

TigerTalk

hockey >> Issue 01 July 2008



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Possibilities

Innovative synthetic grass solutions



Welcome to the first issue of TigerTalk Hockey. Over the years TigerTurf has developed a strong relationship with the Hockey Community on a number of different levels. Through this association we have all sorts of news about games, players and venues which we would like to share, hence this newsletter.

TigerTurf has been associated with hockey in New Zealand for over 20 years with the first synthetic surface laid at Porritt Park in 1985. TigerTurf has had the pleasure to be a partner in the growth of Hockey through its development and installation of world class hockey surfaces throughout a number of New Zealand Schools and Clubs. It is due to this partnership with associations and players that we all have been able to develop the player friendly surfaces. Today, our surfaces are played on in countries across the globe from Korea to Holland to South Africa.

Additionally TigerTurf supports grass roots hockey through it's sponsorship of the TigerTurf Under 16 squad. Many squad members have become Black Sticks and we at TigerTurf are very proud to be able to be a part of this development.

Personally, I am very excited about the competitions coming up over the next few months with the Secondary Schools tournaments in September, the TigerTurf Under 16 Squad's annual clash against Queensland in October and of course the New Zealand Black Sticks competing at the Beijing Olympics.

We wish every one playing all the best for their games.

PETER LEEVES
General Manager, TigerTurf New Zealand



New Zealand debut for 'WETT' surfaces

North Harbour and Northland Hockey Associations have been the first two NZ associations to have the latest in TigerTurf technology. The new WETT is a surface designed to require less water to reach its maximum potential. Savings in water was an initiative outlined by FIH and through much testing the new WETT product was born. This surface is a polyethylene surface with non directional yarn meaning the surface has no grain like many other surfaces.

WETT is a tight dense carpet which has been found to have an excellent memory meaning it does not fall over, but instead

holds its upright qualities for far longer. This makes the surface feel very smooth for the stick and with minimal resistance during a push or sweep. Feedback from players is excellent. QUOTE: "it's a very fast and smooth playing surface. It really does help with quick ball speed and also quick skills"

Kristin School will become NZ's first secondary school to lay a WETT surface. Since it does not require constant watering, and can be used under both wet and dry conditions, it's the perfect surface for schools.

Far north set to develop hockey talent

The Far North District Council's vision of getting a synthetic hockey surface has finally been realised.

A new TigerDRY surface has been laid in Kaikohe and will become the centre piece for hockey in the Far North. To date if you were wanting to play hockey on a synthetic surface you would have had to travel to Whangarei to do so. With the new TigerDRY surface (half sand filled product) the council and local hockey officials believe it will be easier to maintain and grow numbers and interest

in the sport. "to be able to play locally and avoid the long driving time will hugely benefit our sport. Encouraging families to be involved and stay involved in a sport where traveling time is huge is difficult to do. This new surface will see us gain new members and also hold onto others for far greater lengths".

TigerTurf congratulate Kaikohe and the Far North District Council on their outstanding move to improve hockey in their area.



As we close in on the 2008 TigerTurf Squads being announced we take a quick look back at the 2007 teams and one of the key players from the men's team.

Profile on Marcus Child:

Marcus was a key member of the 2007 TigerTurf Squad and helped hugely in gaining a 2-1 series win over the visiting Queensland side (NZ2 – QLD1, NZ1 – QLD2, NZ4 – QLD2). Marcus is currently a student at King's College in Auckland and has huge ambitions of following in his Olympic's bound brother Simon's footsteps, of becoming a Blackstick and an Olympian in his own right.

A QUICK LOOK AT MARCUS:

AGE: 17

PREFERRED POSITION: Midfield, inside right

CLUB SIDE: Southern Districts Premier 1

SCHOOL SIDE: King's College 1st XI

REP TEAMS: Auckland U11 (00,01), Hatch Cup (02,03), U15 (04,05,06), U18 (07,08), U21(08)

NATIONAL TEAMS: 2006- Tigerturf NZ U16
2007- Tigerturf NZ U16 and Junior Blacksticks squad
2008- Junior Blacksticks squad

PROUDEST MOMENT TO DATE: Being selected for the Junior Blacksticks squad last year

GREATEST HOCKEY MEMORY: Winning U15 national tournament in 2006

FUTURE AMBITIONS: To play for the Blacksticks and go to an Olympics, also to play overseas for a club side in Europe.

BIGGEST INFLUENCE: My parents and brothers

MOST ADMIRER PLAYER: Christopher Zeller, he has silky skills and is a superb goal scorer.

IN TEN YEARS TIME I SEE MYSELF.... still at university studying something in the health sector, playing hockey in all my other spare time hopefully playing for the Blacksticks and NHL and still beating my brothers at Fifa on the playstation.

FAVOURITE TURF: TigerTurf



Blacksticks men take olympic spot

An outstanding effort by the Blacksticks mens side has seen them qualify for the Beijing Olympics after winning the Olympic qualifying tournament at North Harbour's Crown Relocations stadium in February on a TigerTurf surface.

After trailing for most of the final the Blacksticks drew level with only minutes to go in regulation time. Into extra time they went, and with things looking like they were bound for penalty strokes Brad Shaw slotted a re-bounce off a PC into the back of the net with only 5 seconds left on the clock.

TigerTurf is a strong supporter of NZ hockey and congratulate the team for their efforts and wish them all the best for Beijing. We would also like to congratulate North Harbour hockey for a brilliant tournament.

Special congratulations must also go to TigerTurf's Hockey Product Manager, who as a member of the Blacksticks team was named Player of the Tournament.

Build-up has continued with the Aslan Shah tournament in Malaysia where they came away with the bronze after beating Pakistan 2-1 for only the 2nd time in New Zealand men's hockey history. A tour of Europe will finish their build-up.