

WestVic Girls Overrun Yarra Valley

The Bendigo Bank WestVic Under 17 Girls Hockey team continued their unbeaten start to the season with a 6-1 drubbing of Yarra Valley. In their 7th consecutive win the WestVic girls finally conceded a goal, their first for the year.

Taking the offensive on the opening hit Yarra Valley got an early jump on the WestVic team. Catching the defense unprepared for an early onslaught, the Yarra Valley girls had a 1-0 lead in less than 2 minutes.

However, the WestVic girls quickly responded and gained the upper hand. Celeste Bussell just missed with a shot in the 4th minute then immediately stole a Yarra Valley pass and slammed the ball between the goalie's legs to tie the score.

The WestVic girls had complete control of the match for the next 15 minutes, only allowing Yarra Valley two quick offensive forays during that time. Lauren Bendall, Emma Maloney and Emma Ruyg kept the right side of the field closed off to Yarra Valley forward movement. Sheridan Walsh, Jackie Lewis-Gray and Amelia Frantz shut down the left keeping the ball trapped in the WestVic offensive half.

At the 9 minute mark Bussell again found the Yarra Valley goal to give the WestVic girls a 2-1 lead. A minute later a long, cross field pass from Walsh found Maloney in the scoring area. Maloney's shot deflected off the goalie's pads to Kate Ryan who shot the ball back past the off balance Yarra Valley goalie for WestVic's 3rd goal.

The few times Yarra Valley moved the ball past midfield, they were quickly turned back by fullbacks Emily Doyle and Michaela Dalli. In the 18th minute another long pass from Bendall found Lewis-Gray just outside the scoring area. Lewis-Gray's shot on goal was deflected by a Yarra Valley defender straight to Ryan who again sent the deflected shot back past the Yarra Valley goalie for a 4-1 WestVic half time lead.

The first 10 minutes of the 2nd half was a more even affair. The WestVic defense was put to the test several times but goalie Katey Shell, fullback Rachel Maher and the rest of the defense didn't break, turning back every Yarra Valley attack on goal.

Ruyg, Ryan and Bendall started gaining control of the midfield, opening up scoring opportunities for the forwards Shelly Wood and Carolyn Van der Broek. In the 11th minute the hard work by the WestVic girls again paid off when Van der Broek shot the ball between several defenders and the goalie for WestVic's 5th goal.

Van der Broek's goal was the catalyst the WestVic girls needed to regain control. For the next 15 minutes WestVic rarely allowed the Yarra Valley girls past the midfield line.

The WestVic forwards and midfield continued to pummel the Yarra Valley goal. In the 22nd minute the WestVic girls again broke through the Yarra Valley defense when Bendall drove the ball into the scoring area. In desperate play the ball caromed between several Yarra Valley and WestVic girls until it reached Bussell who put the ball in the net for the 3rd time and a 6-1 WestVic victory.

The WestVic girls play Footscray at home this week. WestVic won their first encounter 1-0.

Scorers: Celeste Bussell 3; Kate Ryan 2; Carolyn Van der Broek 1