

## **MEDIA RELEASE**



### **BENDIGO BANK WESTVIC HOCKEY** *Under 17 Boys – Pennant North West*

#### **Round 10 vs Geelong @ Geelong**

**1-2**

**Goals: Bryce Robinson**

The Under 17 Boys went down by a goal in a tight contest at Geelong on Friday. Playing away from home yet again, WestVic fielded a full-squad, allowing plenty of scope for a tweaking of the game strategy.

The match was played on reasonably even terms throughout the first half, with WestVic's work-rate having an impact on their opponents. Pressure and skill errors combined to force Geelong to turn the ball over frequently along the sidelines in the middle of the field. WestVic's midfield, particularly Jake Laidlaw and Cale Rout, defended well to restrict Geelong's forward movements. Goalkeeper Jono Provis-Vincent was full of voice, who along with full-backs Michael Churcher and Neall Searle attempted to make attacking more difficult for Geelong's high forwards than in their Round 1 encounter.

Slippery striker, Will Jackson, continued his recent good form, troubling the Geelong defence on a number of occasions. His best chance came mid-way through the half, beating several defenders and having the Geelong keeper out of position, but his shot was well-saved on the line by a desperate Geelong player.

On the stroke of half-time, a goal-mouth scramble saw Bryce Robinson score to break the deadlock and give WestVic the momentum heading into the break.

The game continued along the same vein in the second half with both teams creating chances. Geelong was able to win a number of penalty corners, while WestVic found space in their forward line to create several excellent chances of their own.

Geelong managed two goals in 10 minutes to snatch the lead despite the best efforts of the WestVic defence. WestVic was not ready to concede defeat though as they ramped up the pressure on the Geelong defenders through Zak McMurray and Niall Ashby. Late chances in front of goal were wasted and Geelong maintained their lead, finishing a great game of hockey with a one-goal victory. WestVic will aim to improve on their best whole-team effort of the season to-date at a long-awaited home game at the Bendigo Bank Ballarat Hockey Centre after the school holiday break.

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