

England Hockey Tier 2 U18 Schools National Competition Final

Sevenoaks 1-5 RGS Newcastle

Match report

The game was off to a great start with an early goal from Alice Geoghegan just 90 seconds into the first half. Sevenoaks had won the first push back but following a great tackle by Laura Cottee, RGS got an early D entry, and a short corner was won. Our first short corner routine was a drag flick which was perfectly executed by Alice Geoghegan into the left corner. This was a great start for RGS and nicely set the tone for the game.

The next 10 minutes saw some opportunities for Sevenoaks, but with Iona Stuart, Jessie Combe and Marianne Murphy at the back, they struggled to connect in their D to get any shots away. A great ball from Jessie Combe and some connective play in the middle saw Lexie Haig nearly bag the second goal with a reverse hit, narrowly saved. We got many more opportunities in the D with Alice Geoghegan firing balls into Ciara Bowden and Hannah Dodds.

Goal 2 came after Jess Cottee turned over the ball in the opposition 25 and won a penalty. Laura Cottee received the ball in the middle and dribbled half the length of the pitch, skilling numerous players to enter the D and smash the ball at the goalie making the score 2-0 on the 29-minute mark.

A Sevenoaks push back led to a short corner which was expertly saved by Rosanna Carrick Daly and then turned over by Katie Thomson. An amazing ball from Eloise down the right side connected directly to Hannah Dodds who made a run into the D. Hannah was left 1 on 1 with the goalie but some smooth skills quickly moved the score to 3-0.

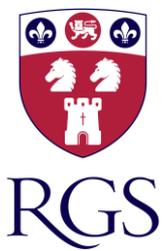
RGS were on a roll and finished off the first half with a fourth goal. Libby Chrisp received the ball in the middle, she took it up the pitch and after some connective play with Lexie Haig, was able to fire a ball into Jess Cottee at the top of the D. Jess passed it into Ciara Bowden who neatly finished off the goal with a back hand flick.

Coming into the second half, we saw some great tackles by Iona Stuart as Sevenoaks made a few breaks but were unable to get past our defence. Rosie Wilson was able to swiftly outlet the ball to get us out of pressure and commence our attacking play. Goal 5 comes after Libby Reid smashed the ball towards the goal, and the rebound was picked up by Eloise Lamb who crossed it to Ciara Bowden on the P spot. Ciara neatly deflected the ball past the goalie scoring her second goal to make it 5-0.

The next 10 minutes saw some amazing saves by Rosanna, who dived all over the place, determined not to let any balls past her in what would be her last RGS match. Somehow Jessie Combe was always there to scoop up any balls on the goal line and fire them out of the D. Lexie Haig created a wall of steel down the left side of the pitch with no balls getting past her, even if this meant putting her body on the line. She received an unfortunate card but definitely made up for it with the way that she finished the match.

Sevenoaks started to build some momentum and they won another short but a jab tackle from Iona Stuart quickly saw the ball back with RGS. Throughout the match, RGS PCD was exceptional as usual with some great running out from Marianne Murphy. With 10 minutes to go, Rosanna ran off the pitch having played one of her best games of hockey and on came Leila Humphrey. An unfortunate penalty led Sevenoaks to enter from the right and smash a ball into the D. Some scrappy play with an overload of players saw Sevenoaks slip a well-deserved goal into the bottom left corner.

Following our push back, Alice Geoghegan made an amazing run up her wing creating yet another goal scoring opportunity for RGS. The last five minutes of the game saw RGS continue fighting for more goals making the most of the last minutes that they would play



together.

The whistle went and the national title was ours with a 5-1 victory.

Mr John Wood
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