

Forestville Hockey Club 2018 Season

Team Report: Under 15 Girls

I've coached many teams over the years and coaching the U15 team was up there with the best in terms of enjoyment. Enjoyment from being with a team of players who were positive, cooperative, attentive, friendly, nice and simply wanted to go about the business of playing hockey in a fun but very constructive manner.

From the very first game the team played against Seacliff (who went on to be in the grand final) where we gained a nil all draw, it was evident I had a team full of talented players, keen to learn and improve in ways I felt privileged to be part of.

For the rest of the season, right up until the last game of the year, the team remained in the top four only to miss out playing in the finals in the last game by a goal difference of one miserable goal. Up until the last two games the season, the most goals the team had conceded in a game was three, which was an incredible feat and testimony to the fortitude of all the girls. We did lapse in our concentration for a small part of the last two games of the season, but I know the girls learnt a lot from that and the team will be so much better next year because of that learning experience.

After we played our first game against Adelaide Red (who went on to win the premiership), I remember the players being pleasantly surprised with the result and the opposition's coach approaching me and praising the quality of the player's skills. He went on to wish the team all the best for the rest of the season. It was a generous action from an opposing coach who recognised not only the talent within the team, but also the way in which the girls kept their structure under constant pressure. That takes some doing.

The biggest challenge from the start of the season was who was going to play in deep defence as we had a multitude of midfield and forward options, but a chronic shortage of defenders. Fortunately Claudia stepped up to fill that void and boy, am I glad she did. Along with our goal keeper Lucy and Maddie as the sweeper, the three players were superb in defence all season.

The midfield was blessed with having Charlee, Sophie B and Lucy N able to control the ball under pressure and set up our forwards with the right pass.

Our forwards teamed up well with our midfielders and showed great flexibility as many played various attacking midfield and striker positions. Ashley, Sophie D, Mia, Ella and Olivia combined well to create numerous opportunities to score. It was only a lack of experience finishing in front of goal that prevented the team making the finals. Special mention needs to be made of Sophia as a first year player, who demonstrated a great capacity to learn the game in a highly effective manner. I look forward to seeing our forwards converting more goal scoring opportunities next year.

Fortunately for the team we were also blessed with a number of very good "under 13" players who regularly filled in for us. Zara, Jasmine (Ashley's sister), Ruby and Breanna all provided highly effective assistance and their involvement was very much appreciated.

As such you should all be proud of yourselves and I would like to personally thank you for an enjoyable and rewarding year.

I would also like to thank the parents who put up with me during the year and supported not only their child but the way in which you supported the team each week. Very importantly I would like to express a massive thank you to Emma and Mick Durant, for doing such a wonderful job as joint Team Managers, making sure every amount of detail was completed on time and we had a full team each and every week.

I also want to add a sincere thank you to Julie Mills for being the most organised and helpful Junior Co-ordinator I've ever known.

After such an enjoyable year, I look forward to starting the next season a lot earlier (in the first week in February), so we can start the season fully prepared and ready to play finals hockey in 2019.

Peter Garlick, coach Under 15 girls



FORESTVILLE HOCKEY CLUB 2018
FORESTVILLE UNDER 15 GIRLS

BACK ROW: Peter Garlick (Coach), Brianna Crowe, Sofia Jensen, Sophie Davidson, Ashleigh Durant, Claudia Kretschmer, Emma Durant (Team Manager)

FRONT ROW: Lucy Neely, Olivia Bridgman, Lucy Wehr, Madeline Walker, Charlee Wilson, Sophie Bruce, Mia Dwan, Ella Bruce

Absent: Mick Durant (Team Manager)

SPORTS IN FOCUS