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THE HOWLER

FOR ALL YOUR WYNDHAM SPORTS ACADEMY NEWS



Wolverines tamed in title defence!

Wolverines head indoors to defend regional title in the annual FNSW schools Futsal championship.

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The 2018 sporting season was not only one of the Wyndham Sports Academy's most successful, but it also marked our return to the futsal arena after brief period of hibernation. The rest seemed to do us well as the 2K18 Wolverines left their mark on the world, taking home dual gold medals in the open girls and boys competitions.

With the weight of 2018 success on their shoulders both untested, brand new Wolverines teams set out to defend our futsal honour. Adding to the pressure, this years competition saw a large increase in team numbers, resulting in several games played with barely any time to catch a breath. This years competition also attracted the attention of Mamre Anglican School (MAS) and their elite futsal program, complete with head coaches, assistant coaches, assistants to their assistants and even a team physio (how good is money!).



Boys KO Volleyball

Monday 11th March
Wyndham College
3:15pm



Sydney West Swimming

Monday 11th March
Homebush 8:00am



Girls Touch Football

Thursday 14th March
Rooty Hill 2:00pm

Upcoming Games

But the Wolverines had a secret weapon of our own, with star midfielder Matt “the Rocket” Robinson returning to the Wyndham Sports Academy to take up a coaching position. His experience and confidence showing as he discussed tactics and directed play throughout the day.

The Girls

The day began with the girls going head to head with Penrith Anglican College (PAC), who despite having no bench, gave the Wolverines a tough battle. Despite a full frontal assault from Kayla “the Vandal” Randall resulting in two goals, PAC were not going down that easy matching us goal for goal and holding onto clinch a first game draw.

Game two saw the ultimate grudge match as the Wolverines faced down their neighbouring nemesis’ SJPII. The Catholics put up an unholy attack and defence combination that the girls just couldn’t seem to match. Despite defensive efforts from Madison “mustard” Keen and Jennifer “Organic” Orbanic, SJPII found their way into our goals twice to take the game and render us scoreless.

After only a short break the girls hit the court again running this time against Rouse Hill HS. This time the girls seemed to find their mojo and with a strong attacking combination from Kayla and Emma “the Hammer” Hemsworth, the Wolverines managed to find three goals with Rouse Hill only returning serve twice. But this game was not without its trials. As Rouse Hill pressed their attack they were constantly met by resident brick wall Amelia Smith bravely putting her body on the line to defend our goal. However, when a tackle went awry in the first half, a collision between Rouse Hill and Abigail “the Juggernaut” Johnston saw Amelia’s leg end up on the bottom of the pile up. But in true

Wolverines spirit she shook off the tears and the pain to play on the game, going down twice more, but each time getting up to fight on. This was honestly one of the toughest displays of determination I have ever seen, and commend Amelia on her strength and perseverance.

After a slightly longer and much needed break, round 4 put Wyndham against The Ponds HS. With fatigue starting to set in the girls held their own all the way until in the last minute a lucky goal sneaked past for the Ponds to take the victory.

A bye in round 5 gave the girls a slight reprieve as they prepared for their biggest challenge yet, MAS (see previous comments about their financial advantages).

Oddly enough MAS had actually been beaten in a previous game by Rouse Hill so our chances did not look as bleak as first thought. But, this was short lived as MAS came out hard and fast leaving the Wolverines struggling to catch a break as the score board read 9 unanswered goals. This game also took a physical toll on the Wolverines as Roxanne “Roxy” Brown was helped from the field with a rolled ankle and Amelia’s knee finding the limits of its abuse.



Despite a demoralising round 6 game the girls went into the 7th and final game ready to win or die trying. Our opponent Galston were runners up in last years competition, so the stage was set for a finals rematch. Both teams gave it everything they had in the hopes of getting a final win for the day. Emma took over goal keeping duties, doing her best to finish the job started by Amelia. Alana “the dancer” Stephan took control with some amazing footwork prancing from attack to defence without skipping a beat. The attack was spearheaded by Kayla and newcomer to the Wolverines Alyssa “feather weight” Haithwaite who despite her size played like a rugby forward, leaning hard on the other girls and pushing them all the way to the side lines as she fought to win the ball. Unfortunately neither teams were willing to concede and the girls walked away with a nil all draw.

