

NPRangers Masters v Hawera Star

The Masters travelled to Hawera to take on the other Hawera Div 3 team Southern Star. We set off for the frozen south in an upbeat mood although we were down a few players due to them having the dreaded cold.

We duly arrived and for the first time in about 6 weeks we had a proper referee. The teams lined up and this Hawera side was not the team that we had played in the first half of the season, there were a lot of younger players in this squad. The game kicked off and Rangers were soon on the attack looking for that first goal, but no matter how hard we try it just does not seem to happen for us and we went behind yet again to yet another break away and Hawera strikers combined to put the ball in the net. This spurred us on and before we knew what was happening they had doubled their lead, although this one did seem offside, but the referee did not oblige us with the whistle and the goal stood. Still had about 20 mins to play before halftime and we pressured the Hawera defence a few times into some sloppy play and we were rewarded for this when Ted Gray turned on a 2 dollar piece and sent the ball crashing into the net. (Nice finish Ted). From then on we played some really good footy but could not find that elusive equalizer and the referee blew for halftime.

A few quiet words of wisdom from the coach and a couple of positional changes and we were back in the groove when the whistle sounded. A little bit more composure and we settled into a rhythm, not a very good one, the words of wisdom seemed to have the opposite effect and we soon lost all of our passing ability and composure. The opposition took advantage of this poor passing display and soon added a third goal to the disappointment of the Masters.

The masters still battled on and had a few more chances throughout the second half but the Hawera keeper was in fine form and managed to stop everything that was thrown at him. For a very young keeper he was having a great game and frustration was beginning to come through in the Masters players, with Terry Van Dillen being spoken to by the Ref. Soon after that Hawera broke again, this time with a long punt from the back and their striker outpaced our defenders and added a fourth goal. This was the final play of the game and the referee blew for the end of the game, once again the Masters battled well but came away empty handed

Man of the match went to Chris Jury for his tireless running throughout the game.