**MATCH REPORT
CALDER CANNONS V WESTERN JETS
FRIDAY 23/3**It was a devastating result for the Cannons, who fell to the Western Jets by four minutes in the final minutes of Friday night’s clash. In what was an extremely entertaining contest, the visitors ran away with a twenty point lead going into the main break and had all the answers when entering inside 50.
Some structural changes saw the Cannons managing their entries much more effectively and also had them erase a 30 point deficit.
The Cannons hit the lead for the first time since the first quarter thanks to some great plays by Jeremy O’Sullivan, who slotted two late goals.
Despite holding up against extreme pressure the majority of the second half of the night, our backline succumbed momentarily following repeat Jets entries and conceded two late goals, one from a free kick that put the good guys on the back foot.
Despite going into attacking formations, time was the enemy as the final siren blew to conclude what had been an epic comeback.

Things weren’t going our way early, ruckman Cooper Lamb was sidelined and left the bulk of the ruck work to Dev Pretty, who held his own, but lacked any major ruck support leaving an enormous task ahead of him. Despite not having his best game, a shift that saw Curtis Taylor spend the majority of the second half inside forward 50 paid dividends for the coaching staff as he ended the game with three goals, two of those coming at a crucial time in the third quarter.

Coach Ross Smith said that being slow out of the blocks was a major contributor to not walking away with the four points.

“I think we went inside 50 thirteen times to 8 in the first quarter, we scored three times and from their 8 entries I reckon they scored 5 times… they were just making the most of their ball movement,” Smith said after the loss.

“The opposition marked the ball really well, there was a couple of time where we were in a contested situation where we didn’t get a finger on the ball or a finger on the opponent.”

However, it the coaching team did take some positives out of the game that they will look to capitalize on in next week’s clash.

“We were a lot more physical in the second half which allowed our talent to shine out a bit, we moved the ball a lot quicker, got some link up handballs,” Smith explained.

“We got the ball deeper into our forward line, I think (in the first half) we kicked the ball a lot to that trampoline zone about 40 to 50 meters out which allowed them to rebound from there.”

There were some individual standouts amongst the team according to Smith, Mitch Podhajski was dangerous all night, kicking two goals in dangerous times to go along with his 22 possessions and 5 clearances. Izzy Moussa was praised for his efforts, accumulating 17 touches throughout the night, but there was one clear standout, according to those who know best.

“Sholly (Nathan Sholl), was terrific… He was really, really good.” Smith said.

Sholl finished the evening with 27 touches, 6 marks, 3 tackles and a goal, in what was nearly a best on ground performance.

Going into a now crucial game next Thursday night against the Eastern Rangers, Smith says that the payers need to come a little bit more prepared to play.

“I think our three real guns n Bytel, Curtis Taylor and Rhylee West were well down on their best form and you’d like to get the best player playing well of course,” Smith said.

Disposals: L. Sholl 27, T.Browning 24, M.Podhajski 22, D.Mott 20.
Goals: C.Taylor, J.O’Sullivan (3), M.Podhajski (2), L.Sholl, T.Browning, N.Croft (1)

Best: M.Podhajski, L.Sholl, S.Ramsay, I.Moussa, T.Browning.