

## Glebe Stage Fight Back

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Report

#### Glebe vs. North West Strikers

#### Round 16

19<sup>th</sup> July 2008

Result 4 - 4

Round 15 in the Sydney Men's Premier League Hockey competition saw a top of the table clash between the first placed North West Strikers and the second placed Glebe. With both teams looking to cement their positions on the table and gain a healthy ascendancy over the chasing pack of teams this match was surely going to deliver a hockey spectacle. With a number of influential and experienced 1<sup>st</sup> graders out due to injury the Glebe team knew they would have a tough encounter with the full strength Northwest outfit.

The Glebe team started a little patchy allowing the North West Strikers (NWS) early field position in which they were able to dominate in attack, this led to numerous short corners being awarded. NWS needed no invitation and not long after they would soon find themselves on the board after converting two well rehearsed short corner variations to have the Glebe team on the back foot midway through the first half. However this didn't dent Glebe's resolve as they soon started to control the play through short passing and a toughened defensive effort. Glebe soon scored after applying relentless pressure on the NWS defence, Peter Wark somehow threaded a bullet like pass through the crowded goal circle to a waiting Josh Laspina on the left post who made no mistake with a clinical finish into the back of the net. However NWS would score just on the stroke of halftime to gain the upper hand going into half time break.

Glebe knew that Northwest would come out firing in the second half and continue to play strong attacking hockey, this reflected in their ability to score just after halftime making the score 4-1 and the likelihood of a Northwest victory even more probable. However in what was truly a game of two halves the Glebe team staged a remarkable comeback to claw their way back into the match with three unanswered goals in the second half. Peter Wark started the comeback with a well directed drag flick off a short corner, not long after Glebe was again on the attack with a loose ball falling in the Northwest defensive circle to a waiting Patrick Wark who calmly hammered home the advantaged to bring Glebe within one goal of the competition leaders. The two teams locked horns for a while until Pat Wark threaded a ball (A hockey version of the Doosra) across the Northwest goal mouth to a waiting Daniel Clearly who made no mistake with the finish to tie the game up at 4 goals a piece. In what was a seesawing game Glebe had managed to snatch an unlikely draw with one of the grittiest comebacks seen in recent years.

Mark Paterson

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade report

Glebe vs NWS

Round 16

19<sup>th</sup> July 2008

Result: Glebe 3-0

I was somewhat concerned on arrival at Pennant Hills Hockey Park that Glebe 3<sup>rd</sup> grade would have a massive battle on its hands today with a Strikers side only 2 points behind on the table and probably full of confidence after easily beating us in the first round encounter. Furthermore, Glebe had several regular 3<sup>rd</sup> graders out and had to call on several 4<sup>th</sup> graders to step up to the mark and try and put in a solid performance. Fortunately for us, Strikers also appeared to be depleted by injuries, as their side appeared to quite different from the one that had previously beaten us...and heaps younger. Glebe took advantage of this by playing physically and placing a lot of pressure on the young Strikers team, in particular in attacking the wing halves as they were transferred the ball by their fullbacks.

What resulted was that Glebe was able to pilfer possession at will and were constantly on the attack for almost the entire 70 minutes. James Hurrell, in his first 3<sup>rd</sup> grade game for the year was able to score two goals, one in each half, which were an exact carbon copy of the other, after makeshift short corner hitter, Cristian Campano had hit two shots right at the keeper, leaving a simple task for Jimmy to pick up the rebound and flick over the keeper. A number of other great chances were had but only one of them resulted in a great team goal.

The boys were also fortunate to have the experience of Stefan in goals, whose excellent calling of his backs into position meant that he only had to make a couple of saves. Chris Holmes had another strong game at the back and is improving his spoken English all the time. Paulie was generally happy with everyone's trapping and had some great chances of his own to score. Well done lads. Thanks also to Dad's Army (no offense lads, I include myself in that also) of Timmy and Alan who had terrific games also.

The result of this games distances us 5 points from Strikers with now Briars and Easts to try and stay ahead of in the battle for 4<sup>th</sup> spot. Should be a cracker of a game against Easts (London) at Little Bay next Saturday arvo. I'm sure I will see you all there!

Cheers

Adam Campano