



**In this week's edition, the Feds First Grade suffer a heartbreaking loss in their blockbuster against Northbridge, whilst the Youth battle out the first week of Finals football.**

## **Heartbreak as the First Grade go Down Fighting Against Northbridge**

**Report submitted by the Hakoah Feds Committee.**

It was the biggest game in the Club's history. Hakoah, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> on the ladder, up against Northbridge FC, placed 1<sup>st</sup>. Both clubs were equal on points and goal difference, however Northbridge had the edge on goals scored, which would come into play should the sides' draw.

With almost 1000 people in attendance, the tension was fierce prior to kick off. Both club's were fully aware that the winner would gain promotion to Division 1.

The last time these teams met, Hakoah won 3-0. However, both sides have changed a lot since then, and with the spoils of victory clear in everyone's minds, it was clear that this would not be such an open game.

With all eyes on him, Coach Mark Robertson sent his side out as follows:

Terry DalBroi

Marc Kacen (c)

Joe Vrkic

Pat Darvill

Greg Moss

Daan Ranshuijsen

Nathan Kosmina

Neil Jablonski

Jon Pillemer

Justin Kosmina

Rani Rimmer

Bench: Seamus Dowd, Adam Joseph, Deklan Gilmartin, Michael Randall, David Helfenbaum.

The first half was a tight affair with very few chances falling to either side. The weight of the game was definitely hanging on the shoulders of both team's players, with no one able to establish themselves.

Neil Jablonski seemed to have two men on him at every point, which seemed to stifle the Hakoah attacks.

The best chance of the half fell to Northbridge in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute, with Hakoah keeper Terry DalBroi producing a big leap to stop a chip from a Northbridge striker.

The atmosphere was tense when the teams returned for the second period. It was a horror opening for Hakoah though, with Northbridge finding the net at the 53<sup>rd</sup> minute.

A sweeping attack down the right flank saw a cross into the box that the Northbridge striker rose high for, heading home past a stranded DalBroi.

Despite falling a goal behind, Hakoah were unable to reply, with Jablonski clearly marked out of the match crippling the side. Changes were made, however they failed to inspire the side to find their attacking flair.

The game remained tight to the finish, with only one clear chance falling to Hakoah in the 77<sup>th</sup> minute. A strong attack found Justin Kosmina, who powerfully headed toward goal. But a crucial save by the Northbridge shot-stopper left the Hakoah fans reeling.

The match remained unchanged to the final whistle, with Hakoah going down 0-1.

Chairman of the Feds Committee, Jon Marcuson, was solemn in reflection, but pointed out the positives from a fantastic year.

"The boys are a credit to the Club", said Marcuson. "The way they have conducted themselves this season has been of the utmost professionalism. They have re-invigorated Hakoah, and it just a shame that they couldn't get home".

"The fact that there were 1000 people out there [in Northbridge], of which probably 600 were ours, is testament to how much this First Grade means to our Club and community", said Marcuson. "It's tough right now, but the boys will rally and I'm sure make a play for that Grand Final trophy".

**The Hakoah Feds First Grade finished the regular season in 2<sup>nd</sup> place on the table.**

#### **First Grade Table After Round 26**

POS	TEAM	P	W	L	D	F	A	GD	PTS
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1	Northbridge FC	26	17	4	5	71	36	35	56
2	<b>Hakoah</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>53</b>
3	Roosters FC	26	17	8	1	66	42	24	52
4	Luddenham United	26	17	8	1	62	50	12	52
5	Prospect United	26	16	8	2	55	28	27	50
6	Hawkesbury City SC	25	11	7	7	47	39	8	40
7	Springwood	25	10	9	6	47	38	9	36
8	Fairfield Wanderers FC	25	9	10	6	35	38	-3	33
9	Chopin Park Rams FC	26	8	11	7	32	40	-8	31
10	Hurstville City Minotaurs	25	9	14	2	42	59	-17	29
11	Belmore Hercules	26	5	12	9	35	57	-22	24
12	Nepean FC	26	5	14	7	26	55	-29	22
13	Bathurst 75	26	6	18	2	36	53	-17	20
14	Gazy Lansvale	26	2	20	4	29	81	-52	10

The Feds Reserve Grade played out a thriller against Northbridge in the prelude to the First Grade blockbuster.

With a win the only result that would keep their finals hopes alive, Hakoah exploded out of the blocks, attacking the Northbridge goal at will. Finally the side broke the deadlock in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute, when Moshe Wakil put away a goal mouth scramble from a Ricki Friede corner.

