



Glebe vs. North West Strikers

Grand Final

20th of September 2008

Result 4 – 2

4, 5, 6 we will win the comp as well

It is with great pleasure that I write my final match report for the season ending 2008. With the season all said and done we can now look back and reflect in what was a great game and truly a great season. With the Markham cup now secure at Railway Arch number 1 for yet another season; players, coaches and spectators can have a well earned rest to recharge the batteries.

After coming through a thrilling win against Moorebank the previous week the team now had to refocus and reapply themselves to training during the week leading up to the Grand final. It all started with training on Tuesday where the team trained well working on a few aspects of our game in which we needed to improve and implement to counter NWS play. For the first time this season the entire team trained on Wednesday night where we were put through a short sharp session and finished off with a game of European Handball in a winners takes all battle? Aaron Oman had prepared a well documented and thought out game where he analysed NWS game from a video from a previous game. Thursday provided the team with a chance to blow out the cob webs and get that final touch in before the big game on Saturday.

Saturday finally came around for the players and spectators alike as the heat beat down over the Olympic hockey venue at Homebush bay the two best teams in Sydney were preparing to

do battle for the last time this season. With the crowd building the stage was set and what was produced in the first half was something that neither the team nor spectators could have imagined. With NWS proving to be dominant in the early part of the match Glebe was forced to repel and absorb all they threw at the dogged Glebe defence. Both teams provided good goal scoring opportunities but none were taken. Midway through the first half Glebe were first to score when the NWS defence held off allowing a Glebe player to cut through the top of the circle and deliver a ball to the Baseline where Michael Wark displaying all the skill of a Wimbledon champion chipped the ball over the advancing NWS goalkeeper. This ignited the large Glebe crowd sitting on the halfway line on the Northern side of the pitch. The call went out to batten down the hatches as not to allow NWS back in the game as Glebe had made this mistake in previous encounters. NWS however came back strong forcing numerous short corners; in a twist their attack soon turned into defence when after their attacking short corner was broken down a quick ball launched the Glebe team into attack, with NWS defence holding back allowing the Glebe ball carrier to penetrate their attacking circle, in an almost carbon copy of the first goal the ball was again delivered to the baseline where Daniel Cleary deflected it around the NWS goal keeper to provide Glebe with a 2 goal ascendancy.

The halftime talk stressed the need to not waver from the game plan and to keep the high intensity of the ball movement which was not allowing NWS more dominant players to impact on the game.

Both teams returned for the second half and before the spectators could take their seats and gather themselves for the second half Glebe straight from the hit off launched into a free flowing attacking movement down the right hand side catching the NWS team snoozing. The ball was shifted to Alister Cullen who then threw the ball down the line to Michael Wark who with NWS defence going one way threw the ball across the middle of the circle to have Daniel Cleary score his second for the night when in what seemed like an eternity slapped the ball into the back of the net. NWS only had one option which was to attack the game. Within the space of 10 minutes they had clawed their way back into the game with 2 quick goals one from a well worked short corner the other from a field goal. As the minutes ticked down Glebe still held the vital one goal lead as NWS were throwing all they could muster, but with a couple great saves from goal keeper Dean Benfield and Peter Wark the NWS could not penetrate the Glebe defence. As the seconds ticked away Mark Paterson intercepted a pass and launched an attacking movement with one two passing with his younger brother Ian up the field in which he was duly brought down on top of the circle to be awarded a stroke right on the stroke of full time. It was left to outgoing centre half Aaron Oman to score a goal with his final touch in first grade hockey when he flicked a rocket into the top right of the goal only to be engulfed by the rest of the team rushing onto the field to start the celebrations.

In the change room after the match with Champagne flowing some players sat relieved, some rejoiced and some couldn't contain the ecstasy of winning with their mates.

Well done to everyone on a great season.

Cheers

Mark Paterson

If you Believe What I Believe.

Glebe wins the 59th Markham Cup

Glebe 4 def Norwest Strikers 2

Glebe: Daniel Cleary (2), Michael Wark, Aaron Oman

Norwest Strikers: Craig Campbell, Stuart Fletcher

Grand Final Day for the Sydney Hockey Association finished with a bang in Premier League First Grade after the Glebe District Hockey Club defeated the minor premiers and defending champions, Norwest Strikers, 4-2, at the Sydney Olympic Park Hockey Centre.

Glebe started the first half in blistering form, with captain, Mark Paterson, a dominant force. The first goal came after 20 minutes when competition leading goal scorer, Michael Wark, found the back of the net for Glebe.

Minutes later Glebe was on the counter attack, streaming down the pitch following a Norwest Strikers penalty corner. This time it was Daniel Cleary that scored for Glebe, taking his team to a 2-0 lead.

Norwest Strikers had their chances late in the half to get on the scoreboard. But it was the water tight Glebe defence that continually repelled their efforts to lead 2-0 at half time.

With the defending champions on the ropes, Glebe continued to attack early in the second half. Within seconds, Glebe had extended their lead to three goals on the back of some Daniel Cleary brilliance.

A penalty corner eight minutes into the half presented Norwest Strikers with their best opportunity to score. Their supporters weren't disappointed with Craig Campbell deflecting the ball past the goal keeper for their first goal.

Almost immediately, Glebe had the chance to hit back with a penalty corner of their own. With the ball rocketing towards the goal, Strikers goal keeper, Scott Garner, produced a great save, throwing self preservation out the window to deny Glebe.

Two consecutive penalty corners saw Norwest Strikers claw their way back into the contest. The killer blow was delivered by Stuart Fletcher who slammed a shot off Glebe goal keeper, Dean Benfield, to bring his team to within a goal; 3-2.

Norwest Strikers were full of running in the final 15 minutes; desperate to draw level and keep their back to back title hopes alive.

With less than a minute remaining on the clock they had the tying goal disallowed and with it they saw their premiership hopes fading.

As the full time siren sounded, a penalty stroke was awarded to Glebe. Playing in his last game, Aaron Oman, stepped up to the mark and calmly sealed his team's 4-2 victory.

Presented with the Keith Paterson Medal for Player of the Match, Glebe Captain, Mark Paterson, paid tribute to his team.

“Norwest Strikers have been the bench mark all season. They beat us convincingly early in the season and then again in the semi final. This Glebe team gives 100% week in week out and that’s all that we can ask of each other,” Paterson said.

“This trophy isn’t just for us – it is for the whole club.”