

10th May 2008

**FINN MacCUHAL'S TAUPO SLIP OFF THE TOP
WESTERMAN'S PROPERTY SOLUTIONS RESERVES KEEP 100% RECORD
TAUPO YOUTH TEAMS BOTH WIN OPENING GAMES
ANOTHER BIG WIN FOR TAUPO LOCK & ALARM LAKERS**

The Finn MacCuhals Taupo football team slipped up at Otorohanga on Saturday and slipped off the pace at the top of the Waikato Bay of Plenty Federation League following a 2 – all draw.

The team was missing a few regular starters and it took some time to settle into the game against a dangerous opposition. Even though Jesse Smith brought an acrobatic save out of the home keeper early on it was the home side who struck first.

A sweeping counter attack in the 11th minute caught the Taupo defence square and they failed to cut out the cross leaving the home team midfielder free to pick his spot.

Taupo worked hard to get back in the game and soon got on top, finding themselves camped for long spells in the Otorohanga half.

After several near misses and a number of saves and clearances by the increasingly beleaguered defence Ben Westerman forced his way into the box after 36 minutes and picked out Alan Lamb who turned and toe-poked the equalizer past the home keeper.

Within two minutes Lamb ran through and tucked the ball past the keeper only for the referee to call play back for a Taupo free kick on the edge of the box. However Lamb stepped up and curled a tremendous shot over the wall. The home keeper at full stretch made an equally good save but Steve Painter followed up to force the ball home for a deserved equalizer.

The visitors ended the half well on top and could have extended their lead but for staunch defence once again.

The half-time break came at the wrong time for Taupo as they totally lost their momentum and within a minute of the re-start the game was all square following a similar goal to the game opener.

Otorohanga immediately picked up the effort and although still having the better of the game it was a harder battle for the visitors with chances a lot less frequent. The home side's attacking opportunities were also few and it still looked as though Taupo were the likeliest scorers as the game wore on.

However the dismissal of skipper and influential midfielder Westerman ten minutes from time gave the home team a sniff of an unlikely win and it was Taupo who were relieved to finish all square as Otorohanga missed a couple of good chances in the final moments.

The dropping of two points sees Matamata take over the competition lead. However the only bright spot is that the draw does extend an unbeaten run in the league to forty games which in itself is a tremendous feat.

The Finn macCuhals man of the match was young Jesse Smith who toiled manfully up front all day while Westerman and Mark Jones worked tirelessly in the midfield. Stand-in midfielder Simon Gourley had a tremendous first half but was starved of possession in the second and another stand-in, Jeremy Robertson, this time in the centre of defence also had a sound game in an unfamiliar position.

Team: Ryan Paumier, Sam Brown, Matt Vartan (Rex Mincher 80mins), Jeremy Robertson, Steve Painter, Simon Gourley, Mark Jones, Ben Westerman, Gaetano Dedual, Jesse Smith, Alan Lamb.

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

WAIKATO/BOP FEDERATION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Matamata	6	5	0	1	16	6	15
Finn MacCuhals TAUPO	6	4	2	0	22	7	14
Rotorua United	6	4	0	2	14	9	12
Hamilton Wanderers	6	4	0	2	8	8	12
Otumoetai	6	3	1	2	13	6	10
Claudelands Rovers	6	3	1	2	10	10	10
Tauranga City United	6	3	0	3	12	11	9
Whakatane Town	6	3	0	3	14	14	9
Te Awamutu	6	2	1	3	9	11	7
Melville	6	2	0	4	8	12	6
Ngongataha	5	2	0	3	5	18	6
Otorohanga	5	1	1	3	12	11	4
Ngaruawahia	6	1	1	4	8	10	4
Huntly Thistle	6	0	1	5	4	22	1

The Westerman Property Solutions Taupo Reserves maintained their 100% start to the season with their sixth win in succession. The opponents on Saturday at Crown park were a more than useful Otumoetai Reserve team and it took a solitary second half strike from Mark Rainbow to win the game 1 – nil.

The Finn MacCuhals player of the day was midfielder Dave Gillies.

BOP DIVISION 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Westerman's Taupo Reserves	6	6	0	0	24	8	18
Kawerau Town	6	5	1	0	20	3	16
Rotorua United 2	6	4	1	1	19	6	13
Otumoetai 1	6	3	1	2	11	7	10
Greerton Rovers	6	2	2	2	8	7	8
Papamoa	6	2	1	3	16	13	7
Te Puke 2	6	2	1	3	7	7	7
Tauranga City Utd 2A	6	2	1	3	10	15	7
Otumoetai 2	6	2	1	3	11	19	7
Old Blues	6	2	0	4	12	12	6
AFC Fury 2	5	2	0	3	10	14	6
Te Puke Younguns	6	1	1	4	6	17	4
Otumoetai Special Reserve	6	1	1	4	13	25	4
Ngongataha 2	5	1	1	3	4	18	4

The two Taupo Youth teams playing in the Baywide Youth League both won their respective games in the opening round of the competition.

The Taupo-nui-a-tia team dealt out a 7 – nil hiding to Otumoetai College 2nd XI at Crown Park with no fewer than seven different scorers. Danyon Drake, Jed Armstrong, Sebastian Bucher, Toby Tulett, Finn Smith, Karis Collins and Joshua Schroder were all on target while Bucher was also the player of the day.

The composite Taupo AFC Youth team also kicked off with a win in Tauranga when they defeated Tauranga Boys 5th XI by 3 goals to two.

The Taupo Lock & Alarm Centre Lakers social team had another big win in their Rotorua Business House League game at Crown Park last Sunday when they beat Scion by 9 goals to one. The win puts them in third place in the competition

Goalscorers were Dave Price, Denise Edmonds and Clint McCormick with two each while Paul Bricklebank, Jason Edmonds and Anatoly Gerasimov each found the net once.

The Finn MacCuhal’s player of the day award went to Denise Edmonds.

Rotorua Businesshouse

League	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hospital	4	4	0	0	36	3	12
Datz Us	4	4	0	0	27	11	12
Taupo Lock & Alarm Lakers	4	3	0	1	34	11	9
Waikiti RSC	4	3	0	1	21	8	9
Bajo Wooden Toys	4	3	0	1	16	4	9
Opus FC	4	1	0	3	18	24	3
Hinemoa Sports	4	1	0	3	14	30	3
Scion	4	0	1	3	9	20	1
Selwyn Raiders	4	0	1	3	11	33	1
MLC Surfers	4	0	0	4	3	45	0

Next Sunday the Finn MacCuhal’s Taupo team take a break from the league and make the long trek to Auckland to play Internationale in the first round of the Chatham Cup, the national knockout competition. The game is scheduled to be played at Seddon Fields the home of the Western Springs club and will kick off at the earlier time of 1 pm.

The Westerman Property Solutions Reserve team have another home game against AFC Fury Reserves and should maintain their great start in the Bay of Plenty competition and their position at the head of the table. The game at Crown Park will kick off at 2pm.

In the Baywide Youth league Taupo-nui-a-tia travel to play Te Puke High School 1st XI while Taupo AFC Youth play at Crown Park against Mount Maunganui College 2nd XI. Both games kick off at 12 mid-day.

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

Gordon Williams
0274 733 763
williamsg@landcorp.co.nz