

### Somerville Men vs North Shore United

Having not tasted defeat since March, the Somerville Premier Men stepped onto a sun-soaked Auckland Grammar Turf with nothing to lose. Top of the table North Shore United beckoned, as did a chance to prove Somerville could perform well without two stars Ryan Archibald overseas and Dwayne Rowsell work commitments.

Early exchanges showed both teams came to play, with Somerville creating chances from the get go. It was NSU who struck first, a sharp deflection that seemingly came out of nowhere. That theme followed for their next two goals, half chances combined with clinical finishing, NSU 3-0 up at the break.

Tempers began to flare amongst the Somerville squad as the goals mounted, frustration towards the Match Day Officials evident. The usually ultra-calm Sam Houston was seen aggressively pointing his finger at the Ref at one point. Some would argue he had a point.

Premier player / coach / psychologist / wok n noodle advocate Barry Middleton settled his men at half time, and a more cohesive unit was formed in the second spell. Jerome Van Rijn and Michael Ritchie both scored quickly. 3-2, game on. Whatever was in manager Kerry Heards (Bilbo Baggins) lolly container had worked a treat.

The final quarter was full of drama, NSU being bailed out on multiple occasions by their sharp Goalkeeper. Left half James "Big Red" Stables found himself on the post deflecting a chance, but a combination of too much excitement and potentially too many pre match samosas saw the dashing Grammar prodigy lose his footing. Somerville custodian Paul Thomas put his head and heart on the line to save a 1 on 1, resulting in a stray helmet and some lost brain cells. Only post match water for PJ. The home side pushed hard for an equaliser, but ultimately conceded in the dying minutes to lose the tight encounter 4-2.

Play has been suspended for the coming weekend due to Queen Elizabeth's 134th Birthday, rumour has it there is a tea-party taking place at the Middleton's. Eden-Roskill awaits in 2 weeks, the lads inspired by Somerville Premier Women's goal scoring prowess. Apologies for any immature comments that may have come out of Sam N's mouth from the grandstand.

**Final Score: 2 – 4 loss**

**Match Report: Leonard Powell**

### Somerville Women vs North Shore United

The Premier women welcomed back Belinda Smith the Brave, Julia King the Lion heart, Rosie Tynan the Untouchable, Ailsa Connolly (the yet to be named) and returning manager Patient Pete!

As per usual there was a lot of chatter during the warm up, and our relaxed attitudes transferred to stick and ball, when our mighty leader KFG pulled us in line reminding us we were here for battle..

“Why does love always feel like a battlefield, a battlefield, a battlefield”.

Game time... Somerville came out with a hiss and a roar in the first quarter, with sequences of play cutting the North Shore United team to pieces. NSU held on for as long as they could before the first goal was scored. PC: slide hit from “Maddie the magnificent” goalie saves, “Anna the long limbed” recaptured the ball pushing it toward goal, saved again and deflected out to the person on the spot, who then puts it away.

“Hit me with your best shot, fire away” !!!

Most memorable part to this quarter was “Maddie Dowe the magnificent” driving from right half like a cut cat diagonally through the field beating one, two, three players, almost losing control of the ball but dives in a less than graceful manner making a successful pass! What a run, what a dive, what a player ... the run continued off the field to get treatment for skin grazes to more tender areas.

“Another one bites the dust, and another one down, another one down, another bites the dust.”

Back to the game “Ailsa” after a few questionable reverse shots, slots a humdinger... Almost banned from reverse shots but she saves herself and lives to fight another day.

“She’s so lucky, she’s a star, but she drives, drives, drives in her lonely car, thinking if there’s nothing missing in my life, then why do these tears come at night’.

The second quarter and the third quarters were less than glamorous for the fighting vixens. Some sheer moments of brilliance made up for a patchy performance in the middle. Half time score 3-0.

“Julia, the lion heart” and “Rosie the untouchable” connected numerous times with cross field reverse passes and one touch shots on goal just going wide but it was “Breana the Brilliant” scoring her first goal of the game just executing the basics, low and focused, awaiting her shot at glory, with a PC deflection.

“Rosie the untouchable” reading the NSU defence in the beginning of the third quarter, pushed up as left striker stealing the ball on the 25, darting to the circle beating the defender with a right to left drag placing the ball on her reverse and BOOM TOWN.... GOAL!

“When the going gets tough, the tough get going”.

The onslaught continued with “Rosie the untouchable” stealing her second with a tap in. “Bre the Brilliant” following in Rosie’s footsteps with a tap in, both coming away with two goals each. Some “pure baby magic” coming out of Saturdays match with another cross ball from “Lulu the hunter” setting up “stealthy Stella”!!!

In the fourth quarter a PC against Somerville (some questionable umpiring) , “Arabella the nimble” saved everything that came near her until her team-mate Jazz scored against her...

That’s all folks... the team wishes KFG all the best with the Blackstick Women, we know where your loyalties truly are, and in the interim we welcome Peter Tynan (PT the wise..) to help steer us through the next few weeks.

During the after-match celebration “Beckie the great/pocket rockets” Hubby quipped “You were good in the first quarter and the last quarter, nobody remembers the middle”.

**Final Score: 7-1 Win**

**Match Report: Jaz McQuinn**