



**In this week's edition, we take a look at the First Grade's return to frightening form, as well as introducing the First Grade Leadership Group for the 2011 Season.**

It was a vastly different feeling this week as the Hakoah Fed's Opens sides showed their ability, determination and desire to win this competition. Up against the physical Luddenham United, both First Grade and Reserves demolished their opposition in scintillating fashion, winning 6-1 and 3-0 respectively.

On a wet Sunday night, the fans showed up in their droves to watch the First Grade in their first home game of the season. Despite the miserable conditions, **over 200 people** came down to Hensley Athletic Field.

And what a game they were treated to.

Continuing with a 4-4-1-1 formation, Coach Mark Robertson sent his side out as follows:

Adam Sonnabend

Greg Moss

Simon Weiss

Marc Kacen (c)

Daan Ranshuijsen

Deklan Gilmartin

Nathan Kosmina

Rani Rimmer

Neil Jablonski

Adam Joseph

Justin Kosmina

Bench: Moshe Wakil, Jon Pillemer, Michael Randall, Ricki Friede, David Helfenbaum

The game began with Hakoah pressing to win an early corner in the 4th minute. As the ball was cleared, Nathan Kosmina, roughly 30 yards out, decided to take a crack. The bench and crowd erupted as his pinpoint curling shot went straight into the top right hand corner.

Robertson said, "Nathan has scored for me the goal of the season in the second round and it will go a long way to get beaten this season ... not even the best keeper in Australia would have saved it".

1-0.

Not to be outdone by his younger brother, Justin Kosmina found the net on the 17<sup>th</sup> minute, after impressive lead up play involving many players in the team.

In no uncertain terms, Hakoah were in control. Dominating possession and showing their passing game that was absent last week, it wasn't long before two became three.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> minute, Neil Jablonski made his trademark midfield run, collecting the ball just inside the box. Jablonski took one touch before smashing past the keeper.

3-0 after 25 minutes.

Remaining firmly in control, chances were being created all the time, with Adam Joseph narrowly missing two shots, both just clearing the crossbar.

As the second half began, Jablonski again found the back of the net. The Hakoah marquee signing was living up to his reputation.

A rare attack from the Luddenham side saw them claw one back in the 60<sup>th</sup> minute, making the score 4-1.

But this was not to be the start of a revival. This was the Neil Jablonski show, and after Jon Pillemer was subbed on and quickly put away Hakoah's fifth, Jablonski calmly slotted home his third for the night, and Hakoah's sixth.

The Jablonski hat-trick was the icing on the cake for a brilliant team effort. Together the boys played quick, attacking football the entire game, and had comfortably found their groove after last week's poor performance. It was a dominating showing for 90 minutes by the First Grade, and sent a clear message to the rest of the competition.

Robertson was jubilant after the game, saying, "the game was excellent; not just the score line but the manner in which the boys played".

Robertson made special reference to Jablonski and Nathan Kosmina, calling them "standouts again in the midfield", whilst also paying tribute to Justin Kosmina and Pillemer, saying "these two boys have been working so hard at training and really deserve a lot of credit for their hard work and patience."

Robertson added, "The boys are working hard and that is all I can ask of them and if they continue to do so it will be a magical season for all involved".

In the prelude to the First Grade game, the Reserve Grade aimed to wipe away the memories of a slow start to the season in Round 1.

From the off, the Reserves dominated play, carving up the Luddenham side with quick passing and constant running off the ball.

In the 23<sup>rd</sup> minute, a handball in the box gave Hakoah a penalty, which Zac Rabin made no mistake with, slotting home to open the scoring.

A great run from striker Daniel Toblib in the 60<sup>th</sup> minute gave Hakoah another penalty, as Toblib was chopped down after beating his defender in the box. Rabin again stepped up and calmly slotted away to make it 2-0.

Toblib capped off the strong performance with Hakoah's third in the 82<sup>nd</sup> minute, after some great lead up play from substitute and Under 18s player, Erez Levy.

In the youth games, the Under 18s came back from their crushing last minute loss last week to earn a hard fought 1-0 victory over Hurstville Minotaurs. The side were in control for large portions of the game, staying tight at the back and not giving Hurstville many opportunities. Jack Watts was the hero, making a tough finish from a tight angle look simple in the 38<sup>th</sup> minute. Erez Levy was subbed on shortly after this for the injured Dion Markovics, and made an immediate effect, rattling the crossbar from a 30 yard strike in the 42<sup>nd</sup> minute. The boys dominated this game and were unlucky not to come away with a larger scoreline at the end of the 90 minutes.



U18's Jack Watts (number 13) heads on goal

The Under 16s, aptly described as the Hakoah Glamour Team, were brought crashing down to Earth with a 1-3 loss to Hurstville. In a sloppy performance, the side were reminded that they are still the team to beat, and cannot simply turn up and expect results. Ilan Kessler had equalised for the side after 20 minutes of the first half, however Hakoah were always on the back foot and conceded two more.



U16's Ilan Kessler (centre) heads to score Hakoah's equaliser

The Under 15s fell to a 0-1 loss in a lacklustre performance. The side will be looking to bounce back from consecutive losses this week.



U15's Gilad Hersh attacks the Hurstville goal

The Under 13s and Under 14s matches were postponed due to drain blockages at Hensley, and have been re-scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> at Hensley.

