



NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YOUTH GIRLS

MATCH REPORT

NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YG12 4.6 (30) d FOREST LIONS 3.4 (22)
ROUND 9 - SUNDAY 18 JUNE 2023
ERN HOLMES OVAL, PENNANT HILLS

Two armies descended on Pennant Hills Park around 7am on Sunday morning. One was a battalion of parents, armed with marquees, sponsor flags and goal post padding, accessories to set up for a big day of footy at the Ern. The other was a squadron of YG12s players, decked out in oodles and windcheaters and looked a little chilled by the early start. One parent noted that they'd had to get up earlier than they do for work to make it to this Round 9 game! Spare a thought for the Forest Lions who'd had to come from their side of town to get here...



The Lions are small in number but big in their enthusiasm for footy. With a big Lightning squad in attendance, we had Bolts to share: so three of our players each quarter donned Lions jerseys and lined up against their teammates - making this an especially competitive contest. The feedback from our Forest foes was appreciative - a wonderful compliment for the spirit and determination our players showed when they joined their opposition. Thanks to everyone involved in the swaps.



The game itself: would it be fair to say it started a little tentatively? Maybe it was the early hour. The shadows cast across the turf? The slippery damp conditions underfoot? It didn't quite feel like everyone was firing on all cylinders although the genteel pace of things probably worked to the Lightning's favour as they put the first major score on the board and held Forest to only a behind.



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The second quarter showed that things can change quickly. The Lions worked hard to get back into the game, scoring a goal and putting the brakes on the Lightning's opportunities. Having managed only to squeeze through a few behinds in response, the Lightning looked set to go into the halftime break with just that clutch of points as the margin - thankfully a second goal right on the siren made for a slightly more comfortable sight on the scoreboard.

Some frank and honest halftime chats from coaches Daniel and Chloe provided the motivation for the team heading into the third quarter. While it's not necessarily something that shows on the scoreboard, the three Fs were emerging from the morning doldrums and some fast, fit and ferocious play had the Lightning back confidently in the game. In the final quarter, Forest pushed hard again, inching their way back up the board before the Lightning put the result beyond doubt with a fourth goal.

The slippery conditions revealed some areas where the Lightning can focus in training ahead: 'contested ground balls' was the text message from Coach to Manager as a reminder for what we'll be spending time on at Cherrybrook on Wednesday night. But for the YG12s this Sunday outing at Ern Homes was a good result played with grit - and generosity.

Score:

Q1: NWL 1.2 (8) v Forest 0.1 (1)

Q2: NWL 2.6 (18) v Forest 1.1 (7)

Q3: NWL 3.6 (24) v Forest 2.1 (13)

FINAL: NWL 4.6 (30) d Forest Lions 3.4 (22)

Goals: Browney 2, Evie 1, Annabel 1

Report by: Shane McLeod

