

Canberra Trip March 2007

Hi All,

Just thought I should put something on email to let other's know what the Tolland Senior Squad did on the weekend just gone.

We all started at Gissing oval on Sunday the 18th of March. The team left for Canberra to play against the Gungahlin Football Club. The place we played at was the Belconnen Soccer Club's main Field/Stadium at McKellar. What an awesome place to play football.

This stadium has its own lift for the disabled, 4 change rooms and enough seating for around 2 to 4 hundred people. The playing surface is the best I have had the privilege to play on and have teams compete on. I have added some photo's below so you too can see what I mean, they are from a mobile phone so I apologies for the quality.

Now to the results, The second grade or (Gardner Shield team) played first and played 3 x 30 minute thirds. They were going well enough for two of the thirds until the coach had to leave the field and get ready the first grade side in the last third, and that's when the opposition scored twice.

The final result a 1-2 loss. It was a good game, with some fine touches coming from some individuals and the coaching staff have a lot to work with in the coming months with work on team play.

Now onto the feature match with the Tolland First Grade (Pascoe Cup team) taking on the Gungahlin Seniors. This game was played also in 3 thirds and started off quick with our boys turning over too much possession, I think allot of nerves and this being the first real game these players have had to play with each other, it was always going to take time to settle. We went down a goal with a fine move from the Gungahlin boys and finished off sharply from a header leaving our new keeper stranded.

We where able to get a goal back before the first break and went to that break even on the scoreboard. During the break, the boys spoke about how they need to be more of a team and not individuals and learn to be more patient with the build up. This paid off in the second third as the team bonded well and put together some fine moves with shots being taken at every chance. The pressure and ball play was to much for the opposition with a sharp move down the left side and a good cross with a powerful header putting our boys up 2-1 to the second break.

The boys spoke about how they has listened to each other and that is what had paid off for the team. In the last third the boys dropped their intensity a bit and the Gungahlin boys put away two quick goals with our boys seeming to slow and go back into individual mode.

With the game getting to the end, the boys found some room on the left side with the keeper attempting to save a ball and spilling it, it found the feet of Freddy Gardner and then the back of the net. This is the way the game finished and a fair result in my eyes. 3-3 Draw. There is also some work that the coaching staff need to work on with this team, but all will come in time and all are looking forward to a very successful season.

To the players that went over, thankyou and for those that supported us thankyou as well.

The bus trip on the way home was a highlight but that is better said in person from those that were on the bus. A special hello goes out the good old mate, the footpath specialist from Gundagai.

Cheers for now.

Patrick O'Brien



