

# Hawks fall in final

WHAKATANE Hawks 11th grade football team played their last game on Saturday going up against the Opotiki Premier side.

An earlier game at home saw the Hawks come away with a closely fought 3-2 win so another evenly contested match was expected this time.

The crowd was in for a thriller as both teams continued their good form from the season with excellent passing, tackling and attacking moves.

Whakatane's player of the year, Aakiwa Te Aho was solid in the midfield and was always involved in the action on both ends of the field.

It was Whakatane who opened the scoring when Te Aho passed a ball through to Bryn Evans who played a ball in behind the defence and then outpaced them to create a one-on-one with the keeper which he scored.

Excellent wing play from Harrison Wakefield and Maddison Gibson created more opportunities for the home side, but it was Opotiki who then equalised when the ball found the feet of their striker who turned and placed his shot well to beat the keeper.

They then took the lead from a corner when a goal mouth scramble saw the ball

bundled over the line taking them into the lead at half-time.

Whakatane's Jack Moon and Alex Iremonger stepped up their central defence with both players also making some attacking runs that almost eventuated in goals.

Most improved player Parth Khatri was often involved in the action and with Leah Prescott and Micah-Harrison Walker helping out in defence and Nathan Garner making some strong tackles in the midfield, the Opotiki side were struggling to create more chances.

Ramahaki Nikora, playing in goal, was also in fine form to deny any opportunities the Opotiki side made.

Some more good work in the midfield saw a pass get played through to Evans who scored his 28th goal of the season, which tied the game up and gave him the team's equal top goal-scorer award alongside Te Aho.

As the game neared the end an unfortunate bounce for the Hawks saw another goal mouth scramble which eventuated in the ball crossing the line to give Opotiki the 3-2 win, reversing the result from their last match.

Whakatane's player of the day went to Bryn Evans.



**SHARK MOVES:** Aakiwa Te Aho, left, keeps his options open, and is named Whakatane player of the year. Photo supplied



**HOLD IT:** Olivia Arthur performs an arabesque. D5951-13

## Gymnasts show their skills

EIGHTY gymnasts from EBOP and Opotiki Gymnastics clubs had great fun showing off their skills at the annual Flix N Trix competition recently.

The competition is held at EBOP Gymnastics Club every year and is a chance for the recreational (non-competitive) gymnasts to have fun, participate and show families and friends what they have learned.

"We were able to see that we will have some great gymnasts working their way through to maybe moving into the competitive squad," said EBOP Gymnastics Club manager Anne Gould.

"We were also able to give all entrants goodie bags, fruit, chips and bottled water thanks to generous sponsorship from Podlife, The Fresh Market and Pak'nSave Whakatane."

Photographer Paula Massey was at Flix N Trix where she caught the kids in action.

### Results

**Artistic - girls level 1:** 1, Madeleine Carter (EBOP); 2, Khloe Newport (EBOP); 3, Alexis Ogle (EBOP). Level 2: 1, Caitlin Lowe (Opotiki); 2, Piki Hemi (Opo); 3, Emma Cook (Opo). Level 3: 1, Lucy Boon (EBOP); 2, Aaliyah Kurei (EBOP); 3, Skylar Reeve (Opo).

**Boys level 1:** 1, Kyrus Richmond (EBOP); 2, Alex Noble (EBOP); 3, Tuumanako Patterson-Foster (EBOP). Level 2: 1, Liam Fisher (Opo). Level 3: 1, Jackson Barlow (EBOP); 2, Anasis Smith (EBOP); 3, Cody Hall (EBOP).

**Talent Artistic:** 1, Zoe Giles (EBOP); 2, Serenity Martin (EBOP); 3, Chloe Sparrow (EBOP).

**Rhythmic:** 1, Chloe Hogg; 2, Ava-Rose Ganley; 3, Ohryen Gardner.



**DISMOUNT:** Georgia Standen finishes her beam routine. D5951-05

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