



MEDIA RELEASE



BENDIGO BANK WESTVIC HOCKEY Under 17 Boys

MATCH REPORT – GRAND FINAL

Date: **September 18th, 2009**

Venue: **Essendon**

Opposition: **Hockey Geelong**

Final Score: **WestVic 2 def Geelong 1**

Goalscorers: **Jesse Hennessy, Jake Laidlaw**

The Bendigo Bank WestVic Hockey Boys took home their first Premiership on Friday night, defeating a determined Hockey Geelong in golden-goal extra-time.

In front of a big crowd at Essendon, the two sides continued their run of close encounters in a low-scoring affair that saw scores locked 1-1 at full-time.

A nervous start by WestVic led the team to struggle to control the ball and find meaningful attack. Geelong drew first-blood, with a strong strike from an acute angle on the right side of the circle beating WestVic goalkeeper, Jono Provis-Vincent.

Possession was evenly-shared with Geelong attacking up the wings and WestVic through the middle. Geelong defended well across half-back to make life difficult for the WestVic forwards. Both sides earned a number of penalty corners but neither team could score, with Geelong enjoying a 1-0 lead at the break.

The game intensity lifted in the 2nd half, led by WestVic captain Al Cardew who was dominant at centre-half. Alex Don and Jake Laidlaw were creative across the midfield while Tristan Barrett attempted to find a way through the Geelong defence on a number of occasions. Riley Cooper, playing at full-back, pushed forward to provide further attacking options.

A penalty corner strike from Jesse Hennessy put WestVic on the scoreboard and the match back on level terms.

WestVic began to dominate possession as the half wore on; however Geelong were able to defend comfortably with the WestVic forwards running the ball at the attacking circle rather than using the width.

A late opportunity for Geelong to break the deadlock was snuffed out by some desperate goalkeeping from Provis-Vincent, who needed to make 2 diving saves in the same play to clear the ball to safety.

Extra-time was required when the game ended 1-1 at full-time. Geelong began with a penalty corner but was unable to convert. Up the other end, WestVic striker Hennessy ran strongly up the wing and crossed the ball across goal but the deflection from Laidlaw went wide. Only a minute later the play was repeated by Alex Don, whose cross again found Laidlaw, who on this occasion had time to sweep the ball into the goal and win the match.

The Grand Final victory ensured WestVic finished the entire season undefeated - a great achievement.

For further information contact:

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