



NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YOUTH GIRLS

MATCH REPORT

**NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YG12 7.3 (45) d LANE COVE CATS 2.2 (14)
ROUND 11 - SUNDAY 16 JULY 2023
BLACKMAN OVAL, LANE COVE WEST**

Round 11 and the schedule had the Northwest Lightning 12s fixed with a sense of trepidation for a catchup with the elusive Lane Cove Cats at Blackman Oval.

Trepidation - because veterans of 2022 might remember the Cats as the team who ended our Blues' finals campaign last August. And elusive - because thanks to the "quirky" draw, this Round 11 clash is the first (and only) time during the 2023 season that we'll see them.

In short, while it had been "a while" since we'd last seen the Cats, we weren't entirely sure what to expect. And their Round 10 result - a strong win over Pittwater - suggested a team with plenty of talent emerging late in the season.

From the first bounce it was tight. It was the Lightning first on the board (thanks to an oh-so-close kick for first-timer Lana) but the scoreboard didn't get too far away from either side. At times the Lightning, despite the deep resources on the bench, were left a little flat-footed as the Cats kept on the pressure with some solid contests, rock-solid defence and confident chasing to push the scores a goal in Lane Cove's favour at the end of the first half.

At the long break, coach Chloe rallied the troops: reminding everyone of the Lightning's signature three Fs, she exhorted the squad to focus on the final of them: ferocious. And with those extra numbers in hand on the bench, the Lightning could afford to run themselves ragged, knowing there was a well-rested sideline ready to step in.



So, the Lightning reset and regrouped. The focus on ferocious kicked in, locking down the defence, putting the handbrake on Lane Cove's scoring opportunities, and edging the scores back to near-level-pegging by the final change. Which is when it all came together: the Lightning were able to put together a flurry of fourth-quarter footy, a clutch of quick goals from great across-the-ground teamwork to put the result beyond doubt.



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Congrats this week to Lana, appearing in her first game for the Lightning after a determined training apprenticeship! And thanks to our opposition Lane Cove for putting on a great game of footy.

Score:

Q1: NWL 1.1 (7) v Lane Cove 0.0 (0)

Q2: NWL 1.1 (7) v Lane Cove 2.1 (13)

Q3: NWL 2.1 (13) v Lane Cove 2.2 (14)

Final: NWL 7.3 (45) v Lane Cove 2.2 (14)

Goals: Annabel 3, Browney 2, Evie 1, Luella 1

Photos: Jo Chalker, Shane McLeod

