

Glebe vs. Moorebank – Liverpool

Final

13th of September 2008

Result 3 - 1

On a balmy spring night on the flood lit Olympic Hockey pitch at Homebush Glebe was preparing for their elimination final against arch rivals Moorebank – Liverpool. The game was always built up a titanic battle between two great teams and the hockey which was displayed delivered nothing short of a great spectacle which was enjoyed by all who watched.

With a solid week of training and the burning desire to make it 3 grandfinal appearances in 4 years the Glebe team was committed to putting a solid performance. With an Aaron Oman devised game plan the Glebe boys were holding an ace up their sleeve; the pre match talk stressed the need to perform the basic skills well in our trapping, passing, tackling and leading. We knew we had to take our chances in this game otherwise it come back to haunt the team.

The first half saw both teams create good goal scoring opportunities none that were capitalised on though as both teams defensive units held firm against the relenting pressure. Glebe thought they had landed the opening blow when Michael Wark found himself in some open space in the circle in which he drew the goal-keeper only to have his shot saved on the line by the opposing Moorebank player. This spurred the Glebe attack into life and soon they were able to force another meaningful attack when Patrick Wark had a direct shot on goal only to be saved and have the rebound luckily fall at his feet in which he first timed a back stick shot which was travelling at the speed of light only to have it canon into the post. It seemed like it was going to be one of those nights for the Glebe team until a well worked short corner variation which had the Moorebank corner defence at six's & sevens created the opening goal of the night and the first half. The ball with a slide of hand was shifted to the right and was left to young gun Alister Cullen who hit a low strike into the left hand corner of the goals which ignited the Glebe crowd and the fight and drive within the Glebe players. Unlike last week Glebe tightened up their defence to savour the one goal lead, this was characterised by players stepping up in front of their opposing player to intercept and deter any meaningful attack the Moorebank team could muster. With one of the most hard-fought and contested half's of hockey seen this season both teams would enter the halftime break with only a goal separating them.

Glebe's halftime stressed the need to keep up our defensive efforts as the game plan which had been devised was paying dividends. Geoff also stressed that we needed to continue stretching the Moorebank defence and look to poke the ball in behind their back group.

The second half started off a lot the first with both teams poking and prodding each other to try and gain the early ascendancy in the match, Glebe managed again to force a short corner

10 minutes into the second half. In steps Peter Wark who since making the full back spot his own in first grade has had the wood over the Moorebank goalie, and with a low hard driving flick the only sounds which could be heard was the rattle of the back board and the cheers of the large Glebe contingent which had gathered to support there team. Up went the cheers of GLEBE! GLEBE! GLEBE! But the team knew if anything this would only fuel Moorebank's desire to reassert themselves into the match and that it did. With fifteen minutes left to play Moorebank went on the full counter attack forcing numerous short corners and shot on goal. In one instance veteran goal keeper Dean Benfield was called upon to make three to four consecutive saves from point blank range, Moorebank due to there persistent attacking pegged a goal back through a direct flick which was able to sneak under the defences of the Glebe goalie. With 10 minutes left to play this was going to be a game not for the faint hearted, Glebe was desperately hanging on to there one goal lead fighting and repealing everything Moorebank threw at them. As the minutes ticked down Glebe was not done yet as Moorebank in a last ditch effort threw all there players forward and with less then 10 seconds on the clock Glebe scored there third and final goal and in doing so secured the match and a Grandfinal berth. It is an exciting week not just for the players or the coaching staff directly involved but all club members who have supported through the year.

Glebe 1st grade now plays North West Strikers in the Sydney Hockey Premier League Grandfinal to be held on Saturday 20th of September at 6pm at Sydney Olympic Park Hockey centre.

Hope to see all the maroon & white faithful all present and accounted for.

Cheers

Mark Paterson