

THE Geelong Falcons have all but locked in another September TAC Cup campaign after cruising to a 46-point win over the Northern Knights on Saturday.

The Falcons sit in eighth spot on the ladder, two games clear of the Western Jets with three games to play in the regular season following their 18.7 (115) to 10.9 (69) victory at Werribee's Chirnside Park.

However, they have a tough finish with all their matches to come against sides above them on the ladder, starting with the Calder Cannons (third) next Saturday at Craigieburn.

Coach Andy Allthorpe said although a finals appearance looks assured, his players know they need to keep improving to be competitive against the top teams.

“We’re striving to improve as a group and the boys know that they’ve got to keep working hard to get better,” Allthorpe said.

“We were three (wins) and six (losses) and now we’re 7-7.”

Big man Cam Williams helped set up the Falcons’ win with three early goals before alternating in the ruck for the rest of the day with the in-form Darcy Fort.



#50 – Darcy Fort in action
while **#24** – Tom Gribble
roves the contest



#45 – Cam Williams in action

Photos courtesy of Brian Bartlett Photography

Vic Country representative James Tsitas was also damaging, booting three goals from an on-ball role while Allthorpe is delighted by the improvement in Torquay's Matthew Boag, who also kicked three.

``We can see him developing into an on-baller who can also play up forward,`` Allthorpe said of Boag.

``He's got a very strong body for a 16-year-old and sometimes you forget that he's got another year in him (at TAC Cup level). But we've been very impressed with the way he's gone about it and that's a big tick for the Torquay footy club for pushing his name forward.

``He's very team-oriented.``

Josh Saunders gave the Falcons plenty of run off a wing while Alex Hickey was creative across half back.

The Knights defence also found Mason Wood hard to shift at centre half-forward with his two goals edging him closer to becoming the Falcons leading goalscorer of the season.

Allthorpe said the Falcons are waiting to hear whether Brody Mahoney will be able to have any impact on the rest of their season.

Mahoney, who was one of the side's better performers early in the season and narrowly missed selection in the under-18 national championships, has missed the past six weeks after having knee surgery.

``He's a powerful player so he certainly could add a different dimension to the side if he can get up late in the season,`` Allthorpe said of the Colac midfielder.

Report by Brad Green, 28 July 2012