



No Fear Secret to National Water Polo Title



Pictured behind Michael Itua are coach Paula Chandler and team mates: Matthew Martin, John Harrison, Joseph Deighan, Neo-Ivanovic Brown, Tomaz Infante Addie, Malachy Byrne, James Pennington, Andres Reyes Tascon, William Wedgewood, Peter Barnard, Ehi Itua and Jamie Foster Grimes.

“No fear’ was the secret to St. Ambrose College’s under 15 water polo National Schools’ Plate Championship success according to captain Michael Itua.

“There are no stars, no one is better than anyone else, we play as a team and we play with no fear” were his inspirational words after raising the Hale Barns’ Catholic Grammar Schools’ first ever national water polo title.

Only five years since the opening of the state of the art new school on Wicker Lane with its fantastic 25 metre pool Ambrose are making waves on the national circuit.

At the round robin finals in Northampton, Ambrose first beat the hosts 5-3, then drew with the pre tournament favourites City of London 5-5, beat King Edward’s School Birmingham 6-1 before needing to win with superior goal difference they tore apart St Edward’s from Merseyside 13-2.

Coach Paula Chandler, who trains the team with Theo Nousios, the City of Manchester head coach and Great Britain senior ladies coach, said: “The boys have the opportunity to train five times a week at school and they all use their lunch times to either swim or play water polo. We rotate the side with only seven players ever in the water at one time but a constant flow of substitutes, so it truly is a squad game.”

Paula added: “The partnership between home, club and school is very important. Winger Michael Itua, goalkeeper Malachy Byrne, defender John Harrison and wing Matthew Martin all play for City of Manchester Water Polo Club, who develop further their skills and fitness and, of course, we couldn’t perform to this level without the hugely supportive Mums and Dads.” .