



MACCABI HAKOAH FEDS F.C.

**In this week's edition, the Hakoah First Grade fail to capitalise at home, whilst the youth battle the imposing opposition of Stanmore Hawks, including the Grand Final Replay in the Under 16s. Coaching Director Barry Walker also writes in to give his thoughts on the season thus far.**

### The First Grade Fail to Fire

"Consistency is all I seek" is the classic phrase from Tom Stoppard's play, 'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead'. Sadly, these are probably the same words that wake First Grade coach Mark Robertson up every night in a fitful scream and cold sweat.

Back under the warm glow of the Hensley lights, the Hakoah First Grade was up against the less-fancied Belmore Hercules on Sunday night. Renowned to be a physical side, but not much else, there was an anticipation in the stands that Hakoah would come out firing as they did in the previous week.

The side left the sheds in the following formation:

Adam Sonnabend

Greg Moss

Marc Kacen (c)

Pat Darvill

Michael Randall

Jon Pillemer

Nathan Kosmina

Deklan Gilmartin

Rani Rimmer

Neil Jablonski

Adam Joseph

Bench: Simon Weiss, Seamus Dowd, Moshe Wakil, Gil Pollak

As has been a recurring theme of the season thus far, Hakoah failed to regain their flair from last week, starting the game slow and failing to find their passing game.

The side did find their attacking, fast paced game at times, however basic errors were prevalent throughout the 90 minutes.

The boys fell behind twice during the game.

As Leadership Group member Greg Moss says, “indecisiveness and a few schoolboy errors gave Belmore the lead on two occasions and let them into the game”.

Hakoah were forced to equalise late in the first half, after a volleyed cross from Moss found Rani Rimmer in the box, who made no mistake.

After again falling behind in the second period, Neil Jablonski found the net to level the scores midway through the half, heading in off a Rimmer corner.

The result stayed this way, with the Hakoah side again rueing missed chances.

Although they did manage a 2-2 draw, these are the key games that the side needs to win. Dropping points at this early stage can come back to haunt sides, and this is definitely on the minds of all the players and coaches.

As Moss says, “All the coaches were disappointed with the result given the calibre of players we have. They felt that naivety and simple errors let Belmore into a game we should have been able to win, especially at home. We need to show more conviction in our decision making, show more grit and be willing to get more physically involved from the start.”

The Reserve Grade fought to a 1-1 draw against the higher ranked Belmore side, however it was a patchy performance from the boys.

An early goal to Ricki Friede off a Remy Wolanski cross set the scene for an exciting display from the side, but this momentum didn't continue, instead allowing Belmore back into the game.

The game was an arm wrestle for 90 minutes; with a 1-1 end score a fair outcome from a match that lacked fluidity and flair.

### It's Time to Buck the Trends

The youth began the back-to-back day at Hensley against Stanmore Hawks. Stanmore is a stereotypically tough side, and are making a genuine push towards promotion this year. All the sides were going to be put to the test in this outing, and it would be a battle in every age group.

Over the years, this fixture has had everything; goals, fights, and of course, the grand final that last year's Under 15's lost.

But revenge was in the air, and the Youth sides must have universally decided that this trend of losing to Stanmore was ending on Sunday, as all the sides

competed phenomenally, winning three out of the five matches, and only narrowly losing the other two.

It all began with the Under 13s. Often regarded as the best footballing team in the Club, the Under 13s made no mistake again, destroying Stanmore 4-0. The boys started strongly, creating chances early. However it took until the 20<sup>th</sup> minute of the first half before Hakoah broke the deadlock through a smooth passing move, finished in style by Jordon Koton. Another was added before the break by Jordi Swibel. The second half again saw the side dominate, with a Stanmore own goal and another Koton finish to see out the match. Although the boys were not at their best, this side is definitely looking like the team to beat in the competition.

POS	U13s TEAM	P	W	L	D	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Camden Tigers	9	9	0	0	30	5	25	27
2	Southern Branch	9	7	1	1	32	11	21	22
3	Gladesville Ryde Magic	7	6	1	0	16	7	9	18
<b>4</b>	<b>Hakoah</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>
5	St. George	8	5	2	1	23	5	18	16
6	Hurstville City Minotaurs SC	8	4	2	2	15	10	5	14
7	Mt. Druitt Town Rangers	8	4	3	1	17	16	1	13
8	Nepean FC	9	3	3	3	13	14	-1	12
9	Hills Brumbies	8	3	5	0	14	21	-7	9
10	Stanmore Hawks	9	1	6	2	8	26	-18	5
11	Northbridge FC	8	1	6	1	11	22	-11	4
12	Springwood	6	1	5	0	6	22	-16	3
13	Balmain East Tigers	8	1	7	0	5	25	-20	3
14	Inter Lions	8	0	7	1	3	23	-20	1

Up next were the Under 14s. In this age group, Stanmore are top and haven't conceded a goal. After two tough weeks, there was a big question mark over how the Hakoah boys would perform. It didn't take long for the crowd to see the answer. Hakoah exploded out of the blocks, winning everything in the middle of the park and outplaying the comp leaders. A great opening goal by Greg Ellerine after a pinpoint cross from Simon Rouse stunned the Hawks early in the first half. A move that saw half the team involved won the side a corner, from which Jake Berkowitz finished to make it 2-0. An early goal in the second half to Simon Rouse rounded off the performance. 3-0. A fantastic result!

