

2017 SSA NATIONAL CHAMPONSHIPS – PACIFIC SCHOOL GAMES

BOYS U16

GAME REPORTS

Saturday 2 December

The NSW boys started the week-long competition with a 2-1 win over ACT. It was an erratic start to the game with the boys finding it hard to settle into a rhythm. Unfortunately, after 20 minutes, NSW were down to 10 men and this impacted on the style of the game we wanted to play, and we had to adjust to a more defensive strategy. After going down 1-0 early, the NSW team showed amazing spirit to fight back and win 2-1. Goals to Jake Hollman and Sam Amey.

Sunday 3 December

A much-improved effort from the NSW boys today with a convincing 3-1 victory over South Australia. NSW were forced to come from behind for the second match in a row after South Australia converted an early opportunity on the counter attack. From that point on NSW took control and began to dictate the flow of the game. A superb goal from Jacob Casha and then a penalty to Lachlan Sepping gave the NSW boys a lead at the half time break. In the second period we defended well and, mid-way through the half, Sam Amey finished from close range after Jake Hollman slipped the defence and punctured the defence with a lovely through ball.

Monday 4 December

The NSW team have begun to warm nicely into the tournament with a 3-1 win over a lively Western Australian team. After two scratchy performances the previous two days, the NSW boys showed some class by breaking down the back 6 of WA with some good interplay and incisive passes into and around the box. An early goal to Calem Talbot gave NSW the lead heading into the break, but this was short lived as WA equalised straight after half time, from a corner.

NSW responded well, and created plenty of chances in the second half. Jake Hollman was the recipient of some excellent lead up play from Jacob Casha and Lachlan Sepping to finish very well from the top of the box. The third goal came soon after when again some good interchanging of passes saw Jake Hollman finish from close range. Tomorrow NSW play China followed by a huge game against Victoria on Thursday.

Tuesday 5 December

A high quality effort from the NSW u16s against China. The boys jumped out of the blocks quickly with early goals to Jacob Casha and Louis Zabala. China sat deep and tried to defend their way to the half, however this allowed Jake Hollman to run rampant in the centre of

the park. Hollman finished the half in style by turning the Chinese defence inside out and slipping Lachlan Sepping in who finished convincingly from the edge of the box. NSW went in at half time with a 3-0 lead and didn't take their foot off the accelerator in the second stanza. Lachlan Sepping picked up his second for the match after a lovely quick release from Jacob Casha in midfield saw the pacy Sepping burn his defender to finish well. Two more goals from Hollman and Sepping saw the Chinese drop even further in defence. However, this allowed Hollman again to turn into space and finish from distance. Jaiden Kucharski ended his supreme performance by picking up a goal late to see NSW finish 8-1 victors.

Thursday 7 December

When the players noted this clash on the draw, they knew it would be a tough encounter between these two arch rivals in Football. The game turned out to be hard fought, tight affair. NSW began strongly with many raids into the opposing 18yard box, however the back line of Victoria stood strong. By half time the Victorians had decided the best way to avoid a loss was to sit very deep and play for the draw. NSW pressed the whole second half for the opening goal, and with 30 seconds on the match clock NSW appeared to have sealed the match with a penalty awarded. Unfortunately the shot went over the bar and Victoria hung on for a draw against a very dominant NSW outfit. NSW 0- VIC 0.