15	81
OLD TRINITY	5	11	41

Reserves:

De La Salle continued their recent fine form with a comprehensive 131 point win in trying conditions.

Young gun and ex-VFL player John Nicolopoulos slotted 3. Steve Muller was again impressive with 5 and Michael Duggan coming back from injury kicked 5 of his own in the big win.

All players have been putting their hands up for senior selection in the past few weeks along with James Crowe and it will be interesting to see who gets their opportunity.

Congratulations are also extended to Will Fenton who celebrated his 150th game for the club in the big win.

De La faces a massive challenge against Collegian's after the break.

DLS Goal Kickers: M. Duggan 5, S. Muller 5, J. Nicolopoulos 3, M. Brown 3, B. Corin 2, L. Edwards 2, B. Mannix , C. Kelliher , S. Hogan , J. Hansen , A. Kneebone , W. Fenton , J. Crowe

DLS Best Players: J. Crowe, M. Nankervis, J. Nicolopoulos, C. Kelliher, S. Dillon, M. Duggan

	G	B	PTS
DE LA SALLE	27	8	170
OLD TRINITY	6	3	39

Thirds:

De La Salle recorded an excellent victory against Old Trinity defeating them by 83 points, showing off the excellent depth De La have this year.

Adam Kovarik led the win with 6 goals, in an impressive display. De La dominated the play for the entire day.

De La will be looking forward to returning from the break and continuing their form against Collegians.

DLS Goal Kickers: A. Kovarik 6, S. Morwood 2, J. Jarvis 2, B. Hill , T. John , D. Jarvis , J. Lamb , S. Bennetts

DLS Best Players: S. Bennetts, J. Morwood, B. Hill, A. Kovarik, J. Lamb, J. Jarvis

	G	B	PTS
DE LA SALLE	15	12	102
OLD TRINITY	2	7	19

Under 19 Blues:

De La Salle continued their incredible season keeping a clean sheet for the first half of the season.

De La were much too strong for Uni Blues with Eddie Espinosa dominating up forward with 5 goals. He was supported by Ben Nethersole with 4 goals.

In the ruck, recruit Tom McMahon continues to impress in his comeback from a foot injury.

At his feet, Brad Wilson and David Hutchinson both had excellent games.

De La Salle will be happy with their start but will be looking to go the second half just as well as they did the first.

DLS Goal Kickers: E. Espinosa 5, B. Nethersole 4, A. Papamiltiades 3, T. McMahon 2, E. Clinch 2, L. Barda , X. Murphy , B. Wilson , H. Nicholson , M. Todd

DLS Best Players: B. Wilson, D. Hutchinson, B. Nethersole, T. Humphrey, M. Fort-Williams, M. Todd

	G	B	PTS
UNI BLUES	9	8	62
DE LA SALLE	21	10	136

Under 19 Gold's:

De La Salle has slumped to 1-8 at the mid point of the season and will struggle to make finals from this point on. With great talent in the ranks, De La again struggled, going down to a good St Kevin's outfit. They were just too strong in the midfield and up forward.

De La will have to do some homework in the break and turn it around quickly.

	G	B	PTS
DE LA SALLE	5	8	38
ST KEVINS	19	11	125

Warriors:

The Warriors enjoyed a good win to finish off the first half of the season.

After the 8 matches, De La sit 2-5 with one bye and are not out of finals contention by a long shot.

After the break, the Dee's will be looking for a strong effort to stamp their authority on the competition and really challenge before the finals.

	G	B	PTS
MONASH BLUES	7	14	56
DE LA SALLE	10	13	73