But just minutes before half time, Hakoah conceded after a mis-kick in defence gifted Northbridge an equaliser.

Hakoah again re-affirmed their lead in the 55<sup>th</sup> minute, after some great lead up play saw a James Israel shot parried into the path of Haim Ayalon, who made no mistake.

But another lapse in defence saw Northbridge equalise again, almost immediately after in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute.

With the game delicately poised, Captain Jamie Marcuson made the decisive break in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute. A smooth passing move found Marcuson running clear of his defenders, before he bundled his shot into the approaching keeper. The bouncing ball, heading goal-bound, was promptly smashed into the empty net by Ayalon.

The match ended that way, a 3-2 victory for the side, which earns them a spot in the Finals series.

**The Hakoah Reserve Grade finished the regular season in 5<sup>th</sup> place on the table.**

## **The Youths Fight in the Finals**

The Feds Youths teams entered Finals football this week, with three teams contesting for the ultimate prize. The Under 13s and 14s were up against Camden Tigers, whilst the Under 16s were fighting their arch-rivals Stanmore Hawks.

### Under 13

The Under 13s were up against 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Camden Tigers in a major test for the calibre of the side. The Hakoah boys had been beat 0-4 just the week earlier against the same Camden side, and this would be a massive test for the mental strength of the side.

In a tight match, Hakoah were beaten 0-1 where there were few chances for either side. Two one-on-ones, the best chances for the boys, fell to Jordan Koton, who unfortunately missed. Koton has been in great form this season, but just couldn't find the back of the net in this one.

The Under 13s are now facing an elimination final against Mt. Druitt Rangers this Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2011 at Popondetta Park, Popondetta Rd, Emerton.

### Under 14

**Report submitted Jeff Engelman. Photos by Kevin Berkowitz.**

The Under 14s were aware of the stakes of their match-up against Camden. They had to win to keep their finals dream alive. It was an all or nothing match against a side who the boys had beat just the week earlier.

Hakoah began with a bang, when Mark Filler slotted home off a Greg Ellerine corner. The boys remained in control, creating chances, but were unable to put these away. In finals football, this can prove costly, and Camden made the side pay, scoring twice before the half time break to make it 1-2. Despite Hakoah pushing for the equaliser, it was sadly not to be, with the match ending 1-2.

The Under 14s have had an outstanding season, and will be looking forward to their tour of Singapore in the next few months.



The Under 14s celebrate after Mark Filler (no. 11) scores the opener against Camden.

### Under 16

**Report submitted by Gary Binskin. Photos by Rob Rosen.**

The Under 16s renewed their rivalry with Stanmore in the Qualifying Final, with the winner earning the chance to play for a spot straight into the Grand Final. Stanmore were the side to beat Hakoah in last year's Grand Final, and since then, the sides' have continued their fierce battles throughout the regular season.

In a typically tight match, both sides struggled to dominate with few chances falling to either team. However, after applying the pressure, Luke Aston was brought down in the box after a Robbie Ezekiel corner. Sam Wrublewski stepped up, only to suffer a shock miss.

The game went past regulation time and, with the scores unchanged at the end of extra time, penalties were required to determine the victor. Hakoah were clinical, scoring the first four shots, before Stanmore missed, allowing Aston the chance to win it for the boys. Calm and collected, Aston made no mistake, earning the side victory with the end score 0-0 (5-4 pen).

The Under 16s now face Minor Premiers Gladesville Ryde Magic for a spot in the Grand Final on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at Bensons Lane Sporting Complex, Bensons Lane, Richmond.



The Under 16s swamp Luke Aston after he put away the winning penalty against Stanmore.

### **Road to the Finals ... With Dino D'Agrosa**

*Each week we will be checking-in with Feds First Grade defender Dino D'Agrosa for an insight into the First Grade's push to the finals from within the looking glass. Dino, known somewhat as the Loch Ness Monster, has been injured for a large part of this season. However, he has a way with words that we feel can give everyone a strong understanding of the First Grade side (largely pointing out their foibles!!). We are all looking forward to his weekly segments.*



Ian Dowie is a former International footballer and manager of teams such as Crystal Palace and West Ham to name but a few. He is known for not being the bonniest person to grace the football pitch, a bit like an attractive Luke Chadwick.....remember him? Google him.....he fell out of the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down.

I digress....now back to Dowie.....most of you have probably never heard of him or if you have are currently wondering why I am mentioning him. Ok here's the answer, Ian Dowie's finest moment (apart from playing along side Shearer & Le Tissier at Southampton) came during a Sky Sports interview when he used the word "bouncebackability". The cult UK football show soccer a.m. then campaigned to have the word introduced into the English dictionary and it was used by every Tom, Dick and Harry on television to petition its introduction, they succeeded.

