



# NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YOUTH GIRLS

## MATCH REPORT

NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YG10 RED (0) vs BALGOWLAH (0)  
ROUND 10 - SUNDAY 25 MAY 2023  
ERN HOLMES OVAL

A glorious day for football at Ern Holmes, as our U10 Red girls took on the Balgowlah Suns – a bit different to when we first played them earlier in the season in horrendously cold and wet condition. As expected, Balgowlah proved to be tough, fair opponents and a team on the rise full of first year players, which pushed our girls across the 4 quarters.

Balgowlah only had 11 players, so we provided them with players to even out the contest – a big thank you to the 4 girls who played a quarter each for Balgowlah – Pippa, Alanna, Nya (after losing paper, scissors, rock to Willow!) & GG!

Our team has made a habit of getting away to fairly quick starts to games and this game was no different with 3 goal kicking in the first quarter. Across the game, the team continued to display a number of things that we have been working on including communication and positioning on field (without being prompted) and second efforts. It also was a game where there were no real stand outs – all of the 14 girls contributed in very much a team performance, which made best & fairest votes rather challenging!

The Balgowlah coach, summed things up really nicely at the end of the game, when she said to our girls how impressed she was with our team (and club) – noting whilst a strong, capable team, that our girls play fairly and within the rules. This sums up what we are aiming for in our squad. All of the girls should be very proud of themselves!

Some key highlights of the match though were:

- Elsie's positioning especially in forward line has come along in leaps and bounds. Her support play in this game was excellent.
- Pippa remained hungry for the ball as always. She seems to have something for playing against this side after kicking 2 quick goals against them in our first game, there were a number of occasions where I thought we were in for a repeat performance.
- Nya positioned herself brilliantly in the midfield and forward line and produced some strong clearances moving the ball well up the ground.



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- Isabelle had a very strong game, where it was obvious she has become very aware of where to position herself. She managed to sniff out the ball on a few occasions in close contested situations and finished with a goal as well.
- Zahra – a great for our team from the Blue team and always a challenge playing with different teammates. She did exceptionally well with her follow-up work and kicked a great goal.
- Ash was once again influential in the middle of the ground with great run and possession gathering work. She did well as she was made to work hard for a sustained period of time in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter in the forward line, with repeat defensive efforts from kickouts as we just couldn't find goal time after time.
- GG only knows one way – gather, turn to goal, run straight and hard and kick to goal! Finished with 2 goals – one for us and one nearly on the fulltime siren playing for Balgowlah. Whilst it may not be noticeable to everyone, Georgia's kicking has improved considerably in quality in recent weeks – more front on action, better ball drop and follow through. Great work.
- Kira – it was obvious that Kira had missed a few weeks of footy and couldn't have been more keen to get back amongst things. Some great possessions and brilliant tackles – none better than her tackle in the defensive zone in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. An impressive effort from Kira earning her Player of the Match!
- Willow played with some very strong hands today. Her run forward onto the ball was excellent – something that again has been worked on such that the girls aren't as flat-footed at the contest.
- Nathalie – you can tell she has been working very hard on her kicking. Some great kicks across the game and summed up with a great long-range goal from set shot!
- Georgia B continues to be a quiet achiever in this team. Her positioning and influence on the ball from ball ups and other contested possession situations was again excellent.
- Maddie had yet another well-rounded game across 4 quarters in all aspects. The most pleasing thing to observe with Maddie is how she thinks about the game – when to position, what might happen next. It really has taken her game up a notch recently.
- Captain Lucy – loved the opportunity to be captain today. Given the extra task of leading from the front and ensuring the girls were talking. Not an easy task and handled very well!
- Alanna – we know that Alanna has some strong hands and doesn't shy away from a tackle either. In this game, it was her kicking which showed as a real strength. Again someone who has improved considerably in this area.

Thank you again to all the parents and supporters who came out to watch and help in all the many and varied ways! Special thanks to Almitra for her photos below.

**Official score:** NWL RED 0.0.0 drew with BALGOWLAH SUNS 0.0.0



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**Goals:** Nya 1.1.7; Isabelle 1.0.6; Zahra 1.0.6; Georgia G 1.0.6 (plus 1.0.6 for Balgowlah); Nathalie 1.0.6; Lucy 1.0.6; Ash 0.4.4; Maddie 0.1.1

Report by: Brendan Limbrey

Photos below.





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