

St Joseph's College First XVIII has had a convincing win in round three of the ACC competition, defeating Mazenod, 14.20 (104) to 1.4 (10).

With a strong focus on defensive pressure, St Joseph's aim was to limit the opposition rather than inflict damage off their own boots. The boys seemed to take this message in good stead, by restricting Mazenod to a solitary goal.

With Jack Rice being a late withdrawal, Keegan Robertson came into the side to fill the void in the forward line.

The first quarter began well for the home side, with spearhead Darby Schilder kicking a goal within the first minute. It would be the first of three for the quarter for Schilder, the only player to kick straight early in the piece.

The second term followed a similar pattern to the first as simple shots on goal were missed by the Joeys boys. Mazenod managed to kick their first and only major of the day in the second term, in spite of the efforts from the Joeys' backline.

The third term was full of highlights for the home side, with Raven Marika igniting the forward line and Sam Simpson wreaking havoc in the middle of the ground. Skipper David McNeel was explosive in the quarter, his run and carry extremely valuable to the sides fortunes.

The final term saw Marika bag two more goals to equal Schilder's total of four, whilst Darcy Bennett continued his dominance in the ruck. Despite Bennett being at least 4 foot taller than his opponent, it was a solid effort by the Lara product.

Jack Blood and Patrick Kelleher were dominant in the middle of the ground for the home side and Ben McNamara was once again prominent down back. Kelleher was arguably the most wayward in front of goal for the day, but his impeccable ball use out of the middle was a key factor in the win.

Geelong Amateur trio of Sam Bucovaz, Liam Cogan and Keegan Robertson were dangerous up forward all day, combining for five goals and linking up to set up numerous more.

The backline unit played at a high level for the full four quarters and were efficient all day. The likes of McNamara and Joel Hogan went without fault during the match. Coach Chris Lynch saw this as an area that impressed him the most.

"Our backline really stood up at times and when they were tested they were really good." He said.

Despite the 94-point margin, Lynch was critical of the numerous wasted opportunities and still sees improvement to come.

"At times we had some really good play and then we'd stuff up a kick or stuff up a handball. They're the kind of things that we need to get right.

"They are the type of things that, against a quality opposition, will make you pay." Lynch said.

SJC have the bye next week before another home game in two weeks' time.

## **Round 2 – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

**SJC 14 . 20 . 104 def Mazenod 1 . 4 . 10**

**GOALS:** Darby Schilder 4, Raven Marika 4, Sam Bucovaz 3, Liam Cogan 1, Peterson Kol 1, Keegan Robertson 1

**BEST:** Jack Blood, Patrick Kelleher, Sam Simpson, Ben McNamara, Darcy Bennett, Darby Schilder

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