### **Bouncebackability**

n.

1. The ability to 'bounce back' usually implying a fighting spirit.
2. The ability to come from a losing position and win. (Origin: Ian Dowie association football manager, Great Britain).

I have a fairly limited grasp of the English language as does Jaba.....being Scottish it's our second language and most of our words are not suitable for print but it's the word that best describes the first graders Grand final intentions following missing out on the minor premiership at the weekend to Northbridge FC.

Everyone is determined to put the loss at the weekend behind us and show our bouncebackability in this weekend's first finals fixture and bring some silverware to the club. If you read the end of season summary by Football NSW everyone involved with State Football in NSW has been impressed by both the First Grade and Ressie's dramatic turn around in only one season. Look at the statistics, its impressive reading and encouraging for the club.

A huge thank you from all of the First Grade boys involved at the weekend for the tremendous support we received on the day. We outnumbered the home support which was pleasing to see and hear. We'll aim to show our bouncebackability during the finals series and do the club and the supporters proud.

"Good professionalism and team spirit is the key to success" Robbo, Foxey & Alex

Editors Note:

Jaba – Neil Jablonski  
Robbo – Mark Robertson  
Foxey – Hayden Foxe  
Alex – Alex Robertson

## **Race to the Golden Boot and Golden Glove**

With the regular season now over for all the Feds teams, the results are in for the winner's of the Victor Sports Golden Boot and Golden Glove Awards.

The Committee will reveal all the winners at the end of season Presentation Night.

## **Awards of the Week**

**Player of the Week:** In yet another epic battle between the traditional rivals, the Under 16's penalty shoot out clash with Stanmore wrote yet another exciting chapter into the tales between these two sides.

In these tight contests, certain players rise to new levels to get their sides home. Enter Hakoah defender Luke Aston.

Aston put on a flawless performance during regular and extra time, stopping wave after wave of Stanmore attacks. He was a massive physical presence, intercepting the long ball tactics of Stanmore for the entirety.

But then, when the match entered penalties, Aston remained composed under the weight of expectation to win the game for Hakoah. Taking the fifth penalty, after Stanmore had just missed, Aston calmly stepped up and slotted home, causing rapturous celebrations from the player's, parents and coaches.

For putting on a match-winning performance, Aston is this week's 'Player of the Week'.



Under 16 Luke Aston, after putting away the winning penalty, is this week's 'Player of the Week'.

**Blunder of the Week:** With 1000 people eagerly watching the First Grade battle against Northbridge, the party was spoiled by Northbridge Football Manager Mark Nicholaeff.

Despite 200 players from all ages watching the match from 'ringside seats', Nicholaeff was determined to take out any joy from the fans, continually telling them to move away from the field, not to drink on the area next to the field, and to remain 'civilised' during the epic clash.

Faced with such an authoritarian figure, the Hakoah fans rallied against the crazed Nicholaeff, taunting him throughout the entire match as he tried to ruin the atmosphere of the crowd.

For giving new meaning to the term 'Buzz Killington', Nicholaeff is this week's winner of the 'Blunder of the Week'.



Northbridge Football Manager, Mark Nicholaeff (left), was described as the Family Guy character Buzz Killington (right) for his role in trying to ruin the atmosphere at the Hakoah-Northbridge battle, which wins him this week's 'Blunder' Award.

## **The Upcoming Week**

The Hakoah Feds Opens now enter the Finals Series, whilst the Feds Youths enter the second week of the Series.

The First Grade are up against Roosters FC on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2011 at Hensley Athletic Field, Corner Corish Circuit and Wentworth Avenue, Pagewood.

**First Grade kick off at 7 pm. Get down there to support YOUR First Grade side in their push to the Grand Final!!**

The Reserve Grade are up against Gazy Lansvale on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at Luddenham Oval, 229 Luddenham Rd, St. Marys.

**The Reserves kick off at 12.30 pm.**

The Under 13s are up against Mt. Druitt Rangers on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2011 at Popondetta Park, Popondetta Rd, Emerton.

**The Under 13s kick off at 8.45 am.**

The Under 16s are up against Gladesville Ryde Magic on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at Bensons Lane Sporting Complex, Bensons Lane, Richmond.

**The Under 16s kick off at 1.15 pm.**

That is this week's edition. For any comments, please email [hakoah.feds@gmail.com](mailto:hakoah.feds@gmail.com).

To unsubscribe, please reply 'unsubscribe'.

**Written by:**

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