



Bialik's athletes with their four new trophies.

Bialik break sport records

DANIEL SHANDLER

BIALIK College created history when four senior teams – girls' tennis, girls' football, boys' hockey and boys' volleyball – all won their respective grand finals.

“Our sporting program has made significant improvements over the past two years in a variety of areas,” Head of the Sports Department Stefan DeFranchesci told *The AJN*.

After dominating the boys' volleyball division for a number of years, Bialik continued its good form with a three set to love defeat of Eltham. The boys came out firing, taking the first set 25-17 before a small scare in the second set saw the Bialik side come back, led by Jeremy Bassat and

win 29-27 before taking the match and the premiership trophy 25-12.

The girls' tennis team were too strong for Donvale, with Meytar Givoni the stand out, leading Bialik to a five rubbers to three victory.

The girls' football team came back from a half-time one goal deficit to defeat Kilvington 2-1. A coaching masterstroke from DeFranchesci saw sisters Lily and Cara Davies combine to score the two goals. Natasha Mastellone was “absolute gold as she played the best game of the season” in the decider, DeFranchesci said.

The fourth grand final went down to the wire as the boys' hockey finished 1-1, the goal coming courtesy of Jake Carp, sending the game into overtime.

Bialik went on to score a winning goal in overtime but for a controversial umpire decision disallowing what seemed to be the outright-championship winning score.

With a penalty shoot out abolished by the governing Eastern Independent Schools of Melbourne a few years ago, Bialik and Plenty Valley took part in a ‘shared premiership’.

DeFranchesci paid homage to his staff who work tirelessly to ensure the sporting standard at the school is continually being raised.

“Sport staff regularly have additional training sessions to solidify game plans, increase skill level and the students' determination to improve has developed a culture that is flowing through to the younger year levels.”