

Pershore Hockey Club Match Reports

Saturday 13 February 2010

Pershore 2 - 1 Rugeley

As good as Pershore were last week against promotion rivals Kingswinford in the BodyKraft West Midlands 2 league, they were equally hapless this week. The travelling side came with only 8 players, and Pershore expecting to stroll to a comfortable victory. However the visitors defended resolutely, and the vale team struggled to exploit the space on offer. Pershore's two goals came late in the first half, the first a tap in for Paul Grummit after one of the few bright moves that Pershore strung together, and the second was a deflected effort for Joe Taylor (his first of this campaign). With about fifteen minutes of the game remaining Rugeley scored from a short corner, and continued to trouble a badly organised Pershore defence until the final whistle. Pershore will be extremely disappointed with the manner of their performance, but will be happy to take the 3 points. Next week they travel to Dudley Knights hoping to rekindle some form.

Pershore Ladies 5 – 1 Droitwich Ladies

After confusion of the match start time, this league game ended up as a friendly with 3 Pershore players making up the Droitwich numbers.

Playing a makeshift Droitwich side, Pershore started well holding the ball in the Droitwich half of the pitch and having numerous shots on goal. Droitwich were kept in the game by their goal keeper who had a fantastic game. Droitwich made a couple of breaks but all of these were snuffed out by the Pershore defence of Sam Witheford, Kate Green and Gemma. It was an uncharacteristic mistake from keeper Lisa Hill that led to the Droitwich goal that saw her kick the Astro instead of the ball which then trickled comically into the goal. Pershore hit back but were unable to equalise before half time after the Pershore players on the Droitwich side, Lisa Griffiths, Hollie Wharton and Amanda Barnes kept them in the match with some great play.

After the break however, Pershore came out with renewed and 10 minutes in saw Emma Gardner slip the ball past the keeper and into the back of the goal. This was just what Pershore needed to kick them into action and a run from Gardner set up Kat Clasen who passed the ball into the back of the goal. Great play in the midfield from Sue Sheppard, Ruth Darling, Sarah Adams and Zoe Nicholson kept the pressure on and the next goal saw Sarah Nicholson sneak the ball past the keeper. On her season debut Sarah Adams got the next goal from a great short corner strike and Zoe Nicholson got the last goal poking the ball across the line.

This was a confidence boosting win for Pershore who play Tenbury away on Saturday, 1.30 push back.

Pershore II 3 – 0 Kynoch II

Pershore eased to a very comprehensive win against bottom of the table Kynoch. Playing an attacking formation, Pershore started strongly and soon scored the opening goal when Harry Jones pinpoint shot escaped the grasps of Kynoch's keeper. With Pershore's midfield trio of James Massingham, Andy Wright and Mark Passmore dictating play, Kynoch literally 'parked the bus' in front of their goal, with some desperate defending keeping Pershore at bay.

A sloppy 16 hit from Kynoch gifted Pershore their second goal. Steve Quantrell gratefully picked the ball up and hit a vicious bouncing shot into the goal. Half time arrived with the score a very comfortable two nil scoreline.

The second half was a similar affair with Pershore pushing forwards looking to improve their goal difference. However some poor finishing kept the scoreline down. Graham Handley scored a third for Pershore, following a great pass by Liam Ridings. Amazingly though, this concluded the scoring in the game.

As Pershore pressed for further goals, on occasions they were exposed on the counter attack. However the assured performance of Mike Handley, Scott Attwood and Luke Dalley easily snuffed out the attacks.

This was a comfortable victory for the seconds, although they know they'll have to raise their game for tough encounter against Kingswinford at the weekend.

Evesham III 4 – 2 Pershore III

Pershore arrived to play their local rivals with knowing that Evesham would be out for revenge from their defeat earlier in the season. It was Evesham who started the brighter and Pershore were under pressure from the start. Early Evesham attacks were stubbed out by Pete Moreby and Tommy Handley but the pressure eventually told. Evesham intercepted a pass and were able to score after a deflection wrong footed Gary Stevenson in the Pershore goal. Pershore's heads didn't drop and Mike Doust and Liam Burkenshaw combined to create half chances. In another Evesham attack as Pershore waited for a whistle the umpire rightly played advantage and an excellent finish by the Evesham forward gave the keeper no chance. The third goal for Evesham soon followed when a double team move left the Pershore team unable to tackle and Evesham scored easily.

Pershore made a tactical change at half time and after a thorough talking to tried to win the second half. Pershore were now playing proper hockey and dominated the second half. Pershore created chance after chance with Evesham feeding off scraps. After George Darling made an excellent run Pershore were awarded a short, after Pershore's first real shot Burkenshaw was able to slot the ball home. Pershore suddenly gathered heart from this and Karl Lawson and Ed Barker became wing backs overlapping and causing havoc in the Evesham defence. With prompting by Phil Taylor and Gavin Pugh Pershore were able to put together an excellent move that allowed Doust to square to man of the match Burkenshaw to score his second. Pershore bombed forward and half chances fell to the tireless Julian Heath and Burkenshaw. In the dying seconds all hopes of a miraculous recovery for the deserved point were squashed when Evesham were able to convert a flick after Moreby and Stevenson had been left isolated at the back.