

## ***Cannons Defeat Falcons After the Final Siren***

A DRAMATIC after-the-siren goal handed the Geelong Falcons their third defeat of the TAC Cup season.

The Falcons led the Calder Cannons by five points with just seconds remaining in their clash at Geelong's Simonds Stadium before the match took another twist when the Cannons' 202cm key forward Peter Wright took a big pack mark within goal scoring distance.

Despite the pressure of the situation, the 17-year-old Wright's long shot at goal from about 50m out sailed through to give the Cannons an 8.10 (58) to 8.9 (57) victory.

Falcons coach Andy Allthorpe said when Wright was lining up his shot he had no doubts that he would kick the goal. "We had everyone back there on the (goal) line but he cleared them pretty easily," Allthorpe said. "It was a great mark and a super kick. He played pretty well all day."

Despite the defeat, the Falcons remain a game clear on top of the ladder heading into next weekend's final round action. Little separated the two sides all game on Saturday with the Falcons edging a couple of goals clear mid-way through the final term.

Allthorpe said regardless of the result, the coaching staff had a pretty clear direction of how they wanted to treat the match in the post-game review. "We said we'll treat it as a loss, analyse it really hard and hone in on what we need to do to get better as a group," he said.

"We learnt a lot about what we need to work on. We need to tidy up our ball use and our understanding of where we need to run. We have to maintain our intensity for four quarters. We've been patchy with our form the last few weeks and not consistent enough with our effort.

"We weren't good enough to win enough contested ball and then we lost our structure a bit from there."

Livewire Aaron Christensen was the only shining light up forward for the Falcons, booting three goals playing across half-forward in his first game back for a month after completing his school football commitments with Geelong Grammar.

In five matches this season Christensen, the younger brother of Geelong star Allen, has booted eight goals and looms as an important player for the Falcons' finals campaign. "He's in good nick, he was very clean and clever with his ball use and his pressure was still good," Allthorpe said of Christensen.

The Falcons defence and midfield dominated their best in the low-scoring affair, led by co-captains Alex Hickey and James Tsitas. Jacob Sharp and Jackson Nelson worked hard in defence while Joe Maishman and Nick Dixon provided Tsitas with solid support.

The Falcons will have a solid tune-up for the finals next Saturday when they round out of the regular season with a clash against the third-placed Dandenong Stingrays at Victoria Park. The Falcons comfortably beat the Stingrays earlier in the season up in Bendigo, but Allthorpe said they have improved considerably in the second half of the season.

“They’re not a massively tall side but they’ve got some real leg speed and they’ve been winning their way up the ladder,” Allthorpe said of Dandenong. “We’ve got to work on our intensity to compete over a quarter, be really hard and aggressive at the footy and then build from there.”

*Brad Green*

### **SCOREBOARD**

	<b>QT</b>	<b>HT</b>	<b>3QT</b>	<b>Final Score</b>
<b>Geelong Falcons</b>	2.1 (13)	3.5 (23)	5.6 (36)	<b>8.9 (57)</b>
<b>Calder Cannons</b>	3.0 (18)	3.3 (21)	6.8 (44)	<b>8.10 (58)</b>

#### **Geelong Falcons**

**Goal Kickers:** A. Christensen 3, F. Fort, P. McCartin, J. Tsitas, B. Beardsell, H. Goddard.

**Best Players:** A. Hickey, J. Sharp, J. Tsitas, J. Maishman, J. Nelson, N. Dixon.

#### **Calder Cannons**

**Goal Kickers:** P. Wright 2, M. Kovacevic, J. Cauchi, A. Prestia, T. Davies, P. Ahern, J. Owen.

**Best Players:** P. Ahern, P. Wright, J. Owen, J. Lever, M. Jensen, T. Donoghue.