



NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YOUTH GIRLS

MATCH REPORT

NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YG12 4.3 (27) d CANADA BAY CANNONS 3.1 (19)
ROUND 7 - SUNDAY 28 MAY 2023
ERN HOLMES OVAL, PENNANT HILLS

Lightning parents of a certain vintage might know of a TV show from the 1980s called The A-Team, a group of rag-tag can-do action heroes led by a boss called Hannibal who was known to chuckle at the end of an episode with a cigar in hand and utter his catchphrase: "I love it when a plan comes together."

Those same Lightning parents might have seen a certain A-Team aura around the shoulders of Coach Daniel at the end of Sunday's match against Canada Bay. He didn't quite have a cigar chomping from the corner of his mouth, but there was a certain satisfaction on his face as he looked back over the grass of Ern Holmes Oval, squinting towards the fulltime scoreboard and taking in the awesome result: a victory that was the result a never-say-die attitude and the sort of grit and determination that would almost make for the plotline from an A-Team episode.



The result, it must be remembered, wasn't a given. Ten minutes in, and you might have been forgiven for feeling a little concerned. The Cannons had blasted their way onto the scoreboard with three quick goals, a speedy turn of play, and buckets of enthusiasm in their first matchup against the Lightning in the 12s Blue competition.

But this band of can-do Lightning players wasn't going to let that be the end of the story. The Cannons soon found themselves outgunned, outmanned, out-thought and out-planned (with apologies to Lin-Manuel Miranda). The Lightning worked out how to keep that Canada Bay enthusiasm bottled up; and they started inching their way back up the scoreboard.

Canada Bay had been moving fast and showing plenty of verve. But the Lightning – fit, fast and ferocious – were putting together all those drills from training and going at it harder.



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By the end of the third quarter the Lightning had consigned that early blast from the Cannons to history and with the support of Coach Daniel were ready with a strike of their own. Switching things up and putting the focus forward meant a Lightning team primed for a breakout: one goal put them within striking distance; a second put them a smidge in front; a third goal put the result beyond doubt.

Afterwards, the Bolts gathered in the rooms at Ern Holmes for an especially joyous version of the team song, reflecting the celebratory mood after such a great team result. A comeback win to be proud of, against a side that's new to our competition and shows plenty of strength and character of their own. The next few weeks are going to be an interesting journey!

Score:

Q1 NWL 0.1 (1) v Canada Bay 3.0 (18)

Q2 NWL 1.2 (8) v Canada Bay 3.0 (18)

Q3: NWL 1.2 (8) v Canada Bay 3.1 (19)

FINAL: NWL 4.3 (27) d Canada Bay 3.1 (19)

Goals: Annie 2, Browney, Gemma

Report by: Shane McLeod

