

SPORT

BASKETBALL

SILVER MUSCAT

Key matches before the break

Teams fighting for a place in the play-offs, will try to finish the year on a good note with the two matches programmed for tomorrow afternoon. The main attraction sees Depiro Eden Leisure taking on Pembroke while Hibernians cross swords with Qormi Express Trailers. This will be the last programme before the festive break with Mosta GinFresh already on holiday. With Siggiewi Mid-Med involved in a 'not too difficult' assignment against St George's, Depiro Eden Leisure and Pembroke clash to remain in contact with the leaders. Both teams have injury problems but while Pembroke, in all

probability, will present their best possible formation, Depiro will again be without N. Farrugia and A. Spiteri. Much will depend on the two foreigners. Hibernians and Qormi Express Trailers will follow with both teams needing a victory to remain in touch with the top places. A defeat will reduce their chances for the play-offs. Both teams are inconsistent in their play with Hibs likely to suffer in the late stages of the game. Hamrun Liberty Jaxa are involved in a delicate assignment against Floriana whose morale is high after two consecutive victories. Hamrun must win to keep their hopes alive for a place in the final play-offs.

Fiat Luxol, after their dismal performance against Siggiewi, have the opportunity to return to victory when they take on winless Mellicha Valori/Peacock. It will take Mellicha more than a super effort to strike a surprise in this match. The women's league returns after a week long absence with the Birkirkara-Luxol Panasonic match being the main attraction. Luxol will be parading a Russian girl who played for them four years ago. Birkirkara face an uphill struggle. Pembroke and challengers Hibs have easy assignments against Sky Travel and Mosta while Depiro should have no problems against Gozo Reebok.

MARTIAL ARTS

Positive result for Ninja team

Late last month, a group of six Maltese Ninjutsu students travelled to London to be present for celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the Bujinkan Budojo London group and also to participate in a seminar organised for the same occasion. During this seminar the Maltese group trained in several Ninjutsu skills, namely Shindon Fudu Ryu

(kick-boxing), Jutaijutsu (throws and locks) and others. The locals were also given the chance to be represented in the BBD annual general meeting. Moreover, Marvic Peregin was promoted instructor. Peregin is looking forward to open a Ninjutsu club in the northern part of Malta also with the help of his teacher Alfred Galea.

Several black belts from all over Europe are expected to visit Malta early next year. One of these experts is Brian Whitaker who is black belt (4th Dan) and who is known as one of the best teachers in this particular martial art. All those interested, who must be over 14 years of age, may contact the BBD Malta on 0974837.

TENNIS

Playcraft Trophies tournament

Tomorrow's fixtures at the VLTC: Ladies singles: 2.30 p.m. K. Auchi v P. Attard or V. Licari. Men's singles Division II: 2.30 p.m. W. Baxindale v Jes. Attard. Men's singles qualifying round: 3.30 p.m. Z. Ginic v E. Genius or M. Iorales, R. Bezzina v R. Cardona. 3.30 p.m. A. Cappello v M. Cutajar. Men's doubles: 2.30 p.m. J. Mella/J. Falzon v V. Caruana/P. Pule. 3.30 p.m. J. Prokic/J. Pace/ardon v L. Scicluna/C. Caruana, A. Attard/R. Friggieri v J. Pace/L.

Genius. 4.30 p.m. T. Pule/C. Bartolo v G. Cefai/R. Cardona. Ladies doubles: 2.30 p.m. L. Saliba/P. Muscat v D. Muscat/R. Thomas. Mixed veterans: 2.30 p.m. V. Pule/M. Fenech v F. Oliva/A. Buhagiar, P. Borg Sillato/M.B. Sillato v O. Tanti/E. Cassar. 3.30 p.m. J. Sciberras/L. Attard v J. Carabott/L. Carabott. 4.30 p.m. J. Falzon/B. Fenech v R. Mintoff/M. Mintoff, M. Cachia/M. Muscat v R. Bezzina/R. Falzon, P. Borg/D. Borg v M.

