

St. Joseph's First XVIII has come up short in their first away match, going down convincingly to Whitefriars College, 7.6 (48) to 17.4 (106).

The goal for the Joeys side was to be ruthless, hard at the contest and throw away the tag of being "nice footballers", a tough ask against a big bodied Whitefriars outfit.

A late withdrawal from Tom Doedee forced a change of personnel down back, with Ben McNamara given the job on Whitefriars star Eastern Rangers forward and AFL Academy representative, Sam Weideman.

The first quarter went well for McNamara as he quelled Weideman's influence in the air and at ground level. But the damage was done by Whitefriars' small forward brigade who piled on five goals in a dominant first term.

The scoreboard wasn't the only issue in the first quarter after Jono Arcoraci copped a head-high bump and was taken via ambulance to Box Hill Hospital for further treatment.

The second quarter showed positive signs early from the Geelong boys, as Jackson McLachlan snagged the first goal of the quarter off a rare backline turnover from Whitefriars. McNamara continued his strong form whilst Peterson Kol was vital in rebounding off half back. Despite the spirited efforts, Whitefriars took a 35-point lead into the main break.

The third term highlighted the contrasting composure between the two sides, as St. Josephs missed simple chances in front of goal, whilst Whitefriars managed to capitalise on majority of their forward entries. To make matters worse, McLachlan would be ruled out for the rest of the contest with an ankle injury.

Despite the big margin, the Joeys boys showed a lot of fight in the final term, kicking three goals against the breeze. Guy Hardiman stepped his game up a notch in the term racking up a plethora of possessions and kicking a rare goal.

Despite the final 58-point margin, there were some outstanding performances from the visitors. Patrick Kelleher and Nick Connors were instrumental with their clearance work whilst Darcy Bennett was once again unstoppable in the ruck.

Peterson Kol was extremely efficient with his rebounding off half back and run through the middle of the ground. Kol was one of few Joeys' players who played at his best for the full four quarters.

The "nice footballers" tag was put to shame by the likes of Chris Mihicinac and Mitch Diamond who's tackling pressure and contested work was at a high level all day, regardless of the score.

But all the efforts on the day did not compare to that of Ben McNamara who thoroughly outshined the highly rated Weideman on a day to forget for the future top-10 draft pick. But McNamara saw positives in his teammates' games, especially after the main break.

"That last half, I thought we settled in pretty well, we got the run and everyone was joining in." he said.

Coach Chris Lynch was also full of praise for McNamara and his team mates after the match for their hard work.

"He (Weideman) is touted as a quality player but people watching today wouldn't have seen that because of the job (McNamara) did on him." Lynch said.

"We had a few players that cracked in really hard. The boys competed hard all day."

Coach Jono Holt didn't view the match as a big loss, rather a missed chance that the boys will look to take care of if they meet Whitefriars again.

"We don't think the score line reflects our day out there today. It was about taking our opportunities... They took their opportunities and I think that was the difference between the two sides today.

"We were a little bit off early, but we're not far away from them. I really want to have another crack at these guys." Holt said.

SJC will look to next week where they take on Mazonod at home.

### **Whitefriars 17.4 (106) def SJC 7.6 (48)**

**Goals:** Raven Marika 2, Jackson McLachlan 1, Darby Schilder 1, Patrick Dowling 1, Guy Hardiman 1, Jack Henry 1.

**Best:** Ben McNamara, Peterson Kol, Darcy Bennett, Nicholas Connors, Patrick Kelleher, Chris Mihicinac.

**Injuries:** Arcoraci (concussion), McLachlan (Ankle)

**Reports:** None

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