

WAIHEKE UTD *VS* ONEHUNGA MANGERE



1/4/2023
ONETANGI SPORTS PARK

ROUND 2



UPCOMING FIXTURES

VS METRO

7 APRIL

3PM

PHYLLIS STREET RESERVE

VS MT ALBERT PONSONBY

10 APRIL

3PM

ONETANGI SPORTS PARK

VS EAST COAST BAYS

15 APRIL

3PM

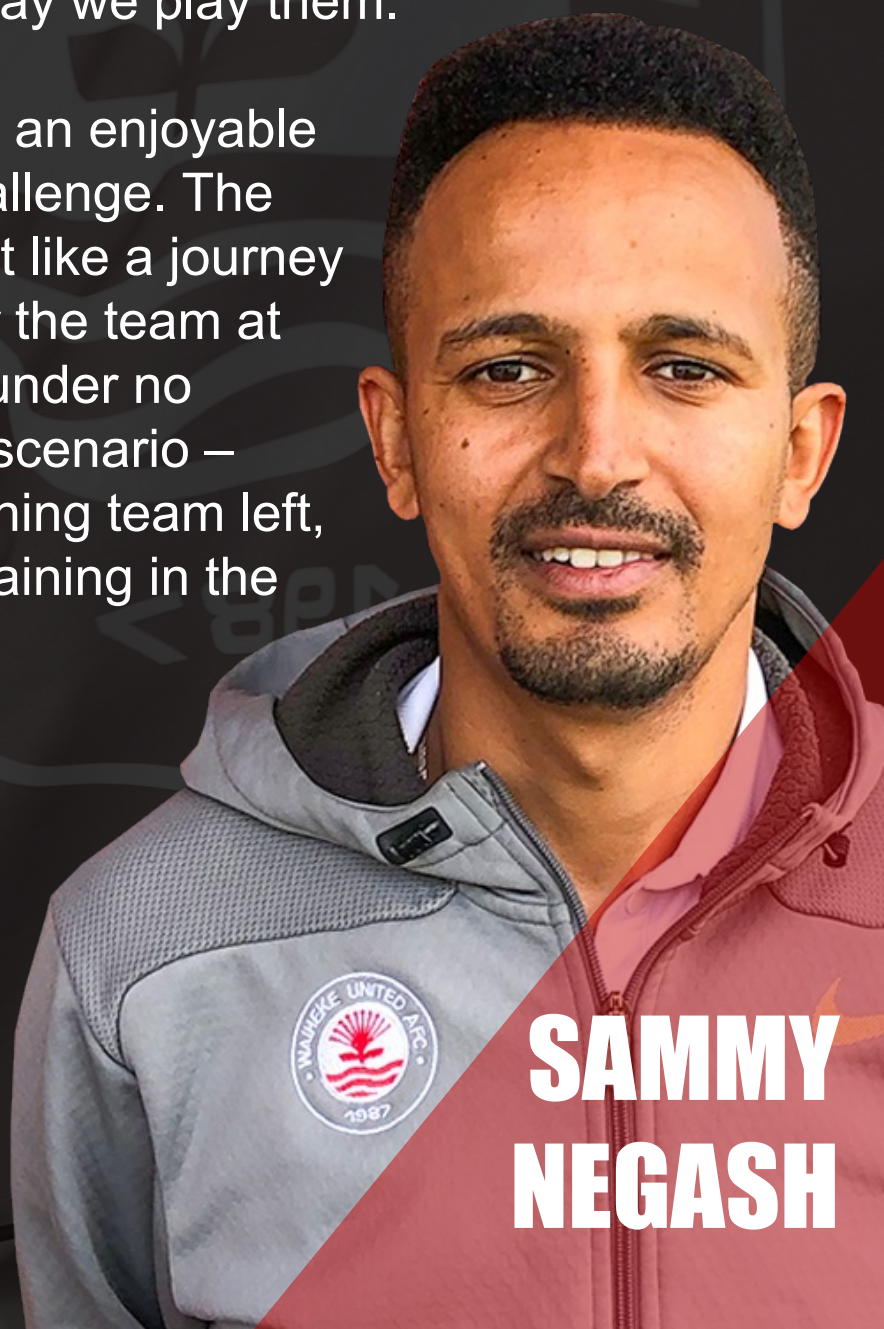
BAY CITY PARK

COACH'S COMMENTS

We are excited to get the season underway and, for me, there is no better way to play our first home game. Welcome to Onehunga Mangere, my old club as player where I spent 2 seasons there. A good club with a proud history and so many wonderful club people. I personally enjoyed of my years at the club and will always speak highly of everyone I got to know over my years there. However, that takes nothing away from my desire to beat them today and every other day we play them.

Getting to this point has been an enjoyable challenge, but definitely a challenge. The build up to the season has felt like a journey before a journey. Taking over the team at the end of last season I was under no illusion that I faced a difficult scenario – there was no-one in the coaching team left, only a handful of players remaining in the squad.

The buzz in the training environment has exceeded expectations. The coaching team have put in countless hours over the summer to prepare the training programme for the players.



**SAMMY
NEGASH**

However, what has really made trainings so enjoyable and rewarding over preseason has being the attitude of the playing group. The players have embraced the new playing philosophy, they have worked very hard, and their attendance and willingness to learn has been first class. Their best quality, however, is how welcoming they have been to every member of staff and any new player to the group. I have been continually impressed by what a fine group of young men this club has.

