



Eat well



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MACCABI HAKOAH FEDS F.C.



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In this week's edition, we wrap up all the results from the trial games against Schofield Scorpions before speaking to one of the most exciting prospects in our Club and in NSW, Brad Paikin from the Under 13s.

Before we begin this week's edition, we need to take a moment to remember a Maccabi and Hakoah stalwart, Ian 'Iggy' Gray. Iggy passed away one year ago on Tuesday, leaving a hole in the Club that is impossible to fill. Iggy was a larger than life figure in the Club, and his commitment and contribution to everything Maccabi and Hakoah cannot be measured. He was a major factor in Hakoah's push into the Youth Development League, and was coaching the Under 15s last year when he passed away. Iggy, you will not be forgotten.



In another tough hit out, the entire club travelled to Schofield on Sunday to trial against the intimidating opposition of Schofield Scorpions. The Scorpions play in State League Division 1 in the Opens, and in the Super Youth League in the youth.

The Hakoah Fed's First Grade were stunned, losing 0-3 to the Scorpions. From the first whistle, the Scorpions blitzed the Hakoah boys, putting two goals away

within the first 15 minutes. On a pitch that was better described as a swamp, Hakoah were unable to find a consistent rhythm and a second half third sealed a disappointing loss.

Earlier in the day, the youth teams were thrown into the tough circumstances against strong Schofield sides in all ages. Despite this, the senior teams in the youth, the Under 16s and Under 18s, both put in impressive performances that sets the scene for an exciting season for both teams.

The Under 16s showed once again why they were minor premiers last season, thrashing Schofield 5-0. The boys, despite missing five key players, outplayed the Scorpions across the park, and were unlucky not to be awarded a sixth goal that was disallowed in contentious circumstances. There is no doubt after this showing that the boys will be the team to watch again this season.

The Under 18s drew 2-2, conceding the equaliser with three minutes to spare. Holding possession and playing bright, attacking football, the boys were unlucky not to come away with a deserved win.

In other results, the Under 13s fell to a 1-3 loss, the Under 14s 1-2, Under 15s 1-2 and the Opens Reserve Grade 1-2. All teams showed improvements from their last hit out, and against a club in the division higher, were competitive in all age groups.



Under 16 Josh Shubitz (left) on his way to scoring a hat-trick

Introducing Brad Paikin

Every young footballer harbours dreams of playing professionally. After all, it 's the dream job. You play the game you love, for worldwide acclaim and adoration, whilst making enough money to never work again.

The hard part is making it to that level. Out of millions of kids worldwide, only a handful makes it (if you think percentages anyway).

With that in mind, let me now introduce Hakoah Feds Under 13s star Brad Paikin.

Brad is just like every other 13-year-old footballer; he lives and breathes the game 24/7.

The difference is that Brad is one of the best 16 players in NSW.

Brad and fellow Under 13 Hakoah teammate Jordon Koton have been selected for the Project 22 team. Project 22 is the FFA's breeding ground for the next Socceroos superstars. In each age group, only 16 players are selected, despite the thousands that trial.

Project 22 players only train as a group. The individual players then play games on the weekend for their respective clubs. With any club at his disposal, Brad and Jordon both chose to play Hakoah. Their decision reinforces the camaraderie and friendship that is at the foundation of the Hakoah Feds Club.

I spoke to Brad this week to get an insight into the Project 22 set up, his aspirations for the future, and his thoughts on his Hakoah team this year.

Q: So Brad, how did you get selected for Project 22?

BP: Well there were a lot of trials. There were State trials in Nowra, as well as proper trials and elimination. Only 16 players get selected so it was pretty tough.

Q: A lot of people only know Project 22 by name, and not much else. What are the trainings like?

BP: The trainings are very hard. It's a lot of technical stuff. We train four times a week, not including what we all do on our own. We play games against Under 14 Premier League sides, which is a year older than us. It's hard but very enjoyable.

Q: What training do you do on your own?

BP: I do a lot of work on my own, as well as stretching every night so my body can handle the sessions.

Q: Playing under Barry Walker this year, what do you think of the team and your chances?

BP: Barry is a great coach. It's really good playing under him. The team also is very decent. I think we have a very good chance this year.



Under 13s and Project 22 Player Brad Paikin

To see Brad in action this weekend, get down to ES Marks from 9am to see the Under 13s trial against Northbridge, followed by the rest of the youth teams.

First Grade plays Gladesville Ryde at Cooke Park, Belfield. Kick off 6pm.

That is this weeks edition of the Hakoah Feds Newsletter. Until next time, let your passes find the man, your shots find the goal, and your skills find the girls.

For any comments, please email me at mark.jamison00@gmail.com.