Forestville Hockey Club 2018

Junior Team Reports: Under 13s

Under 13A Girls

What a season! The U13A girls had a successful season in 2018 and made huge improvements as a group. From a team that struggled to win games last year to coming within 3 minutes of a grand final, the girls should be incredibly proud of themselves. We also had 3 girls selected in the U12 SAPSASA state team, 2 selected and 1 train-on in the U13 State Team and 5 girls picked for the U13 developing athlete program through Hockey SA – this is the first time we have had so many girls selected in squads for a very long-time!

Our focus this year was on developing the girls' understanding of the game and improving their individual skills. The girls took all feedback on board and weren't afraid to ask questions to further their understanding, which was wonderful. We were lucky to have a consistent group of players each week and were very fortunate to have such strong players from the U13Bs to fill-in at times.

Thank you to Debbie Neely for doing an excellent manager's job, Claudia Draper and Nick Larwood for coaching on game day, Andrew Schulz for letting us borrow your players and Lawrence Key for providing specialist goal-keeping coaching each week.

Jacqui Mills, Claudia Draper & Nick Larwood, coaches U13A girls



Under 13B Girls

U13B Girls had an amazing season. All embraced the B team with full enthusiasm and through the course of the season built a really strong, close knit, well bonded team. Whilst we didn't post a lot of wins, the team were certainly competitive on most occasions, looked dangerous going forward, and always covered the ground well in defence. All developed strongly throughout the season.

Anchoring the back line Izzy had another great season keeping the team in the game and directing the play, Eliza really grew into the position and was well assisted with Freya and Bell when not up forward looking at some scoring opportunities.

The half back line was very strong with Lucy J controlling the middle whilst supporting Jasmine drifting forward for the odd goal, and Erin ran well for the season. Abigail had a great season, building confidence in every game and becoming an integral part of the half back team as well.

Rosy, our first year hockey player, did an amazing job of working through the rules and learning the game. Out wide Abbey was always strong, Claudia put herself in the right position, and Bell drifted forward for a few nice finishes. Annie had a great season up forward, Saskia always made an impact and we loved having Lauren join us midseason to really help shape the team and add some great passion and teamsmanship to our group. Ginger had a rough start, breaking her foot before the season, but we welcomed her with open arms when her foot recovered and were stoked that late in the season she could help the boys out as they pushed deep into finals.

All in all, it was a great year and I feel all the girls really enjoyed the strong sense of 'team' and enjoyed the friendships that they built together through the season as it rolled along.

Thanks to Kylie for managing the team, special shout out to Jacqui for running the training sessions each week, and to Claudia for her assistance early in the season. And finally a big thankyou to Julie who is always on top of everything at the club, feeding us information, interpreting the rules, answering our questions, and making sure every week all of us have everything we need so our girls can take to the field and help build FHC.

Cheers for 2018

Andrew Schulz, coach U13B girls



Under 13B Boys

The U13 boys had a good year, winning a Silver Medal for the season. A single win away from Gold. But, as I was reminded by several of the boys during the year, "we only won 2 games last year, so this is awesome!" Sometimes it takes the sage words of a 13yo to placate a Coach.

We had 2 players new to hockey this year, Ethan and Noah, not that you would know it! Both display skills and experience beyond their years. And we welcomed Hamish, new to the Club with his NZ hockey skills - worthy of the Golden Stick with his season high 26 goals, (and a Premiership medal with the U18s).

Sebastian and Aidan shared defence, shutting down opposition wingers regularly. Brodie and Ryan were left side midfielders, with Ryan getting the biggest cheer for scoring a goal, and his Victory dance after the preliminary win is still talked about! Our defensive duo of Director Oliver and Soren were solid all year in a team which had a tight defence, passing wide with great effect. Sam in centre midfield was outstanding all year, controlling with skill and endurance. Sam thoroughly deserved his selection in State SAPSASA, one to watch out for. Another player with a promising future is Henry. With the word "J" ringing in his ears, he continued to showcase his level of skills to great effect, finishing with 21 goals, 2nd highest in the grade. All from someone we easily forget was still eligible for U11s.

Nate and Bayley were our hard working midfielders, with Nate having an outstanding Finals series.

Spencer developed into our goal-scoring left side attacker, giving us a more balanced attack. Curtis, when football allowed, was also an asset at halfback.

With a squad of 16, we had 16 goalkeepers throughout the year for game day and practice but noone who wanted to take it on more than once. So it was with much relief for all the boys when we asked Ginger to play in goals late in the year. The Coach was taken to task for calling the "boys" in at training and games, such was her confidence and compatibility with the group. Also skilful and fearless in goals against boys a year older.

Thank you to:

Parents for support and encouragement of the entire team; to the two Andrews, C and S, for help at training and game day; Kingsley for crowd management at training; and to Adam and Andrew C for umpiring.

To Lawrence for goal keeper training; Tracey and Adam for doing a great job managing the group and allowing me to "Herd the Cats".

All the best to players going up to U15s, and to those staying, go one podium step higher next year!

Craig Mills, coach U13B boys

