

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

Glebe VS UTS

Round 20

16<sup>th</sup> August 2008

Result 5 – 1

Glebe met UTS last Saturday evening at 5pm, for their third last round game of the 2008 Hockey season. Glebe were back to full strength, after having almost a different line-up each week for the majority of the season due to different player commitments and injuries. The coach stressed before the match that it was getting down to the business end of the season, and each player had to start taking ownership of their game. It was also stressed that the team needs to play as a unit, attacking and defending together, based on good communication around the pitch.

Glebe started well after a good warm up and dominated the first ten minutes, creating numerous chances in front of goal. Quick passing was the key, transferring the defence from side to side, looking for that opening. Ian Paterson was in fine form in his second game back from injury, and his turn of pace had the UTS defence struggling to keep up. The first goal came from a well worked corner variation that bamboozled the defence, with Daniel Cleary adding his name to the score card. Mark Paterson created the next goal, after a strong tackle on a UTS player in their own circle, he drew the keeper, then bobbled it across (3D Calypso Paterson style) the goals for a simple tap in.

UTS struggled to link together up the field, and started resorting to taking the ball to the first line of defence and smashing it through. The Glebe defence worked well, stepping up in front of the attackers to receive the ball first and offloading quickly up the field.

The second half was a gritty affair, with the UTS falling back behind the ball in the style of the European teams of Germany and The Netherlands. Some suggested that this could have possibly been due to the fact that half the team was from Europe. This tactic makes the game slower, and a lot more painful to watch, and also to play. Glebe continued to create good opportunities from both break-aways, and built up play. The team had many shots on goal that went begging, and this will need to be drastically improved before the finals. The ability of a player to take the one chance they get in a game and convert it to a goal often being the difference between the premiership and bitter memories about what could have been.

Mid-way through the second half a UTS striker was allowed to run too far with the ball, and managed to put away a back stick shot that gave the UTS side some hope. The Glebe defence held strong after this, with Zach Farlow giving lots of quality ball down the left side, and being voted

the Best on Ground by the Women's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade side who were watching the match. A true calypso moment of hockey came from a ball thundered into the circle from the right side of the pitch. Mark Paterson got a one handed reverse stick touch on the ball to guide it into the net, with the goalkeeper not even moving. More chances were created, and Glebe knocked another couple of goals in to win the game 5-1, a good result for the cold and windy night at Homebush, especially as the 3 points were crucial in keeping 2<sup>nd</sup> spot on the table.

Now its time to look forward. 2 Round games left, then the finals series. This next couple of months is why we train the entire year, it is the most important part for any team in contention for the finals. Everyone who can, must make sure they get down to both training sessions, as well as putting in some extra training on their own. The team has some good momentum coming into the finals with lots of gritty, hard fought wins. These are the kind of games played in finals and grand finals. Glebe knows how to win; it's just a matter of producing it for the next 5 weeks.

By Michael Wark

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Glebe 5<sup>th</sup> grade led by triple Olympian Ken Wark Jnr and ably supported by a slightly lesser credentialed supporting cast took on the might, skill and power of UTS who are sitting comfortably on top of the table and were probably looking at having a nice, easy training run against a side they had defeated easily earlier in the year. It was not to be today as the mighty Reds matched UTS in almost every department for almost the entire game. Missing Captain Les Wark, who was possibly still exhausted from the hangover of 800<sup>th</sup> game celebrations the week before, Glebe went into the game playing for not much more than pride in the maroon shirt. Pride evidently means a lot to any lads that throw on the old maroon shirt as evidenced by what followed.

Ken was dominant at centre half and was unlucky not to convert a couple of penalty corner chances. Strikers Jason McDonald, Terren Manou and Alan Doughty toiled hard and trapped almost everything that came at them. UTS countered the Glebe attacks well often tackling low to the ground until the boys started playing in more of a 3D hockey fashion. Wee Willy Noller, Don Titner and Will McLean had strong games on the right side building up some great attack started from Captain Craig Badley at the back and passed between each other in some very nice triangles. Tommy S doggedly marked his right wing out of the game which gave Jack Stocker in goals not a whole lot to do, although he did make a couple of terrific saves on penalty corners.

Unfortunately, with not much time on the clock a UTS striker was able to nutmeg one of the Glebe defenders, penetrate the circle and then lay off to an unmarked player on the spot who calmly slotted the winning and what was to be the only goal of the match. Glebe, who are placed several spots below on the ladder, and who are playing many club's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade sides in this competition had every right to be satisfied with their level of effort and determination in this hard fought game, although ultimately not with the end result. An exhausted UTS shook hands with the Glebe boys having experienced the battle of their lives to secure victory.