

## **Men's AHG League Match Report – Round 16**

### **Westside Wolves (5) defeated Old Guildford (2)**

**Sunday 11 July 2010 – 3:30pm @ PHS - 1**

Round 16 gave the mighty Wolfpack an opportunity to make amends for a 5-4 loss to Old Guildford earlier in the season. The pre-match chat was a little unorthodox, with gameday coach Jono Charlesworth failing to arrive in time to give the starting line-up or outline our tactics for the 70 minute battle that lay in front of us. After hearing a classic Saturday night tale from Australian representative Mark Paterson, we re-focused, and cast our minds back to our earlier defeat to Guildford and what we could do to get back on the winner's list after 2 consecutive draws. We identified their international players – 2 South Africans and 2 Australians – as the obvious threat, and made a note to defend our circle with unrivalled determination to limit the number of corners we had to face from their dangerous drag-flicker.

Wolves started the game brightly, with the half-court press executed exactly to plan to stifle the possession of their best players through the middle of the field. Within 10 minutes Wolves were two goals up, firstly through a low Jason “Junior” Wilson drag-flick, and then a typically masterful finish from Nathan “Goalsneak” Eglington, who ran the baseline before slipping the ball past the hapless keeper.

The rest of the first half turned into a real struggle, with numerous opportunities squandered in the attacking circle, countered by brilliance from Wolves goalie George Watts at the other end to keep out multiple Guildford short corners.

So at half-time Wolves found themselves in a familiar position – two goals up but unable to press home the advantage with a third and fourth. Thankfully Jono had arrived by now and was able to run the half-time talk, which focused on varying our press to keep the opposition guessing, while stepping up as defensive unit to limit the space available to their lightning-fast centre forward.

Jono's first contribution of the day obviously had the desired effect, as Junior made it 3-0 soon after the re-start, rifling one into the top corner from another drag-flick. Inevitably though, Guildford got on the scoreboard with a short corner goal to make it 3-1 with 20 minutes to go – a final 20 minutes that gave the crowd magnificent value for their ridiculous \$6 entry fee.

Firstly Mark “Chunks” Paterson finished off some fine lead-up play by connecting perfectly with a reverse stick shot on the fly which was past the goalie's head before he could say “howzit” to his South African friends. Ed “Trap-door” Welch wasn't happy with Chunks stealing the limelight, and thought at 4-1 the game was safe, so when a harmless ball was played straight to him in the last line of defence, he executed the perfect dummy over the ball, only to realise that their centre forward was lurking behind him. Still in shock, the Guildford player placed the ball calmly in the back of the net to keep supporters of both sides interested.

Chunks thought this behaviour was foolish, and repeated his reverse-stick antics minutes later, restoring the three goal buffer at 5-2. Not happy with the celebrations on offer from his teammates, Chunks ran towards the sideline, and accosted the ball boy for a high-five. 5-2 is how this one would finish. Not surprisingly, Paterson was awarded the Claremont Hotel \$50 barcard, both for his brilliant goal-scoring and his ability to keep the boys amused with his antics, although the fullback pairing of Ben Donisi and Graham Watts deserve honourable mentions for their work all day.

To cap-off Pato's perfect weekend, we must congratulate he and Junior for their selection in the Australian team for the upcoming Champions Trophy.

Cheers,  
Russell Hartley