**Williams Hat-Trick Seals Win**

Match Report – Beerwah v Noosa Lions 5 July By Alasdair Scott

Noosa Lions claimed a hard-fought 4–2 victory away to Beerwah on Saturday afternoon, with Oli Williams netting a superb hat-trick to seal the win in a game that ebbed and flowed but ultimately showcased Noosa’s attacking quality.

The opening stages offered some indication of the drama to come. Beerwah stunned the visitors in the very first minute, forcing Cameron Boldy into an early save, and again threatened just minutes later with a dangerous ball across goal. But it was Noosa who landed the first blow: in the 5th minute, Max Adey’s clever through ball found veteran striker Matt Thompson, who slotted home a clinical left-foot finish into the far corner.

From that point on, Noosa looked in control. Jack Williams tested the Beerwah keeper soon after, and from the resulting corner, Mitch Bridge’s header was only just cleared off the line. Adey, influential both centrally and down the left, repeatedly tried to break through Beerwah’s high defensive line. In the 26th minute, Bridge helped launch the second goal: a ball over the top from the Noosa defender found Oli Williams, whose excellent touch with his left foot left the defender stranded before he tucked the ball into the bottom corner with his right.

Beerwah still carried a threat on the counter. In the 35th minute, a long ball over the top nearly paid off, but Lachie Kusabs' relentless tracking forced a rushed finish. Thompson came close to a third shortly before the break, but his shot drifted wide. Despite several offside calls — not all of them convincing — Noosa reached half-time with a 2–0 lead.

However, the game was far from over.

Beerwah halved the deficit almost immediately after the restart, punishing a hesitant clearance with a thunderous left-foot strike from the edge of the area. Just minutes later, only a sharp near-post save from Boldy kept Noosa ahead, but another defensive lapse allowed Beerwah to draw level in the 50th minute.

Coach, Matt Digwood responded with changes — Thompson made way for Isaac Metherell who moved into midfield, while Oli Williams moved up front — and the tide turned again. A foul on Williams just past the hour mark resulted in a yellow card for the Beerwah defender, and a red card for another player after some choice words to the referee. The numerical advantage soon told: in the 62nd minute, it was centre half Mitch Bridge moving onto the right wing and floating a pinpoint cross to the back post, and Oli Williams powered in a header for his second goal.

With Beerwah down to ten and tempers fraying, Noosa pushed for a fourth. Byron Faleono and Sunny Law coming off the bench for Takaishi and Jack Williams and both were quickly involved with forays down the Noosa right. Max Adey continued to create chances, including a dazzling solo run in the 78th minute that ended with him shooting narrowly wide when well-placed. In the 84th, Nick Cookman’s effort was cleared off the line before Kusabs blasted the rebound over.

But the final word belonged to Williams. In the 85th minute, he completed his hat-trick — right foot, header, and now a left foot finish — to cap a clinical performance and put the game beyond doubt.

While it wasn’t Noosa’s most dominant display of the season, it was a resolute and ultimately deserved win, showing their ability to recover from setbacks and still find a way to take three points.

**Under-23s Crush Beerwah but Miss Chance to Run Riot**

Earlier in the day, Noosa’s under-23 side cruised to a 4–0 victory in a game they controlled from start to finish. Somehow, it was only 1-0 at half-time, with the young Lions missing a string of chances in the first half.

Despite the comfortable win and dominant display, the under-23s may be left reflecting on what could’ve been, with several gilt-edged chances going begging. Still, the clean sheet was hard-earned — Harrison Plumb and Byron Faleono both made crucial tackles to snuff out rare Beerwah breakaways.

With some improved finishing, the under-23s could have reached double figures — a thought that might encourage and frustrate the coaching staff in equal measure.