

Falcons Maintain Winning Ways

A 'RUTHLESS' Geelong Falcons continued their unbeaten start to the TAC Cup season with a dominating performance against the Northern Knights on Saturday.

A five-goal haul by Torquay's Matthew Boag – his best performance in a Falcons jumper – was the highlight of their 18.11 (119) to 3.5 (23) victory at Geelong's Simonds Stadium. The Falcons also benefited from Melbourne Grammar's bye in the APS competition as Hugh Goddard booted 3.3 from full-forward.

Colac midfielder Darcy Lang continues to develop into possible AFL national draft prospect with another excellent performance and Falcons coach Andy Allthorpe is delighted by his consistency.

"In the first minute he had three possessions and one of those was a goal so it was a pretty amazing start," Allthorpe said of Lang's game. "That just shows that he comes to play every single week and he's a really consistent contributor right now."

The Falcons set up booted five goals in the first three terms, holding the Knights goalless until mid-way through the second term. At half-time they led by nine goals but Allthorpe said the message to his players was similar to his pre-game address.

"We wanted to be really ruthless in the way that we defended against them and then take our opportunities when we had them because, in the vision we'd watched of them (Knights) we knew that we'd get opportunities to score.

"(At half-time) it was more about what we wanted to get out of the game. We really wanted to work on things we wanted to and keep that selfless approach, both players and coaching staff."

Boag, who has played senior football with Torquay, missed the Falcons' finals campaign last year after suffering a broken foot late in the season while playing in a trial match for potential draft prospects.

Allthorpe revealed that the 18-year-old injured his ankle a fortnight ago at Vic Country's selection trials, but was so determined to play on Simonds Stadium that he ticked off every box in his rehab process. Boag has kicked seven goals in his last two matches and, at 184cm and 89kg, could appeal to AFL clubs as a strong marking medium forward.

"It was a fantastic contribution scoreboard-wise but there's a couple of areas of his game that we want him to keep working on and we've spoken to him about that," Allthorpe said. "He's certainly very good one-on-one but he needs to work on his decision making at times."

Teia Miles – in just his second TAC Cup game - Lewis Taylor, Darcy Gardiner and Reid Adams were also strong contributors in the 96-point win. Goddard is still yet to turn 17 and after booting eight goals from three appearances for the

Falcons this year, the 195cm and 92kg key forward is showing why he's an exciting 2014 national draft prospect.

"He's getting better and better every week," Allthorpe said of Goddard, the cousin of Essendon star Brendon. "He's very good in the air and goes for his marks and he's confident in his body."

The Falcons have another bye next round while Vic Country and Vic Metro play two trial games as selectors continue to finalise their squads ahead of this year's AFL under-18 national championships.

The Falcons still have 19 players in contention for the Vic Country squad.

Their next game is at Craigieburn against the Calder Cannons on May 18.

Brad Green

SCOREBOARD

	1QT			HT			3QT			Final Score		
Geelong Falcons	5	1	-31	10	3	-63	15	6	-96	18	11	-119
Northern Knights	0	3	-3	1	3	-9	3	3	-21	3	5	-23

Geelong Falcons

Goal Kickers: M. Boag 5, H. Goddard 3, M. Thompson 2, S. Crawley 2, B. Beardsell 2, J. Sharp 2, F. Fort, D. Lang.

Best Players: M. Boag, D. Lang, R. Adams, L. Taylor, T. Miles, D. Gardiner.

Northern Knights

Goal Kickers: J. Smith, K. McDonald, C. Porter.

Best Players: J. Smith, M. Haynes, J. Short, J. Iacobaccio, N. McKeown, K. McDonald.