The Boys

The boys day unfortunately started on the opposite side to the MAS futsal academy. Yet a round 1 match up allowed the boys to face them on fresh legs. With MAS underestimating the Wolverines fighting spirit they soon found themselves in quite the battle. MAS scored early, but was met with a reply from Mitchell “the Razor” Fraser who cut through their defences to find our first goal of the day. MAS soon returned the favour and took the match 2-1.

Game 2 for the boys, saw them match up against a reinvigorated Richmond HS who our boys beat last year 15-0. Richmond had obviously done some training as they weren’t put down quite so easily this year. The boys seemed to have found their confidence though as the shots reigned down on the Richmond goal from Lleyton “the karate kid” Coleman desperately trying to find the back of the net. Richmond also had their fair share of attacks on our goal, but a strong defensive line from Daniel “all legs” Allport and goal keeper Mitchell “the punisher” Pugh made their efforts all for naught. Relief finally came as the boys found 3 goals to Richmonds 1 for their first win of the day.

With a victory under their belts and confidences high, the boys found themselves against one of three Galston HS teams entered in the competition. The boys last year had also played Galston in the final. The boys again found themselves locked in a furious battle with neither team willing to concede. Shots reigned down on both goals, one ball even finding its way straight into the stomach of goalie Mitchell. But with Wolverines blood in his veins he picked himself up and played on, pulling off several more amazing saves to keep the scores locked at nil all. The boys worked frantically to find an opening that would turn the tides for them. Mitchell “the model” Schubert found himself with the ball on multiple occasions, using some fancy footwork and quick plays to set the boys up for some crucial shots. With the clock counting down, the Wolverines final found the net with to post a second victory.



The boys final pool game saw them take on old outdoor rivals Rouse Hill HS. Still sore about their 5-1 loss to the Wolverines last year they seemed to determined to make us pay. Despite our best efforts, Rouse Hill managed to get the jump on us scoring two unanswered goals, putting the Wolverines on the back foot early. That was until Daniel Allport found himself with the ball at half way, winding up up and launching a knuckle ball that found its target to the disbelief of the Rouse Hill goalie. A second goal from Bailey “Double Barrel” Burrows-Dukamp evened out the game in the second half with

moments to go. Unfortunately Rouse Hill managed a quick play that snuck the ball into our goal leaving the boys with 2 wins and 2 losses at the end of the pool stage.

With a disappointing 50/50 split of wins and losses, it was clear that we hadn't finished first or second in our pool, putting us out of the quarter finals. So as we returned to the stands to pack up and head home, it was discovered that we had somehow finished first over all after group winners and had earned a wild card entry against the winner from pool 2. After a moment of disbelief the boys took off across the complex, attempting to simultaneously put their socks, boots and shin pads back on and make it to the court to start the game.



We made it and went quickly into action against pool 2 winners Penrith Anglican College (PAC). Despite having no break between their last game the Wolverines played with a spirit renewed, holding their own and giving PAC a real contest. With fatigue setting in, frustration began to show in both sides when a minor altercation after some contact saw two players red carded, taking both teams down to only 4 men. But the Wolverines weren't about to give up that easily, pushing hard they managed to see out the 2 minute red card timer gaining a valuable extra player back to the field allowing them to hold on for a golden goal extra time period. Not wanting to waste their second chance, the boys found some

momentum and soon a goal off the sharpened boot of Mitchell "the Razor" Fraser. The boys were into the semi final and he chances of a second title looked hopeful.

Unfortunately our semi final opponents had other plans. The boys found themselves up against Galston HS A side with no break between their last gruelling game. In a 2018 finals replay it was clear that Galston had taken their defeat personally and were out to settle a score. Despite a valiant effort from the Wolverines, Galston proved too good running in 4 unanswered goals to send the Wolverines packing and destroying our hopes at a double win.

Despite not getting the result we wanted, both teams played with an amazing amount of skill, teamwork and Un-yielding perseverance. It was also great to see former players Caitlin, Breannon and Jacob taking time out from their day to come and support the Wolverines.

Top goal scoring honour for the day go to Mitchell Fraser and Kayla Randall both bagging 4 goals apiece.

Also a special mention to some of the Wyndham Sports Academy's finest junior coaches Pea, Lara, Jeremy and Liam who did an excellent job of managing both teams throughout the day.

Here's to next year!

GO WOLVERINES!

