



NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YOUTH GIRLS

MATCH REPORT

NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YG 12 6.7 (43) vs PITTWATER TIGERS 3.2 (20)
ROUND 6 - SUNDAY 21 MAY 2023
MIKE KENNY OVAL, CHERRYBROOK



Keen readers of last week's match report would remember a sense of anticipation at the end of the Round 5 write-up. "We'll look forward to an opportunity to even up the ledger later in the season."

We didn't actually mean the next weekend: we thought we'd be having a sleep-in, just like all the other Lightning players and parents. But as they say, sometimes opportunity knocks. And other times, the competition gets re-divisionalised and your Round 6 bye gets cancelled, and you're standing in the sun at Mike Kenny Oval getting ready for a rematch against the formidable Pittwater Tigers!

The Tigers arrived a few short of their squad from the nail-biting North Narrabeen encounter due to illness. To keep the competition even, the Lightning were able to supply an extra player for our opponents: thanks to Evie, Louise, Ellen and Jaimee who donned the yellow and black for a quarter each and represented our team so well.

And from the opening siren, these two teams who had battled so fiercely at the beaches seemed to be again lining up for a point-for-point rematch. At the end of the first quarter the scores were even. Ominously even. Just a goal and two behinds apiece.

But then the Lightning struck. Inspired, driven, or just plain "fired up" - the Lightning broke out and took control. Quick goals started to pile up on the Bolts' side of the scoreboard: the results of kick-and-chase, going wide, finding grass.





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By halftime, the Lightning had put together a comfortable lead. Coach Chloe led the half-time chat, and reflected on the game so far. Keep at it, she encouraged the team - keep going forward, keep finding your player, and hang back to be within a kick when the ball is on the move.

The strategy kept paying dividends. More scoring shots from the Lightning, more tight defence kept the Tigers scoreless for the third quarter. And then in the final break, an opportunity to mix things up, try a few different playing approaches, and to hang on for a comfortable 23-point win.

It might've felt like Groundhog Day at the start, but the final result was anything but. Thanks to the Tigers for making the trip to Cherrybrook for this unusual rematch, and well done Lightning!



Scores:

Q1: NWL 1.2 (8) v Tigers 1.2 (8)

Q2: NWL 4.4 (28) v Tigers 1.2 (8)

Q3: NWL 5.6 (36) v Tigers 1.2 (8)

FINAL: NWL 6.7 (43) d Tigers 3.2 (20)

Goals: Annie 3, Browney 2, Shiori

Match report: Shane McLeod

Photos: Ben Marosszeky, Shane McLeod

