



Rondebosch Hockey Herald

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Hockey Notice Board.

Wynberg vs Rondebosch 1st XI Knockout Game (Monday 2nd August 2010)

I do not normally comment on individual games by teams however the Knock Out game, played by the 1st Team, against Wynberg on Monday this week deserves more than a single line stating the result, 4-2 Win.

There are a number of teams that Rondebosch hockey have deep respect for. One of them is the Wynberg 1st Hockey side. This respect is based on the their passion, pride and commitment to excellence. This is something we have emulated and put our own Bosch stamp on over the years.

The victory achieved over Wynberg isn't the first but it is the manner in which this victory was achieved that is significant and deserves mention.

Rondebosch has always had talented hockey players, some that have gone on to represent their country, but when it comes to beating schools such as Wynberg, if has occurred, it has been a hard fought and usually very close. The league fixture against Wynberg last term being was classic example of hanging on to squeeze out a draw.

The game on Monday however was something quite different, it was hard fought and tough but Rondebosch beat Wynberg properly. In ten minutes Bosch were up 2-0, and when Wynberg came back (as you expect from a quality side) our

response wasn't capitulation, or we will accept a draw. It was with a goal. Yes all the classic coaching manuals say that the best response is a goal, but in this instance and for the first time since my involvement with hockey at Bosch.... they actually did it. They proved that they were the better side. The mental game was as good as the hockey and this is what I believe made the difference.

I hope other sides will learn from this. That while you practice hard and that of course you want to win, it is in the belief of your ability and your teams ability even when you are 2 goals down or a team comes back at you levelling the game, that can be difference between a good side and a Great side. The 1st Side had to overcome their fear of losing to Wynberg and accepting a draw, and move to a position where "he who dares wins" became true for them.

It is this experience that I wish all our teams to learn from. If you achieve it, it will be the team that achieves it as a whole and not individuals. Individuals can only do so much, but if the team is fully functional both in skills and mentally then good sides can become Great.

Good Luck to all the teams this week but particularly against Wynberg and Bishops.

Robert Bowley
(MiC Rondebosch Boys' Hockey)



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