

# Souths crush solid Stingers

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THEY had the brawn but not the basics, coach Ivan Pearce proclaimed after his Stingers muscled up against Souths but failed to march to their first win in a 4-0 drowning.

Pearce's pack remains winless after 15 rounds of the Cairns Hockey Association's classic women's league competition following Saturday night's loss.

Without captain Cath Reiha (hamstring) and midfielder Jess Watson (Australian school girl duty), Pearce's problems were compounded with Rachelle Reason and Jessica Zache carrying injuries into the game.

The under-strength side was always facing a mountainous mission taking on a team jostling for top spot on the ladder and Pearce never saw a blowout ensuing.

"Souths are a very strong side and deserve a win but I don't think the score line reflected the game," he said.

The landslide win was triggered in the 14th minute after Patrice Butler bagged Souths' first goal to have the team 1-0 heading into half time.

Nikki Betts got Souths' second goal in the 35th minute before Thea Lazarus and Chrissy Benn had the game sewn up at 4-0 by the 55th minute. Pearce, who is yet to deliver a victory speech, remained positive during a post-match interview, saying his side had finally gained the muscle needed to compete.

"We've muscled up to our opponents who have pushed us around and knocked us off the ball in

## RESULTS

**Women:** Saints 6 (Shannon Bain 2, Kathleen Messer 2, Alisha Kempin, Ashleigh Roberts) d Brothers 1 (Lea Fasiolo).

Souths 4 (Nikki Betts, Patrice Butler, Thea Lazarus, Chrissy Benn) d Trinity Stingers 0.

### Ladder

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Saints	15	11	2	2	53	18	35
Souths	15	9	3	3	35	19	30
Brothers	15	6	7	2	24	31	16
Stingers	15	0	14	1	8	52	1

**Men:** Brothers 2 (Jack Duncan, Byron Jones) Saints 2 (Peter Rowe).

Trinity Stingers 5 (Tony Flynn 3, Nathan Gill 2), Souths 5 (Gary Tippet 3, Mason Bombardieri, Todd Gill).

### Ladder

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Saints	15	10	1	4	46	24	34
Souths	15	5	5	5	40	41	20
Brothers	15	4	8	3	24	34	15
Stingers	15	4	9	2	31	42	14

the last few weeks," he said.

But Pearce's praise was met with equal disappointment at his team's inability to execute the basic skills.

"Turnovers from intercepts and bad passes have been our biggest killer this year," he lamented.

"If we can get that out of our game we'll make life a lot easier."

In the other game on Saturday night, Saints beat Brothers 6-1.

The win further cements Saints at top spot on the ladder in front of Souths.

Shannon Bain and Kathleen Messer both scored two goals each and Alisha Kempin and Ashleigh Roberts managed to get their names on the scorers' list.

Lea Fasiolo scored Brothers' only goal.



**No give:** Chrissy Betts (Souths) has to stretch out fully in a one-handed attempt to stop Izzy Gualtieri (Stingers) in Saturday night's Classic League hockey action. Picture: MIKE WATT