



Rowell's grand final stunner

NAB League

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It's become the norm for junior star Matthew Rowell.

The Oakleigh Chargers midfielder collected another best afield gong in Saturday's NAB League grand final win over Eastern Ranges at Princes Park — he was awarded the same honour in last year's decider as an underage player.

The tireless Rowell had 15 more disposals than any other player on the ground to finish with 44 touches and had game-highs in tackles (nine) and inside 50s (six).

He also kicked two goals in the space of four minutes as Oakleigh kicked nine of the last 10 majors to record a 53-point win.

It again underlined his status as the likely No. 1 pick in this year's draft, when he could be secured by Gold Coast.

"It's hard not to think about it I guess, especially now the season is over and where my future will be," Rowell said. "Wherever I go I'll make the most of it and grab the opportunity."

"If it's Gold Coast, I'll make the most of it and enjoy (it) because since I was a little kid I've always wanted to get drafted."

SKOBs sing the Blues



Jarrad Waite celebrates a team-lifting goal for St Kevin's. (Right) Uni Blues start their premiership party

Pictures: HAMISH BLAIR

Uni Blues end St Kevin's tilt at a Premier flag hat trick

St Kevin's reign as VAFA Premier champions is over, after they were brutally dethroned by University Blues in the grand final at Elsternwick Park on Sunday.

After wins over Collegians in 2017 and 2018, the stage was set for SKOBs to claim a third flag on the trot, but a string of unforced errors and scrappy kicking at goal cruelled their chances, as the Blues ran away with their first premiership in more than 15 years, 18.7 (116) to 10.16 (76).

A tight first half became a one-sided affair in the third term as University Blues put

VAFA Grand Final

Nickolas Zakharia

on a brilliant display.

St Kevin's opened the game strongly and was in command of the contest before Uni Blues responded with some quick snaps at goal that secured a three-point lead at quarter-time.

An explosive goal from former Carlton/North Melbourne star Jarrad Waite brought the Elsternwick Park crowd to its feet as the SKOBs threatened to march away.

Though Lachlan Sullivan did his best to keep St



St Kevin's Billy Kanakis is dealt with heavily

Kevin's spirits high in the second term, the Blues bombarded the goals late in the quarter and went to halftime with a nine-point advantage.

The third quarter defined the day as St Kevin's had numerous scoring chances but were unable to capitalise while the Blues took full toll of every opportunity they were presented.

Marshall Rippon's slick movement provided plenty of opportunity for the Blues, while Tim Harper played a blinder, punishing SKOBs with four goals.

St Kevin's Mitchell Brown tried his luck up forward in the final quarter, sparking a small fightback, but it was too little too late as the Blues were hellbent on ending their premiership drought.



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