

## **WestVic Whitewash Greensborough**

Playing in front of a home crowd the Bendigo Bank WestVic Under 17 Boys Hockey team continued their perfect start to the season with a 2 – 0 victory over Greensborough. A lightening opening by the WestVic boys gained 2 short corners in the first 3 minutes. High strikers Tristan Barrett and Jesse Hennessy kept constant pressure on the Greensborough defense. The WestVic boys finally broke through for their first goal in the 6<sup>th</sup> minute when Barrett slammed the ball into the back of the net.

Greensborough came straight back with their own attack on goal. Only brilliant defensive work from goalie Jonathon Provis- Vincent and fullback Ben Dainton denied Greensborough a goal in the 8<sup>th</sup> minute.

Finding himself one on one with a Greensborough attacker Provo had to leave the WestVic net unguarded to prevent a goal. A rebound shot by Greensborough caught the WestVic defense out of position and looked like the tying score until Dainton materialised from nowhere to stop the ball centimetres short of the line.

After a follow-up Greensborough short corner the WestVic boys again took control dominating the offensive play for the next 10 minutes. Jack Bruce, Liam Canavan, and Jack Frantz, supported by Zac Murray, tied up the midfield area, keeping WestVic in attack, turning back many Greensborough forward thrusts.

Dainton was like the Rock of Gibraltar in the last line of defense. Teaming well with Alastair Cardew they absorbed everything Greensborough could throw at them

After 15 minutes of back and forth play WestVic finally found the opening they had been working for. Matthew McClelland sliced the ball between 3 defenders to Alex Don. Don flicked the ball past the Greensborough goalie to give the WestVic boys a 2-0 halftime lead

The second half was a tense affair as Greensborough dominated the first 10 minutes, creating immense pressure on the WestVic defense. Refusing to crumble the WestVic boys followed Coach Vaughan's halftime instructions, forcing Greensborough to the wings, preventing any real threat on their goal.

The WestVic boys eventually fired up their offensive machine, controlling the play for the next 10 minutes, peppering the Greensborough goal without scoring. Second gamers Nicholas Toogood, Anthony Stebbing and Michael Churcher showed they are working into the pace of the game, initiating several WestVic offensive moves while putting in very good defensive effort.

Both teams maintained their efforts and offensive pressure during the final 10 minutes of the match but neither could break through for a goal giving the WestVic boys their second whitewash in a row. Final score WestVic 2 Greensborough 0.

Coach Vaughan congratulated the team on a much improved effort.



## WestVic Dominates Kew

Starting their season with a spectacular display of hockey, the Bendigo Bank WestVic Under 17 hockey boys defeated Kew 7 – 0. The six returning players from last year provided leadership and drive from the opening hit.

Gaining an initial ascendancy, the WestVic boys had the Kew defense under immense pressure. Within the first 2 minutes Tristan Barrett drove the ball between 3 defenders for WestVic's first goal.

Four minutes later Zac Murray forced the ball through the Kew defense with a quick pass to Barrett who again found the back of net for WestVic's second goal. Continuing their attack, two minutes later Liam Canavan threaded a pass to Alex Don in scoring range. Don beat the Kew goalkeeper to score his first WestVic goal. With a blitzkrieg start WestVic had a 3-0 lead after 7 minutes.

Defensively Jack Bruce and Jack Frantz were combining well across the middle of the field, repelling almost every Kew forward thrust. The few times Kew moved the ball through midfield fullbacks Ben Dainton and Alastair Cardew rebounded WestVic into attack.

As the first half progressed first timers Michael Churcher, Matthew McClelland and Jesse Hennessy were gaining confidence as they became used to the pace of play, helping keep Kew tied up in their defensive half. Nathan Toogood also had a short time on the field before becoming ill.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> minute, after WestVic's relentless attacking play, Canavan found an opening, shooting a cross-field pass to Frantz who nailed the ball into the corner of the net to give WestVic a 4-0 lead halftime lead.

Both teams started the 2<sup>nd</sup> half at an even quicker tempo. Kew's offence finally started putting some pressure on the WestVic defense, moving the ball into the WestVic half of the field several times.

In the 6<sup>th</sup> minute Coach Chris Vaughan's new offensive structure with 2 high strikers paid dividends when Canavan stole a Kew pass and drilled it downfield to Barrett. Barrett knocked the ball onto high striker Anthony Stebbing who was one-on-one with the Kew goal keeper and seized the opportunity to shoot the ball past the keeper for his first WestVic goal and a 5-0 lead.

The relentless WestVic attack forced the Kew goalie 4 metres out of the net during the 13<sup>th</sup> minute. Taking advantage of the situation, Canavan fired a rocket shot which caromed off the goalie and into the net for WestVic's 6<sup>th</sup> goal.

Kew finally found a path through the WestVic defense, earning short corners in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> minutes. However, WestVic's goalkeeper, Jonathon Provis-Vincent, and his defenders didn't bend, denying Kew any real scoring opportunity.

WestVic rebounded, regaining control of play, barely allowing Kew past midfield. Their new, aggressive offensive formation once again paid off when Hennessey beat the Kew goalie in the 24<sup>th</sup> minute to score WestVic's 7<sup>th</sup> goal for a 7 – 0 WestVic win

After the match Coach Vaughan said it was a solid win and excellent start to the season.

The 2008 WestVic team:

(from 2007) Jack Frantz – Captain; Ben Dainton – Deputy Captain; Liam Canavan; Jack Bruce; Tristan Barrett; Jonathon Provis-Vincent

(new 2008)Alastair Cardew; Michael Churcher; Alex Don; Jesse Hennessy; Matthew McClelland;  
Zac Murray; Anthony Stebbing; Nicholas Toogood