Gippsland power Media Release

By Kate Mitchell

The rollercoaster season for Gippsland Power has continued, soundly beaten by Geelong Falcons at home in round 15 of the TAC Cup. The 64-point loss could be costly as Power fight for the remaining top eight positions with just three rounds of the regular season remaining.

After the highs of an against the odds victory last weekend, a relatively unchanged Power line up couldn’t match it with the talented Falcons.

Celebrating their 500th TAC Cup match, a competition first, the Falcons were in party mode after kicking six goals to none in the first term. Poor decision making under pressure was costly for Power as they struggled to keep pace with the Falcons. Turnovers were quickly punished by quick spread and hard running as the Falcons piled on the goals.

The onslaught continued in the second term. It took a piece of brilliance from Xavier Duursma for Power to register their first goal of the game. Confidence grew as the quarter went on, but rushed disposals made it tough for the forwards, as did the blustery conditions. Meanwhile the Falcons continued to dominate, a goal on the siren giving them a 66-point lead at the half time break.

Power came out with a greater level of intent in the third quarter, starting with a Captain’s goal to Aidan Quigley as the game opened up and became more free flowing. Power capitalised on their better ball use with goals to Will Stephenson and Bailey Beck.

Duursma was a shining light all over the ground, while Nick Hogan, Callum Porter and Stephenson all lifted in the middle.

Midway through the third term and already down two players on the bench due to injury, Xavier Duursma copped a heavy knock in a contest and was helped from the ground. Losing Duursma’s poise and run hurt Power as they went into the final break 52-points down.

Caleb Serong pushed up the ground in the last term and had an impact, as did his fellow under 16 player Sam Flanders who kicked Power’s only goal for the quarter.

Led by Liam Carroll the defenders battled manfully, but they just couldn’t stop the Falcons scoring power.

Coach Leigh Brown was pleased with the fight his team showed in the second half

“We came up against a really good team today, they have a lot of top end talent.

“To be three players down and finish off the game the way we did showed a bit of courage and a bit of character, so hopefully we can build on that for the final three games of the season”.

The TAC Cup pauses for a development weekend, Power take on Bendigo Pioneers in Ballarat on Sunday August 20.

**Gippsland Power**   0.1  1.4  5.9  6.12 (48)
**Geelong Falcons**   6.2  10.6  14.7  17.10 (112)

**GOALS:** Bailey Beck 2, Sam Flanders 1, Will Stephenson 1, Xavier Duursma 1, Aidan Quigley 1

**BEST:** Xavier Duursma, Nick Hogan, Liam Carroll, Sam Flanders, Callum Porter, Caleb Serong