

5th July 2008

FINN MacCUHAL'S TAUPO – HELD TO A DRAW AT NGARUAWAHIA

For the second game in succession the Finn MacCuhals Taupo football team struggled to find the back of the net against a strong defensive effort from Ngaruawahia United in the North Waikato town last Saturday and registered a disappointing 1 – all draw in their Waikato Bay of Plenty Federation game.

The team as a whole has totally "gone off the boil" in recent weeks and although strong defensively is creating absolutely nothing going forward. In the past two games the home keepers have hardly had a save to make.

It took Taupo 44 minutes to open the scoring on Saturday with Jesse Smith profiting from a costly defensive error, however there was nothing more than a couple of half chances at both ends as the game was dominated by the defences.

The home team equalized from a corner in the 62nd minute and managed to hold out the light-weight Taupo attack for the remainder of the game with the goalkeepers at either end not called into serious action.

Players to stand out in a very average performance were rock-solid Robbie Williams at the back ably supported by Ray How, while skipper Ben Westerman worked hard in a five-man midfield which despite its superiority produced little quality going forward.

The dropping of two more points means that the team has no chance of heading the table going into the top eight split round in two weeks time and if they continue to play in the same vein are likely to slip further down the table when visiting third placed Whakatane Town in a catch-up game next Saturday. The game in Whakatane will kick off at 2.45pm.

Team: Ryan Paumier, Ray How, Robbie Williams, Cam McGrath, Sam Brown, Gaetano Dedual (Rex Mincher 68mins), Mark Jones, Ben Westerman, Jeremy Robertson (Steve Painter 80mins), Jesse Smith, Chris Roberts. Sub (not used): Alan Lamb.

Federation League results : Melville 2 Matamata 6, Otorohanga 2 Claudelands Rovers 2, Rotorua Utd 4 Hamilton Wanderers 0, Tauranga City Utd 3 Huntly 1, Te Awamutu 5 Ngongataha 3.

WAIKATO/BOP FEDERATION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Matamata	13	11	0	2	35	12	33
Finn MacCuhals TAUPO	12	8	4	0	40	16	28
Rotorua United	13	9	0	4	43	21	27
Whakatane Town	12	9	0	3	36	21	27
Tauranga City United	13	7	1	5	36	25	22
Hamilton Wanderers	13	6	3	4	26	18	21
Claudelands Rovers	13	5	4	4	21	20	19
Otumoetai	13	5	3	5	21	21	18
Melville United	13	5	0	8	23	35	15
Ngaruawahia	13	4	2	7	22	21	14
Te Awamutu	13	4	1	8	25	37	13
Otorohanga	12	2	4	6	21	22	10
Ngongataha	12	2	0	10	14	61	6
Huntly Thistle	13	0	2	11	11	44	2

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