

Forestville Hockey Club 2018

Junior Team Reports: Under 9s

Under 9 Blue

As first time coaches, we weren't sure what to expect coming into this season, but we are incredibly happy to announce that we had an extremely successful year, remaining undefeated and finishing at the top of the ladder. At the start of the season, we had a mixed bag of skill levels and experience ranging from first time players to players of at least two years. Their attitudes were always positive especially towards learning new skills and tactics, which was reflected in the fact that every player improved enormously during the season. Off field, it was also very pleasing to see new friendships being formed, which was ultimately reflected in their overall teamwork.

Although we started the season with 8 centre-forwards, it was great to see each player's strengths broaden to be able to fulfil the requirement of each position. By the end of the season each player had a least 1 goal to their name on the score board.

A big thank you to Merrilyn for managing our team and making our job a lot easier with her weekly Wednesday emails. And of course, a huge thankyou to the parents for getting their kids to the games and trainings every week, encouraging them and helping with the ever-important oranges and lollies. We would also like to thank the Junior Committee for all their help and support over the season.

The players:

Lilly was the highest goal scorer of the entire competition, scoring 39 goals. Lilly always had a positive attitude on and off field, and was aggressive and involved in the game at all times. She never wanted to give that ball away but would always help out her fellow teammates.

Emmie was our youngest player this season, but that did not stop her from having a say in every single thing Tash and I did. Emmie, although never having played before, scored her first goal against Burnside, lifting her confidence which continued to grow through each and every game.

Jake was an integral member of our team. He continually assisted in goals throughout the season, as well as the movement of the ball from defence into attack. Jake's fighting spirit always resulted in a turnover for our team. Jake's skills continued to grow throughout the season, incorporating turns and back stick passes into his game.

Sofia was our team's strongest defender, continually making goal saving traps and tackles on the goal line. Although missing the first game, she became a well-liked and highly respected member of the team, always giving it 100%.

Solveig is very quick on the ball, running it up and down the field both on and off game time. She continued to strengthen her skills each and every week, always providing our team with quick turnovers during the game. She always had a positive attitude towards every game, and was a very organised player.

Maya developed her hockey skills enormously this season, incorporating jinks and turns in on-on-one situations during games. This skill was handy in both attacking and defensive positions, and she was happy to play both. Her speed and determination always resulted in positive outcome for our team, lifting everyone's confidence.

Piper was definitely the loudest in the team, always making me, Tash and her fellow teammates laugh. Piper improved tremendously this season, always assisting in defence and attack, as well as encouraging players on and off field. Her encouragement lifted the team's spirit during our half time talks, and it got everyone ready and eager to play the next half.

Arlo, who unfortunately was overseas for the last few games of the season, was a player who always contributed to the team and did his best, as well as never giving up when the ball when being defended.

Sammy Folland and Tash Dinan, coaches U9 Blue



BACK ROW: Merrilyn Lessus (Team Manager), Jake Bazary, Tash Dinan (Coach), Sam Folland (Coach)
FRONT ROW: Emmerson Bazary, Piper Cruckshank, Lily Kommeler, Sofia Baalcke, Maya Lessus, Solvig Finnsdottir
Albert: Arlo Heinson

Under 9 Red

This year we welcomed 5 new players to the team, who were ready and determined to give hockey a go. This season we focussed on basic skills, rules of the game working together as a team, and most important of all, how to have fun!

The beginning of the season saw the children getting a feel for the game, learning how to work together and how the game works. We saw progress in all the players throughout the rest of the season, building confidence in themselves, their skills and the team.

Our newest player, Aiden, started in the middle of the season and was not afraid to get in there and give it a go, running to the ball no matter who or what was in his way. His brother was much the same – Luke started at the beginning of the season and was a go-getter from day one, defending and attacking like a true pro. Oliver, also in his first season, became our ever reliable goal stopper and was very excited to learn that when you got to under 11's you were allowed to stop the ball with your feet. Grace's confidence built up during the season, seeing some great tackles and a few good runs with the ball. Kiana found her spot in the middle of the field and was very determined to help push the ball forward. William was a great all-rounder, scored a few goals and stopped a few, and was great at winning the ball back. Charles is a great all round player and I can't wait to see his skills develop further. Lilli had a great year, a lot more confident this season, with a few more goals and happy meals under her belt. Our leading goal scorer Anja was always in the right position to add to our score board, getting 4 goals in 1 game.

Although we had many ups and downs of the season, I am very proud that the players never gave up and were always willing to give things a go.

Michelle Swan, coach U9 Red



Under 9 White

FHC U9 White had a terrific 2018, playing high-tempo, attacking hockey. This fantastic group of players overcame a number of challenges including being younger, smaller, and usually outnumbered by our opponents, as well as having a novice coach(!). U9 White finished fifth with a positive 6-5-2 win-draw-loss record, with the team's fierce determination reflected in the fact that we scored against all but one opponent. I would like to thank all of the helpful parents, with a special mention for our managers Sasja Beetstra-Hill and Adam Hill. I would also like to highlight some of the individual qualities of some of these tremendous young Panthers:

- Lilli - small, but fast, Lilli is an impressive player who never gives an inch to any opponent; she emerged over the season as an excellent goal-poaching striker.
- Rohan - a versatile player with silky skill on the ball. Rohan developed as a highly effective centre-half; not only scored a lot of goals, but created many others with slick passing.
- Oscar - quick and determined, with speed to burn, an engine to run all day and a passion to score, Oscar was a superb striker and winger who top-scored for the team.
- Akira - a brilliant defender with exceptional tackling skills as well as beautiful ball control, Akira did a great job for the team during the season.
- Calvin - in his first season, this highly intelligent young player rapidly improved during the course of the season, and became a terrific contributor in midfield and defence to our team; definitely one to watch in the future.
- Max - massive improver during the course of the season; Max was reliable in attack, midfield or defence, and by the conclusion of the season also became a smart sharpshooter for a number of nice goals.
- Alex - our youngest player at age 5. Alex has lovely control of his stick for such a young player, and surprised many bigger opponents with his skills; played as our team's sweeper this year, another one to watch in the years to come.

Anand Ganesan, Coach U9 White



BACK ROW: Anand Ganesan (Coach), Maxwell Welgermoed, Adam Hill (Team Manager)

FRONT ROW: Alex Welgermoed, Akira Okada, Rohan Ganesan, Calvin Ts, Lilli Beiston, Oscar Hill
Absent: Sasja Beetstra-Hill (Team Manager)