

Falcons Show Their Depth – Remain Undefeated

THE Geelong Falcons showcased the outstanding depth of their playing list in a comfortable 40-point win over the Oakleigh Chargers in the latest round of the TAC Cup. The Falcons 10.12 (72) to 4.8 (32) victory at Oakleigh's Warrawee Park was their fourth straight win to open the season and moved them to top spot on the ladder.

The Falcons made about a dozen changes to their side that beat Dandenong a fortnight ago, regaining three of their AIS-AFL Academy players – James Tsitas, Lewis Taylor and Darcy Gardiner – and blooding four debutantes. Billy Beardsall, Jack Hudson, Sam Crawley and Teia Miles – son of former Collingwood, West Coast and Geelong player Geoff – all played their first games.

Coach Andy Allthorpe said he was pleased with the way his side adapted their game style to the Chargers. "Oakleigh have about 20 more stoppages a game than we did and the metro sides are very physical and strong in that contested ball area," Allthorpe said.

"We showed we can match it in that area of the game. "It was a totally different game style that we'd played in our first three matches so we had to work really hard in that area to get the ball forward and Luke Davis competed really well in the ruck for us."

The Falcons led at every break and held the Chargers to just one goal in the second half. Gardiner booted three first half goals before complaining of soreness in his leg early in the third term. He sat out the rest of the game.

Crawley enjoyed his TAC Cup debut with three goals across half-forward. Allthorpe said the 17-year-old's selection was a reward for his strong form for his senior club Terang-Mortlake. Co-captain Alex Hickey stood strong across half-back, Darcy Lang and George Cameron were busy in the midfield while Allthorpe praised the game of Marcus Thompson, who played as a defensive half-forward and pressured the Oakleigh defenders into making mistakes.

The Falcons have their first opportunity next Saturday to play on Geelong's Simonds Stadium this season. They host the Northern Knights in the second game as part of a double header that features Geelong's VFL side.

Allthorpe said young forward Hugh Goddard would be available from his school football commitments.

Brad Green

SCOREBOARD

	1QT			HT			3QT			Final Score		
Oakleigh Chargers	2	0	-12	3	2	-20	3	7	-25	4	8	-32
Geelong Falcons	3	1	-19	6	5	-41	8	9	-57	10	12	-72

Oakleigh Chargers

Goal Kickers: S. Tatupu 2, B. Hogan, J. Kennedy-Harris.

Best Players: J. Kennedy-Harris, G. Dickson, B. Hogan, B. Borland, T. Gladman, K. Answerth.

Geelong Falcons

Goal Kickers: D. Gardiner 3, S. Crawley 3, G. Cameron, M. Thompson, R. Adams, B. Beardsell.

Best Players: D. Lang, A. Hickey, G. Cameron, M. Thompson, B. Beardsell.