

# Pershore Hockey Club Match Reports

## Saturday 7 November 2009

### **Pershore 5 - 0 Dudley Knights**

Pershore had the riot act given to them before this game insisting that basic core skills and attitude needed to be vastly improved, and to their credit they responded. Paul Grummitt impressed on the right wing making his first team debut, and re-shuffling of the pack saw Gareth Rushton at sweeper and Graeme Rushin in the centre of the park give a much more structured shape to the home team.

Pershore's first goal came through a well worked move down the right hand flank involving Jamie Hughes, Joe Taylor and Paul Grummit who found Liam Ridings with his back to the goal, rather than try something spectacular he simply layed the ball off to Stephen Ridsdale to slot the ball home. The second came from Rob Handley who drove the ball from the halfway line into the opposition area before smashing home. The third goal was similar however the player in question this time was Russell Scudamore. The fourth and fifth goals were scored by Liam Ridings both within 5 yards of the goal, good team work and passing allowed the Pershore forward to add to his season tally in a hugely impressive performance.

With 20 minutes gone and Pershore in a hugely commanding position the game was brought to an untimely end when the ball deflected into a Dudley player's forehead who was knocked unconscious as he fell to the floor. With paramedics in attendance the captains and umpires agreed to call time upon the game, and use the score as the result with the Dudley players in their inaugural year playing in the BodyKraft league clearly shaken by the experience.

Pershore travel to Leamington next week where they can expect a very tough encounter against a side that was also relegated last year.

### **Pershore Ladies 1 – Old Halesonians 2**

This weeks match saw a narrow defeat for the Pershore Ladies against a strong Old Hales team.

The first 10 minutes saw Old Hales come out strong and test the Pershore defence. Sam Witheford, Jo Clark and Amanda Barnes took the pressure and held strong with a fantastic performance from Kate Clark on the right stemming numerous Old Hales runs. The rest of the half saw end to end play from both teams and it was a short corner strike from Emma Gardner that finally broke the deadlock. This did not go down well with the Old Hales team, who came out even more aggressive but failed to get the equaliser before the break. Pershore knew that they were going to have to come out strongly in the second half, however a momentary lapse in concentration saw an unfortunate goal get past keeper Lisa Hill. Pershore pushed with some fantastic runs from Kat Clasen, Hollie Wharton, Kate Adams and Sue Sheppard, however the second goal didn't arrive. They were awarded a short corner which was cleared and Old Hales clinically broke away and scored to put them ahead for the first time in the match. More good play from Pershore frustrated the Old Hales team, Ruth Darling, Mary Small and Gemma slowing down the attacks from the midfield. Again Pershore kept pushing with Emma Gardner and Kat Clasen coming close however it was to be a disappointing finish to a frustrating game for the ladies.

Pershore are playing Bromsgrove at Prince Henrys High School next week, 12 noon push back.

### **Kingswinford II 0 – 5 Pershore II**

Pershore's fine away form continued with a superb performance against tricky opponents. Determined to build on last weeks display, Pershore came roaring out of the blocks from the opening whistle. During the opening exchanges however, Kingswinfords defence held firm. As the game settled, Pershore's midfield took control of the game. With James Massingham driving forwards, ably assisted by Mike Doust, Pershore slowly but surely increased the pressure on Kingwinsford. The first goal arrived as Gavin Pugh ghosted in on the back to slot home. A second soon arrived as Andy Wright slammed home a fine move.

With Pershore totally dominating the game, Kingswinford became increasingly rattled and frustrated with Pershore's ferocious tackling. Indeed some strong umpiring was required before half time as the home teams tempers flared.

The second half begun in a similar fashion as Pershore looked to kill the game. Steve Quantrell soon scored an exquisite third, which totally bemused Kingswinfords stranded keeper. Fresh legs were then brought on with Karl Lawson making his long awaited debut. After some encouraging first touches, he was cruelly taken out of the game following a rather over zealous tackle by a Kingswinford defender.

Pershore slowly turned the screw and with the defensive unit of Mark Passmore, Mike Handley, Gary Stevenson and Scott Attwood being rock solid at the back, this gave them license to push forwards even more. Ali Sanderson finally got onto the score sheet, with two clinical finishes towards the end of the game. All in all this was a great team performance by Pershore. They face a tough home game against West Brom at the weekend, where goalkeeper Wickersham is likely to be tested a little more.

### ***Pershore IIIs – No fixture this week.***