It is no doubt influenced by the volunteers and leadership this club has. Long-serving members such as Geoff Bilbee many others have clearly set a fine example of what being a good person and a good club member looks like. Building on from the aforementioned successes in preseason, this season is about making sure football is fun. I want the players to be part of an enjoyable culture. Winning is a big part of enjoyment in competitive sport, no doubt. However, you can't get to the end of 90 minutes, having a good game, with many enjoyable moments, only to look back on it and see it as all unenjoyable simply because the scoreline was not in your favour – in my mind there is far more to football than just the result.

I have been driving home the message to the team — our new philosophy at its core is all about the three

We must make football:

- ☐ enjoyable to play
- ☐ exciting to watch
- ☐ energizing to coach

Win or lose we must deliver on those three outcomes. I want our football to inspire junior players to become First Team players and motivate spectators to get back in their local community and watch football games together. Again, that's not to say we won't go out trying to win every game. But, for me, there is a "way" to play the sport you love. I want us to be winners, but win the right way – we have fun, we work hard and we are always humble.

So, expect from us this season:

- a desire to dominate the game with intelligent possession of the ball
- efforts to control the tempo of the game with our passing and pressing – sometimes slow, sometimes fast, but always with purpose
- a willingness to show x-factor – I want our players to be creative, try to hit long passes, try to shoot from distance, try to take a player on one-on-one

