



MEDIA RELEASE

HOCKEY NEW ZEALAND INC.

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Mens squad picked with World Cup on Horizon

One new face and one returning help make up the eighteen strong Vantage Black Sticks men’s squad for the 2023 FIH World Cup in India next month.

Defensive midfielder Nick Ross, who has won 138 caps, will make his return to the side after taking a break in 2022. Ross returns off the back of leading Otago to the National Hockey Championship, for the first time, in September.

On the other end of the spectrum 19 year old Charlie Morrison, a defender, will make his debut for the senior side in India after receiving news of his selection earlier this week while in Canberra for the Junior Black Sticks Trans-Tasman series.

Head Coach Greg Nicol said it’s great to be able to bring in experience along with exciting new talent.

“The defensive end is obviously something we’ve been working on and so to have the experience of Nick available for selection, as well as a young talent in Charlie, is really exciting.

“Overall, this is a strong side that is capable of taking on any team - we’ve got a really good mix of experience and young players, ready to make an impact, all over the pitch.”

Ross is similarly excited to make his return to the black singlet and said, “having not played since the Tokyo Olympics I’m really looking forward to joining the team again and hope to bring some value to the group.

“This is a talented side and one I’m really keen to be a part of. I think we have a huge opportunity at this World Cup to achieve something special, and I know the guys are relishing the prospect of some of the big match-ups we’ll encounter throughout the tournament.”

The Vantage Black Sticks opening pool match is on January 14 at 8.30pm NZT against Chile. They also face the Netherlands January 16 and Malaysia January 19. All games will be broadcast live on Spark Sport.

Squad: Dom Dixon, Leon Hayward, Blair Tarrant, Dane Lett, Nic Woods ©, Charlie Morrison*, Nick Ross, Simon Yorston, Kane Russell, Aidan Sarikaya, Hayden Phillips, Sean Findlay, Joe Morrison, Kim Kingstone, Sam Lane, Jake Smith, Sam Hiha, Simon Child | Travelling reserves: Connor Greentree, David Brydon.

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