Morales/M. Licari. Boys singles under 12: 12 p.m. L. Genuis v K. Carabott or R. Patissier. Boys singles under 14: 5.30 p.m. M. Camilleri v L. Bonello or A. Maffi Milet, L. Genuis v M. Debono or R. Mintoff. Boys singles under 18: 12 p.m. S. Mamo v M. Camilleri. Girls singles under 14: 12 p.m. C. Vassallo v T. Camilleri, S. Pace v E. Muscat. 1.30 p.m. R. Dimech v F. Sciberras.

Birkirkara FC youth nursery festival

For the sixth year in a row the Birkirkara youth nursery will be holding the U-13 Christmas Football Festival at the Infetti training centre. The qualifying rounds of the tournament will be played between Box-

ing Day and December 28. The final will be staged on Monday, December 30. The opening ceremony takes place at the Infetti ground following a Mass at the Santa Maria church at 9 a.m.

Eight teams, which were divided into two groups, will be taking part. Group A is composed of St Andrew's, Birkirkara, Rabat and San Gwann. Group B is made up of Mosta, Hamrun, Sliema and Sta Venera.

WEEKEND SPORT

TODAY

SOCCER
HIBS GROUND: Coca-Cola Premier League 12.45 p.m. Floriana v. Naxxar Lions; 2.45 p.m. Hamrun Spartans v. Rabat Ajax.
PACE GRASSO: Rothmans Division III 12.45 p.m. Senglea Athletic v. Sta Venera; 2.45 p.m. St Andrew's v. Zejtun Corinthians.
ST PAUL'S BAY: Melita Cable U-21 12.45 p.m. Qormi v. Balzan Youths; 2.35 p.m. Sirens v. Melita.
MARSAXLOKK: Youth League 12.45 p.m. Marsaxlokk v. Zebbug Rangers; 2.35 p.m. Birzebbuga v. Fgura Utd.
JUNIOR COLLEGE: Youth League 12.45 p.m. St Patrick v. Ghaxaq; 2.35 p.m. Valletta v. Pieta Hotspur.
DINGLI: Youth League 12.45 p.m. Marsa v. Tarxien Rainbows; 2.35 p.m. Mellicha v. Dingli Swallows.
MOSTA: Youth League 12.45 p.m. Mosta v. Zurrieq; 2.35 p.m. San Gwann v. St George's.
SANNAT: GFA Sprite Division Two 12.30 p.m. Kerzem Ajax v. St Lawrence Spurs; 2.30 p.m. Oratory Youths v. Zebbug Rovers.
SIGGIEWI: YFA U-16 12.30 p.m. Fgura Utd v. Kirkop Utd; 2 p.m. Naxxar Lions v. Melita. U-14 3.30 p.m. Siggiewi v. Ghaxaq.
ZEBBÜG: YFA U-16 12.30 p.m. St Andrew's v. Paola Hibs. U-14 2 p.m. Attard v. St George's; 3.30 p.m. Melita v. Tarxien Rainbows.
JUNIOR LYCEUM: MAFA leagues 1 p.m. Msida Classics v. Dingli SY; 2.25 p.m. Balzan YL v. Tal-Qroqq V.

BASKETBALL
TA' QALI: Girls U-16 8.45 a.m. Rabat Depiro v. Mellicha; Boys U-16 10.15 a.m. Footwork v. Siggiewi Mid-Med; 11.45 a.m. Pembroke v. Hamrun LBT; Women's league 1.30 p.m. Rabat Depiro v. Gozo Reebok; Men's league 3.15 p.m. Floriana v. Hamrun LJ; 5 p.m. Mellicha v. Fiat Luxol.

SWIMMING
TAL-QROQQ: Age-group time trials. First event at 4 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL
CORRADINO: Women's Division II 3 p.m. Fleur de Lys MBT v. Police. Men's Division II 4.30 p.m. AS Kerygma v. St Aloysius.