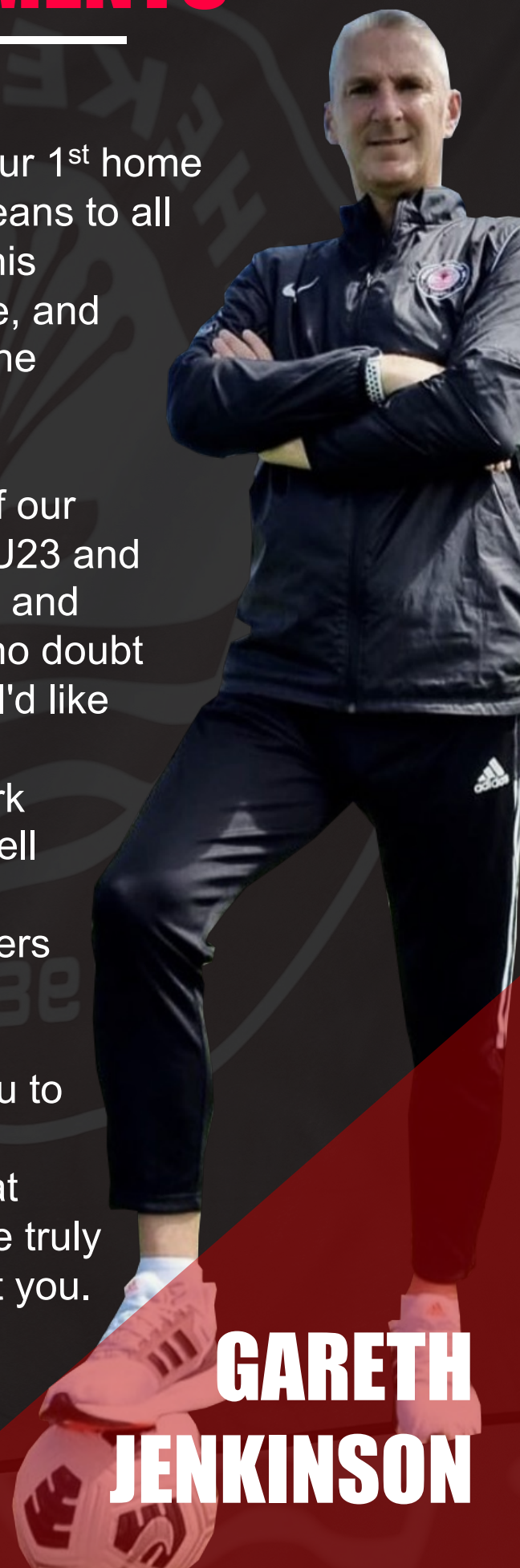
It is my belief that all of these things combined make football fun to play and great to watch. It is my job to make sure we do these things to the best of our ability and in a way that will win us every game possible. I am sure those that have seen us over preseason will have got a good taste of what this new-look Waiheke is about. We are going into the season with much higher ambitions. It is simply a journey now to get every member of the playing group to share that same belief and know they can deliver on it. As soon as we click on this, I am confident we will consistently take points. A massive thank you to everyone involved so far. I am very grateful for all of their efforts and support. This season is going to be a lot of fun, so enjoy the ride and please be proud of how distinctively "Waiheke" this group of players are. They care about this club and they will work hard to deserve your support. Enjoy the year!

PRESIDENTS'S COMMENTS

Dear Waiheke United Fans,
The 2023 season is upon us and this is our 1st home game of the season. I know much this means to all of you who have been eagerly awaiting this moment. It's going to be an exciting game, and I can't wait to see all of you cheering on the teams!

I'm particularly pleased to see so many of our young lads participating across both the U23 and 1st teams. It's inspiring to see such talent and dedication among our youth, and I have no doubt that they will make us proud on the field. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Sammy Negash, our head coach, for his hard work and dedication in leading our teams as well as his coaching staff. He has done an incredible job of nurturing our young players and helping them develop their skills.

I'd also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our volunteers who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that everything runs smoothly. Your efforts are truly appreciated, and we couldn't do it without you. Let's show our teams our full support and make this 1st home game of the 2023 season one to remember!
Go Waiheke United!



**GARETH
JENKINSON**

FIRST TEAM

STARTING XI



CIGANDA

MENA

DE RAAT

KNIGHT

BURKE-MUNNS

CABANAL

TAYLOR

VANINA

MUTIZE

AMAD

CANDIA

SUBSTITUTES

**BURKE-MUNNS, CISAIE,
MILES, BONFIELD,
KRISHNA**

RESERVES

STARTING XI



CATANIA
GRIFFIN
BONFIELD
YACARE
CISAIE
CRUZ CANAY
MILES
SILAS
JUNIOR
HERRERA
SERGIO

SUBSTITUTES

MAVRE, KEW, BASHIR,
CLARK, BOWMAN, LUCA

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WAIHEKE ISLAND



Media





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