

3rd May 2008

BIG WIN KEEPS FINN MacCUHAL'S TAUPO AT THE TOP WESTERMAN'S PROPERTY SOLUTIONS RESERVES GO CLEAR LEADERS

The Finn MacCuhals Taupo football team continued to set the pace at the top of the Waikato Bay of Plenty Federation League with a big 8 – nil win over a game young Ngongataha side at Crown Park last Saturday.

It was a credit to the young hardworking visitors plus the fact that the home side were guilty of taking things a little too easy early on, that it took Taupo 26 minutes to score the opening goal. In fact it took a remarkable save from home keeper Ryan Paumier to prevent the visitors taking a surprise lead in the ninth minute.

However once Alan Lamb had waltzed his way through the visiting defence and squared the ball for Brian Radebe to hit home the opener, Taupo were in total control.

It took just two minutes for the second to come and Lamb again was involved as he held up the ball on the edge of the box before teeing up Ben Westerman who struck a shot low inside the post. Another piece of Lamb magic in the 39th minute saw him beat several defenders in the box before sending the keeper the wrong way for the third.

Taupo opened the second half playing with a bit more purpose and pace. Westerman extended the lead five minutes in, when he picked up a ball in the middle of the park and strode to the edge of the box before firing off a shot that found the corner of the net.

The increasingly beleaguered visiting defenders were finding it difficult to contain the home team and conceded the first of three penalties in the 64th minute when Radebe was tripped as he cut along the goal-line and Lamb comfortably converted from the spot.

Just six minutes later Mark Jones was crudely checked as he burst into the box. The defender earned his marching orders for a second caution and Westerman stepped up to beat the keeper for his first hat-trick for Taupo. Within two minutes Jones again ran into the box to be felled again by a desperate tackle and Lamb this time completed his hat-trick with a well struck effort just inside the post.

The final goal arrived in the 77th minute when Radebe played a long ball through to Pablo Garcia and he outran the defence from just inside the half before beating the keeper with a swerving strike high into the net.

It wasn't all one way traffic either as the experienced Brad Williams was always dangerous up front for the visitors, but the back three were superbly marshaled by central defender Robbie Williams who didn't put a foot wrong and was the Finn MacCuhals man of the match. One of the other defenders, Sam Brown also had a great game as the defence kept a high line and always looked to turn defence into attack at every opportunity.

Westerman and Jones totally bossed the midfield while Lamb was closely marked again but used his strength and guile to set up opportunities for others. 15 year-old Radebe also had a strong game in his first start of the season due to injury.

Team: Ryan Paumier, Sam Brown, Robbie Williams, Steve Painter, Gaetano Dedual (Pablo Garcia 66mins) Mark Jones, Paul Drake, Ben Westerman, Jesse Smith (Rex Mincher 75mins), Alan Lamb (Sam Tate 84mins), Brian Radebe.

Other results: Melville 1 Hamilton Wanderers 2, Ngaruawahia 4 Huntly 0, Rotorua United 3 Otorohanga 2, Tauranga City United 3 Otumoetai 2, Te Awamutu 0 Matamata 2, Whakatane 3 Claudelands 1.

WAI KATO/ BOP FEDERATION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Finn MacCuhals TAUPO	5	4	1	0	20	5	13
Matamata	5	4	0	1	14	5	12
Rotorua United	5	4	0	1	13	7	12
Hamilton Wanderers	5	4	0	1	7	4	12
Tauranga City United	5	3	0	2	11	9	9
Otumoetai	5	2	1	2	10	6	7
Claudelands Rovers	5	2	1	2	8	9	7
Melville	5	2	0	3	8	9	6
Te Awamutu	5	2	0	3	7	9	6
Whakatane Town	5	2	0	3	10	13	6
Ngaruawahia	5	1	1	3	6	7	4
Otorohanga	4	1	0	3	10	9	3
Ngongataha	4	1	0	3	2	16	3
Huntly Thistle	5	0	0	5	2	20	0

The Westerman Property Solutions Taupo Reserves maintained their 100% start to the season with their fifth win in succession, winning at Papamoa by 4 goals to three in the Bay of Plenty Division 2 game last Saturday. The team are now alone at the top of the table following Kawerau's 1 – all draw at Te Puke.

Papamoa have been improving as the season has progressed so to beat them and away from home is a very good result.

Team skipper Matt Vartan was amongst the goals again with one from the spot and a towering header from a corner. The Finn MacCuhals' player of the day was Andy Southgate.

BOP DIVISION 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Westerman's Taupo Reserves	5	5	0	0	23	8	15
Kawerau Town	5	4	1	0	18	3	13
Rotorua United 2	5	3	1	1	18	6	10
Otumoetai 1	5	3	1	1	11	6	10
Papamoa	5	2	1	2	14	10	7
Te Puke 2	5	2	1	2	6	5	7
Tauranga City Utd 2A	5	2	1	2	7	10	7
Old Blues	5	2	0	3	12	10	6
Greerton Rovers	5	1	2	2	6	6	5
Ngongataha 2	4	1	1	2	4	13	4
Te Puke Younguns	5	1	1	3	6	16	4
Otumoetai 2	5	1	1	3	6	19	4
AFC Fury 2	4	1	0	3	7	12	3
Otumoetai Special Reserve	5	0	1	4	8	22	1

The Taupo Lock & Alarm Centre Lakers social team had another big win in their Rotorua Business House League game in Rotorua last Sunday. They beat home side Opus FC by eight goals to 3 with Jason Edmonds running riot to the tune of six goals and the Finn MacCuhals man of the match award while Paul Bricklebank netted the other two.

Next Saturday, the Finn MacCuhals Federation League team travel to play Otorohanga. This is always a tricky encounter as the home team are generally a tough side to beat on their own turf and always are amongst the leading scorers. They may look to be struggling at the moment but have only played four games and their three losses have been away from home and by narrow margins. They must not be under-estimated. The game at the Otorohanga Domain will kick off at 2.45pm.

The Westerman Property Solutions Reserve team will look to maintain their great start in the Bay of Plenty competition when they host another team in the top seven, Otumoetai 1 on Saturday. The game at Crown Park will kick off at 2pm.

The Taupo Lock & Alarm Lakers social team also return to Crown Park on Sunday to play against Scion in the Rotorua Businesshouse competition. The game will kick off at 2pm.

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