



MEDIA RELEASE



BENDIGO BANK WESTVIC HOCKEY SENIOR MEN – STATE LEAGUE 3

MATCH REPORT – ROUND 13

Date: **Saturday, July 24th 2010**
Venue: **Melbourne High School**
Opposition: **MHSOB**

Final Score: **MHSOB 5 def. WestVic Hockey 3**

Goalscorers: Gavin Mann, Ben Smith, Nic Don.

Best: Nathan Hargreaves, Chris Vaughan, Ian Edgar, Nic Don

An inspired performance by the *Bendigo Bank WestVic Hockey Men* in Round 13 of Hockey Victoria's State League 3 competition was not enough to overcome top 4 side, MHSOB, who ran out 5-3 victors in a tightly contested encounter.

WestVic went into the match looking to put their complacent effort against Maccabi behind them and hoping to cause an upset to move within one game of the teams directly above them on the ladder.

Early signs were positive for WestVic as they were able to exploit the space in the MHSOB defensive half, pushing forward, but unable to generate any scoring chances.

WestVic's early efforts were in vain however, as MHSOB were awarded a penalty stroke for an intentional foul committed in the WestVic defensive circle. The MHSOB striker converted the chance to give them the early lead.

Only 3 minutes after MHSOB's opening goal, WestVic pushed forward and were awarded a penalty stroke of their own, when Ben Smith caught a defender out of position, who intentionally used the back of his stick to clear the ball from their defensive area.

WestVic penalty stroke specialist, Gavin Mann, stepped up to the penalty spot to convert the equalising goal for WestVic.

MHSOB hit back hard following WestVic's opening goal, moving the ball with speed to catch the WestVic midfield out of position. This was the catalyst for two well constructed goals in the space of 5 minutes and saw WestVic go into the half time break 2 goals in arrears. In the knowledge that an early goal would put them right back in the contest, WestVic began the second half all guns blazing, as Smith scored a classy goal in the first minute after the restart.

With key midfielders Nathan Hargreaves and Chris Vaughan starting to have a larger influence on the match, WestVic was able to build pressure on the MHSOB defence, as they continually fired the ball into attack.

Despite WestVic's best endeavours, it was MHSOB who scored the next goal, when a drag flick was stopped on the goal line by the body of a WestVic defender, earning MHSOB their second penalty stroke of the match, which was duly converted.

WestVic continued to step up their midfield presence, as Ian Edgar and Niall Ashby worked hard to prevent MHSOB's forward thrusts and reload the ball into attack.

When Thomas Walton fired a hard pass to a hard leading Nic Don, to score a stunning goal from a full length dive, and reduce the deficit to only one goal with 20 minutes remaining on the clock, WestVic was well and truly back in the game.

Despite holding the momentum for the remainder of the match, WestVic was unable to find the back of the net.

With WestVic pushing hard for an equalising goal, MHSOB made the most of a hard break away from defence to score their fifth goal with just minutes remaining on the clock to put the match beyond WestVic's reach.

WestVic host Frankston at the *Bendigo Bank* Ballarat Hockey Centre in Round 14, and will be hoping to take the points as they look to make a late charge up the State League 3 ladder.

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