HOCKEY
CORRADINO: Blue Label National League 3 p.m. Wella v. Pasta P. Grejimpads.

Tomorrow

SOCCER
TA' QALI: Coca Cola Premier League 2 p.m. Sliema W. v. Hibernians; 4 p.m. Valletta v. Birkirkara.
TEDESCO GROUND: Rothmans Division One 12.45 p.m. Ghaxaq v. Sta Lucija; 2.45 p.m. Mellicha v. Dingli Swallows.

PACE GRASSO: Rothmans Division Two 10.30 a.m. Gzira Utd v. St George's. Division Three 12.45 p.m. Kirkop Utd v. Msida SJ; 2.45 p.m. Attard v. Ta' Xbiex.
JUNIOR COLLEGE: Youth League 8.30 a.m. Lija Athletic v. Floriana; Melita Cable U-21 10.20 a.m. Pieta H. v. Hamrun Spartans.
MOSTA: Melita Cable U-21 12.45 p.m. Mosta v. Zurrieq. Youth league 2.35 p.m. Birzebbuga v. Melita.
SIGGIEWI: Youth League 12.45 p.m. St Andrew's v. Fgura Utd; Melita Cable U-21 2.35 p.m. Gudja Utd v. Siggiewi.
GOZO STADIUM: GFA Air Malta Division One 10.30 a.m. SK Victoria W. v. Qala SJ; 2.30 p.m. Munxar Falcons v. Xewkija Tigers. MFA Division II 12.30 p.m. Gozo FC v. Mqabba.
SANNAT: YFA U-14 8.30 a.m. Gozo v. Sta Lucija.
DINGLI: YFA U-16 Gzira Utd v. Sta Venera; 10 a.m. Pieta H. v. Birkirkara. U-14 11.30 a.m. Luqa SA v. Dingli S.
QORMI: YFA U-16 8.30 a.m. Balzan v. Zurrieq; U-14 10 a.m. Birkirkara v. Qormi; 11.30 a.m. St Andrew's v. Vittoriosa Stars.
JUNIOR LYCEUM: MAFA Leagues 8.15 a.m. Paola Wolves v. Marsa WS; 9.40 a.m. Birzebbuga Tigers v. Valletta SP; 11 a.m. Burmarrad AFC v. Hamrun Samra; 1 p.m. Floriana Ajax v. San Gwann; 2.25 p.m. Fleur de Lys CFK v. Fgura Rangers.
TAL-QROQQ: GIDA Christmas Cup semi-finals 8.30 a.m. Club 33 v. SASC; 9.45 a.m. Birriapa v. University.
ST JOSEPH: IASC Division One 8.30 a.m. Birkirkara SJ v. Qormi YB; 9.45 a.m. Hamrun Liberty v. Cospicua ST; 11 a.m. Paola AFC v. Senglea Youngsters.
NICHOLL GROUND: Swan Christmas Cup 3/4 playoff at 9 a.m. and final at 10.15 a.m.

VOLLEYBALL
CORRADINO: Women's Division I Megabyte v. Gozo. 4.30 p.m. Men's Division I University Xerox v. Gozo.

NETBALL
MARSA: Mid-Med mini-league 9 a.m. Rational NC v. Coolee Light; 10.30 a.m. Paper Bows v. Mid-Med A; Rational v. Minolta.

HOCKEY
CORRADINO: Blue Label national league 9 a.m. Siemens N. Young Boys v. Rabat D. Vitality's; 10.30 a.m. Canada Dry P. v. Kia Motors.

BASKETBALL
GOZO: Men's U-19 10 a.m. Gozo v. Rabat Depiro.
TA' QALI: Women's league 9 a.m. Mosta Elkron v. Hibernians; 10.45 a.m. Birkirkara v. Luxol Panasonic; 1 p.m. Sky Travel v. Assitalia Pembroke; Men's league 2.45 p.m. Rabat Depiro EL v. Pembroke; 4.30 p.m. Hibernians v. E. Trailers Qormi.



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