

Cities work hard for win over plucky Rovers

HOCKEY: Hockey powerhouse Cities brushed aside a healthy challenge from Rovers at Hinkler Park on Saturday to win 6-2.

Still smarting from last season's 0-3 grand final loss, Rovers opened the scoring less than two minutes into the game.

They caught the blue and white off guard, but the goal sparked the defending premier into action, with Josh Stacey finishing off nice lead-up play to level the scores.

He scored again later in the half to give his team the lead.

Cities did not learn from their erroneous first-half start, letting Rovers in for another goal immediately after the break.

But once again they recovered and leapt to a 4-2 lead.

Two late goals, one more to Stacey after the full-time whistle, sealed Rovers' fate.

Midfielder and captain Anthony Castelli was dynamic for Cities, while rock-solid full-backs Jamie Rach and Josh Dick kept Rovers at bay despite several surges from forwards Simon Cutler and Colby Zahn.

The Cities women took their game to another level on Friday night against Rovers.

They netted four goals to Rovers' one, in a sure sign they are warming up for another crack at the Premier League trophy.



Josh Stacey and Simon Cutler fight for the ball in the game between Cities and Rivers at the weekend.
Photo: Rodney Praed