### The Hakoah Feds First Grade Leadership Group

Regardless of football code, all elite teams have a select group of senior players that form the leadership group. This group of players are the role models for the entire club and are the epitome of professionalism, ability and commitment.

The leadership group fills in the gap between the coaches and the players, and carry the same degree of respect that any coach would expect from their players.

Although a leadership group has been around for years in Hakoah, this season it has been explicitly stated which members of the First Grade squad comprise in the leadership group.

The Hakoah Feds Opens Leadership Group for 2011 includes:

Marc Kacen (captain), Neil Jablonski, Adam Joseph, Pat Darvil and Greg Moss.

We spoke to Greg Moss to find out more about the functions and importance of the Leadership Group.

Moss explained the role of the leadership group as highly important in "providing a bridge between the players and the board/coaching staff".

“In my view, [The Leadership Group] is a highly effective way of keeping things transparent and on track (with the goals set by the club prior to the 2011 season). Transparency, where appropriate, and player input, where appropriate, is a vital way of continuing to move Hakoah forward towards the "successful" club it wants to eventually and continue to be”.

The main roles of the Leadership Group will be to create a friendly, yet disciplined and competitive atmosphere within the entire Feds Opens squad, including both First Grade and Reserves.

Moss explains, “With the 2011 team being fairly 'new look', the leadership group will fulfil a greater role; that being to ensure team moral remains at a high and that the core concepts of players code of conduct are conformed with.”

“The leadership groups main role will be to encourage the squad to get to know one another and create friendships and relationships (through humour and some discipline). This process breeds a mentality of being willing to "go that extra mile" for your team mate (and now mate!) and ingrains a sense of pride in playing for a club with so much history. A united team is a far more formidable opponent than a team of individuals aiming to prove themselves. The leadership group hopes to play a role in developing that "united" siege mentality for Hakoah in 2011.”

Importantly, Moss recognises that the leadership group will not have a say in team selections, so as bias and conflicts of interest never arise.

As Moss says, “It is very important to separate the leadership group from any decision making in respect of team selections etc and the leadership group will not have any input in this regard”.

The Leadership Group is just another example of the 2011 season reigniting the professionalism of this Club off the pitch, which lays the foundations for on-field success.



Greg Moss

### 'The Code of Conduct'

The leadership group made its presence known to the entire Feds Opens squad this week by instituting a code of conduct for all Feds Opens Players. The code sets out the standards expected by the coaches and the Leadership Group.

Breaking a code is punishable with a fine, ranging from \$5-\$15.

This is the first step in creating a professional atmosphere that replicates a professional club.

The fines relate to uniforms, arriving on time to games, behaviour that is negative for the team (including receiving yellow and red cards for "stupid" reasons) as well as some light-hearted fines, such as getting nutmegged, missing an open goal or air-swinging in a game.

The youngest member from both grades has to collect these fines, or else risk being fined himself. This establishes important levels of seniority within the side, and sets up traditions that can be followed on for years.

The code will help discipline the entire Feds Opens squad into a single, cohesive unit that all respects the same codes of conduct, similar to that of a corporation.

### Awards of the Week

**Player of the Week:** It was a simple decision this week to award the 'Player of the Week' to First Grader and marquee signing Neil Jablonski.

Jablonski scored a clinical hat-trick against Luddenham, and was instrumental in the 6-1 thrashing.

Jablonski has now scored four goals from only two games. Don't forget that he's not even a striker, he's a centre midfielder!

Jablonski has been a constant presence in the midfield this season, and only emphasised his skill, strength and speed with this week's performance.

Congratulations Neil on winning this week's 'Player of the Week' Award.



Neil Jablonski (right). This week's 'Player of the Week'. File Photo.

**Blunder of the Week:** There were a few contenders for this week's blunder award. After an intense elimination process, it came down to two players. Whilst Under 16s defender GianMarc Binskin's slip in the box gifted Hurstville their second goal; we chose to stay with the Opens and award this week's clanger to Reserve Grader Remy Wolanski.

On the day when the Feds Opens Leadership Group introduced a fine system, Wolanski showed up to the game late, without his boots, shinpads, warm up kit and uniform.

Doing a quick analysis, Wolanski would be charged for the following offences:

Incorrect Uniform for Game; No Warm Up Shirt; Incorrect Playing Kit; Arriving Late to Game.

These breaches total \$35.

To rub salt in the wound, as Wolanski is the youngest member of the side, he will have to collect the fines from himself, otherwise risk being fined again.

Congratulations Remy on managing to mess up on the first day of the implementation of the fine system. The entire First Grade squad has asked me to thank you though for contributing to their end of season trip!



Remy Wolanski's bad uniform day wins him this week's 'Blunder of the Week Award'.

### The Upcoming Week

This week the Feds Opens are up against Springwood at Summerhayes Park, Hawkesbury Rd, Winmalee on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

First Grade kicks off at 7 pm. Reserves kick off at 5 pm.

The Youth teams are up against Southern Branch at Ison Park, Hillcrest Avenue, South Nowra.

Kick offs are at:

Under 13 – 9.00 am

Under 14 – 10.15 am

Under 15 – 11.40 am

Under 16 – 1.15 pm

Under 18 – 3.00 pm

That is this week's 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.

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