POS	U14s TEAM	P	W	L	D	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Stanmore Hawks	9	7	1	1	36	3	33	22
2	St. George	8	6	1	1	18	3	15	19
3	Mt. Druitt Town Rangers	8	6	2	0	20	7	13	18
4	Balmain East Tigers	8	5	1	2	23	9	14	17
<b>5</b>	<b>Hakoah</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>16</b>
6	Camden Tigers	9	4	3	2	10	11	-1	14
7	Southern Branch	9	3	4	2	15	23	-8	11

8	Gladesville Ryde Magic	7	3	4	0	8	13	-5	9
9	Hurstville City Minotaurs SC	8	3	5	0	14	23	-9	9
10	Nepean FC	9	2	5	2	14	25	-11	8
11	Inter Lions	8	1	4	3	11	16	-5	6
12	Northbridge FC	8	1	4	3	7	17	-10	6
13	Springwood	6	1	4	1	3	7	-4	4
14	Hills Brumbies	8	1	7	0	14	34	-20	3

The Under 15s fought valiantly against a well-organised Stanmore outfit, going down 0-1. It was a tough game that saw few opportunities for the boys. Consistency is still a major issue with this side, as the quality of the players has never come into question.

POS	U15s TEAM	P	W	L	D	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Southern Branch	9	7	1	1	27	11	16	22
2	Mt. Druitt Town Rangers	8	6	0	2	26	7	19	20
3	Stanmore Hawks	9	5	1	3	19	5	14	18
4	Gladesville Ryde Magic	7	5	1	1	13	5	8	16
5	Camden Tigers	9	5	4	0	16	15	1	15
6	St. George	8	4	2	2	9	5	4	14
7	Balmain East Tigers	8	4	3	1	8	7	1	13
8	Hurstville City Minotaurs SC	8	4	4	0	10	9	1	12
9	Springwood	6	1	1	4	4	4	0	7
<b>10</b>	<b>Hakoah</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>7</b>
11	Nepean FC	9	2	6	1	11	22	-11	7
12	Northbridge FC	8	1	5	2	4	19	-15	5
13	Inter Lions	8	0	6	2	3	19	-16	2
14	Hills Brumbies	8	0	6	2	5	22	-17	2

The Under 18s also fell to the Hawks, going down 1-3. The boys were patchy in their performance, and consistency is also a key factor for this side going forward.

POS	U18s TEAM	P	W	L	D	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Hills Brumbies	8	6	0	2	30	6	24	20
2	Gladesville Ryde Magic	7	6	0	1	36	7	29	19
3	St. George	8	6	1	1	28	20	8	19
4	Camden Tigers	8	6	2	0	33	13	20	18
5	Stanmore Hawks	9	6	3	0	23	17	6	18
6	Hurstville City Minotaurs SC	8	4	2	2	22	11	11	14
7	Mt. Druitt Town Rangers	8	3	3	2	18	18	0	11
<b>8</b>	<b>Hakoah</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>
9	Nepean FC	8	3	4	1	16	22	-6	10
10	Springwood	6	2	3	1	13	11	2	7
11	Inter Lions	8	2	5	1	19	30	-11	7

12	Northbridge FC	8	2	6	0	19	30	-11	6
13	Balmain East Tigers	8	1	7	0	10	26	-16	3
14	Southern Branch	9	0	9	0	4	61	-57	0

But the showpiece event was the Grand Final Replay in the Under 16s. Hakoah are the reigning minor premiers, but Stanmore are the reigning premiers and currently hold top position. It was always going to be a battle.

After three minutes, the strike force pressured the Stanmore fullback off a goal-kick. Panicking, he played it back to his keeper who was faced with a full-speed Gareth Milner. The keeper choked, mis-kicked his clearance, and Milner put away for a 1-0 lead.



The Stanmore keeper looks desperately on as Gareth Milner slots away the opening goal for the Under 16s

Only 10 minutes later, Wes Hamburger won a crunching challenge in the middle of the park, before playing wide to Sam Wrublewski, whose cross found a volleying Milner at the near post.

