

Sunday: 13th June

Venue: Onuku Taipari Domain

A huge game for the girls following on from an excellent game the week before in Palmerston North, but with a few key players out (Deb Whittle - Fiji, Mille O'Connor - Leg, Emma Todd - Spider Bite, and Tarn Robbertsen - Lower Back) it was always going to be an epic challenge, and with a 10.00am Kickoff and the girls still drifting in at 9.40am, a team to take on the high flying Moturoa in the right frame of mind was always going to be a hard one to find.

A quick talk in the sheds before the game, and the coach asking for a huge effort from the players, got the required result and on a very soggy Onuku Taipari ground. The Rangers girls started in the right frame of mind and started where they left off against Taradale the week before.

Moturoa have some lethal finishers and Cheryl Brown in goal again for NPR was busy from the get go, unfortunately 15 minutes into the game a skied header from young Mckenzie Waugh seemed to roll slowly over the goal line and a 1 v 0 score line eventuated. The goal seemed to lift Rangers into action and the girls started to get back into it, strong performances in the middle of the park from Chantelle Broadhurst & Mary Trueman, who I thought at times outplayed the Moturoa midfield gave space to a very talented Millie Clegg who unfortunately couldn't trouble the Moturoa goalkeeper.

No referees today and Scotty Manson the Moturoa coach controlled the game from the middle and actually did a very good job, unfortunately with no linesmen to wave offside a couple more goals went in and the halftime score was 3 v 0.

I couldn't fault what the girls were trying to do and I suggested they try to play the game in Moturoa's half and to their credit they were trying to play football in abysmal conditions and at times were getting caught at the back with the ball. A quick word to Cheryl in goal to come off her line in the second half and challenge the Moturoa forwards for the ball certainly worked as Cheryl pulled off some great saves and helped to keep the score respectable. Unfortunately late in the game with 15 mins to go Cheryl came out to a fast finishing Tina Stevenson and swamped the ball pulling off a great save but in the process gave herself a rather nasty case of whiplash. The game was stopped for some period waiting for an Ambulance before shifting to the 2nd pitch to finish. A big thank goes to Lisa Yates for her assistance not only with Cheryl but with Angela Caldwell and ex NPR girl who now plays at Moturoa who dislocated her knee and ruptured her ligaments with 2 minutes to go.

Moturoa managed to find the net 3 more times in the 2nd half, one courtesy of a Lisa Yates own goal, a lovely header off the top of her head dropping over the head of the keeper (sorry Lisa), it must be pointed out that Lisa had said she had dreamed the night before that she was going to score, she did not think it was going to be in her own goal though.

Anyway a typical hard fought NPR Rangers versus Moturoa game, great play in the field by Chantelle - Mary - Millie of note, a very close chance fell to Chanree late in the game but it was not to be.

Man of the Match went I believe to Cheryl in goal and a speedy recovery we hope!