2-0 up.

Half way through the second half, after a Justin Malek intercept at the back, the ball was played to Wrublewski who weaved his way through three defenders, before finding Josh Shubitz in the box who made no mistake.

3-0.



Goalkeeper and Captain Harry Rosen tracks a Stanmore shot during the match

Stanmore managed to grab one back, but this was not to be their day. Hakoah out-muscled, out-passed, and above all, out-played, their fierce rivals and deservedly won 3-1.



'Welcome to Hensley', courtesy of Sam Wrublewski (left)

The side is now only two points off the top of the table, and they are surely hoping to wreak vengeance on Stanmore for their grand final loss should they meet again at the business end of the season.

POS	U16s TEAM	P	W	L	D	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Stanmore Hawks	9	8	1	0	22	5	17	24
<b>2</b>	<b>Hakoah</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>
3	Hurstville City Minotaurs SC	8	4	1	3	17	11	6	15
4	Springwood	6	4	1	1	13	4	9	13
5	Gladesville Ryde Magic	7	4	2	1	15	7	8	13
6	St. George	8	4	3	1	17	14	3	13
7	Camden Tigers	8	4	3	1	13	11	2	13
8	Mt. Druitt Town Rangers	8	3	3	2	14	12	2	11
9	Hills Brumbies	8	3	4	1	14	20	-6	10
10	Southern Branch	9	2	6	1	10	22	-12	7
11	Inter Lions	8	2	6	0	11	15	-4	6
12	Nepean FC	8	1	5	2	7	25	-18	5
13	Northbridge FC	8	0	4	4	6	16	-10	4
14	Balmain East Tigers	8	1	7	0	9	21	-12	3

### Walker's Words of Wisdom

*Barry Walker is the Director of Coaching (DOC) of the Hakoah Feds Youth Sides. He will be writing in every few weeks to keep you up-to-date with the goings on from the Coaching World of the Hakoah Feds.*



We are now more than a third of the way through the season and whilst it has been a great start, there is still plenty of improvement in each of the teams.

As a club, we are working so hard to provide our players with the best coaches, facilities, etc, and I am grateful for the support we receive from the Committee, players, parents, managers and Coaches.

The 13s are currently in 4th position and playing excellent football. All of these boys are now confirmed Evertonians and the future looks bright for them.

The 14s are fifth and Jabba [Coach Neil Jablonski] has them firing after a rough patch a couple of weeks ago that was dispelled by a magnificent performance last week against the previously unbeaten Stanmore Hawks.

The 15s only need to believe in themselves and they will improve sharply and start winning games.

The 16s now find themselves in second place and only two points behind Stanmore. Last years Minor Premiers and Grand Finalists are determined to go one better.

After a speech in the dressing room by Captain Harry Rosen before the game that was described by all who heard it as truly emotional and inspiring (honest!!!) the boys went out and completely dominated Stanmore on Sunday.

The 18s only need a striker to be more than competitive and play great, structured football.

Overall, we are 6th in the Club Championship.

The 14s are looking forward to their trip to Singapore at the end of the season and their parents have organised many fundraising events that hopefully the entire club will support.

Last years U15s trip to England was a fantastic experience for all the players and has been recorded in a book put together by Neil Karpin and Shelley Ezekiel. It is a fantastic memento of what was a great trip - highlighted by watching Everton twice and visiting the Everton Academy.

I would also like to have the "Club Golden Boot" award for the 2011 season. Under 14 coach and First Grade Vice-Captain, Jabba has, I believe, scored ten goals.

However, Jordan Koton (U13s) and Josh Shubitz(U16s) have 10 and 11 goals so far so should be an interesting Competition.

Again, many thanks for all your support and I look forward to the rest of the season.

Cheers

Barry Walker  
DOC

## **The Fight for the Victor Sport Golden Boot and Victor Sport Golden Glove Awards**

A big thank you to Dave Goldman from Victor Sports who is the clubs newest sponsor and is providing \$500 worth of sporting equipment to both winners of the Golden Boot and Golden Glove awards.

The race is very much alive for these awards for the 2011 season.

### **Here are the rules for both awards:**

- The player who scores the most goals across ALL seven Hakoah Feds teams is the winner.
- The goalkeeper who concedes the least amount of goals in the season, across ALL seven Hakoah Feds teams, based on the number of games played, is the winner.
- The Feds Committee reserves the right to adjust the criteria especially the Golden Glove award once they receive all the feedback from the coaches.

Here are the current tables for both awards.

### **The Victor Sports Golden Boot Award:**

#### **Top 10 Goal Scorers for Feds 2011**

Team	Name	Goals
U16	Josh Shubitz	11
Firsts	Neil Jablonski	10
U13	Jordon Koton	9
U13	Harry Buch	5
U14	Greg Ellerine	4
U16	Gareth Milner	4
U13	Sam Massis-Wolf	3
U13	Jordi Swibel	3
U14	Simon Rouse	3
Firsts	Justin Kosmina	3

### **The Victor Sports Golden Glove Award:**

## **Golden Glove Feds 2011**

Team	Name	Goals Conceded	Games Played
Reserves	Gil Pollak	5	6
Reserves	David Helfenbaum	6	7
U16	Harry Rosen	10	9
U13	Brad Sarif	14	9
U15	Max Nightingale	14	9
Firsts	Adam Sonnabend	15	8
U18	Liam Jeffreys	16	9
U14	David Booth	18	9

## **The Feds Committee Loses a Member**

Hakoah Feds Committee member, Mick Vasin, has been forced to render his resignation due to new policies by NSW Maccabi.

Hakoah Chairman Jon Marcuson said that unfortunately due to the work requirements of Mick's role as CEO of NSW Maccabi, he no longer has sufficient time to sit on individual clubs committees as well.

Marcuson went on to say that Mick has been a committee member of the Maccabi Hakoah Feds for over 10 years and almost single handily has kept the club going through some of its darkest days. Mick was also highly instrumental in the launch of the Feds youth teams into the State league competition.

We are very sad to lose such a valuable committee member but we are sure we will see Mick constantly at our games and of course he will still be involved through his role as CEO of NSW Maccabi. From our whole club we thank him for his massive contribution.

## **Hakoah Legend and Ex-Sydney FC Technical Director is Coming to the Feds Senior Academy**

**It seems the Feds Club has a habit of getting the best coaches nationwide to coach their teams, and this week the Committee unveiled their latest recruit, former Sydney FC Youth Coach Steve O'Connor.**

O'Connor is an ex-Hakoah legend, where he debuted for the Club as a 17 year old in 1972. He stayed with Hakoah for 15 years in which time the Club won four National Titles. He also played for St. George in 1987 after Hakoah closed their football team down, where he won another premiership.

O'Connor's coaching pedigree is equally impressive.

He was the Head Coach of the Elite Football Program at the AIS in Canberra from 1996 to 2008. He coached players such as Mark Viduka, Mark Bresciano, John Aloisi and Hayden Foxe among a host of other Socceroos.

He then took on the role of Sydney FC Technical Director and coached the Sydney FC Youth side, from 2008 to 2010. His side won the National Youth League title and Grand Final in the inaugural year.

O'Conner will be working with the Under 15s and 16s, as well as a select few others, in the Feds Senior Academy.

This is another major coup by the Club, and shows the Feds Committee's commitment to getting the best coaches available to develop the Feds players.



Steve O'Connor will be taking three Feds Academy Sessions.

### Awards of the Week

**Player of the Week:** In a week that saw some fantastic results, there were many contentions for the 'Player of the Week' Award, such as Jordon Koton (Under 13), Simon Rouse (Under 14), Gareth Milner (Under 16) and Sam Wrublewski (Under 16) to name just a few.

But this award is not simply about the best. Leadership comes into play as well.

The Under 16s battled their nemesis Stanmore in the Grand Final Replay this week. What the crowd saw was a side fired up, playing for each other, and in no uncertain terms, desperate to win.

What was not seen or heard (despite for the players and the select few coaches and manager) was the two inspirational speeches from Captain Harry Rosen before the game and at half time.

What was said is not important. We have not been made privy to any reflection on what it entailed, nor have we asked, as it should stay in the change room, between the players.

However, it was obviously of such magnitude that the boys put on a performance that was simply astounding. Although not often mentioned, Rosen put on another standout performance and led by example.

In the big matches, it takes a big leader to guide his side to a win, and Rosen deservedly wins the 'Player of the Week' Award for his performance both on and off the pitch this weekend.



Under 16s Captain Harry Rosen is this week's 'Player of the Week'.

**Blunder of the Week:** It is a sad day for us here in the 'Blunder' department, with no clear cut Blunder this week to be awarded.

Guys, where are all the missed open goals, red cards, mis-kicks, air-swings and general stupid acts?!?!

Hopefully next week will see the Feds club as a whole step up and compete for this most prestigious of awards!

### The Upcoming Week

This week the Feds Opens sides takes on Gazy Lansvale on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2011, at Cherrybrook Park, Cherrybrook Rd, Lansvale.

First Grade kicks off at 3 pm. Reserves kick off at 1 pm.

The Feds Youths are up against Northbridge FC on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at Northbridge Oval, Sailors Bay Road, Northbridge.

Game times are:

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.

For any comments, please email me at [mark.jamison00@gmail.com](mailto:mark.jamison00@gmail.com).

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