



NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YOUTH GIRLS

MATCH REPORT

NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YG9 RED V BLUE
ROUND 3 - SUNDAY 28 APRIL 2024
ROFE PARK, HORNSBY HEIGHTS

Summary of Game

Coaches Brendan and Alicia warmed up both teams as the girls got ready for their second match of the season. It was a beautiful day at the home of football - Rofe Park and the stage was set for a great clash between the two Lightning sides. I've seen quite a few intra-club matches over my time as a parent at the Eagles and they can go one of two ways. Either a friendly kick around or a fearsome battle.. I was keen to see how this one was going to play out!



Numbers were down due to the ANZAC Day public holiday and the school holidays still being on. Both teams had 6 players with Abigail kindly filling in for the Blue side. The small number of players on the field would ensure an open contest and there would be no hiding out there with all players needing to be involved. Apologies in advance if I missed anyone or made an error with who did what. The frantic nature of the game and not knowing the girls too well made it hard to keep on top of things.



Play was underway and the Reds were first to strike with the opening goal. Myah was the initial scorer but not before some great clearance work from Maddie and Josephine in the mids. The Blues hit back almost immediately with a great goal from Estella and another from Juliet. The 1st quarter scorefest continued, this time from Myah and Juliet again for either team and Evie got another for the Reds. A classy interchange of handpassing saw another 6 pointer to the Reds with the two Reds forwards proving quite a dynamic duo. Following this, a handy

clearing kick from Hannah was fielded by Iris, however, she was caught holding the ball by the two Red midfielders in Charlotte D and Josephine. The momentum switched quickly though, with Blue



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goals - one from Juliet and one from Estella. The last minutes of the quarter was a so far rare period of non-scoring with a ball-up or two and some tackling, with Iris being a standout for the Blues in the middle with her defence.

After a quick drink, the 2nd quarter started and Juliet got the scoring going again with a major for the Blues. A holding the ball call gave the Blues a free kick which put Iris in the clear who threw in a stunning bounce on the run only to be wrapped up by Charlotte D and Evie. Charlotte E broke the short scoring



drought in the match with a runaway goal for the Blues. Maddie L was the next to score, she was rewarded for a great tackle she had made briefly before. Another notable play in this action-packed quarter came from Maddie L who booted a useful clearing kick after a free that was fielded by Josphine who scored, she picked up another almost immediately after. The 2nd quarter was a really good one overall with a lot of different skills on display from all the girls.

We were straight back into it in the 3rd quarter and Charlotte E wasted no time in getting the scoreboard ticking over again after some impressive lead-up work in the middle. The fine play continued with a stunning mark from Evie getting the Reds on their way downfield. After this though, the quarter turned into a bit of a battle with both sets of defenders repelling attacking raids and the ball getting locked up in the middle. Eventually, we had a goal from Charlotte E ensuring the goal umpires continued their Sunday morning workout. The midfield action was possibly the highlight of this quarter though with a fantastic tackle from Evie that had the crowd on their feet. Hannah, who was the recipient of the grassing hit, continued on bravely and made some important plays for the Blue side.

The competitive play continued in the final quarter with a stack of tackles being made. Hannah scored the first goal of the term and this was quickly followed by one from Evie from the Reds. Iris from the Blues grabbed one for herself after a huge midfield clearance from Juliet. The run of goals was truly on as Hannah nabbed one and Charlotte E too after a thoughtful handpass from Juliet. Charlotte D from the Reds continued to be very busy in the middle, giving her forwards some good opportunities. Evie made the most of this by nailing a 6 pointer. In defence, Abigail was doing a great job but despite this Myah slotted a fantastic goal from a distance.

After a tough and hot contest, the final siren finally blew. Amazingly the game had ended in a draw, with the scorers relaying the incredible news that both teams had scored 12 goals and 1 behind each! It really was a fitting scoreline for such an even clash between the two Lightning sides. As someone who hasn't seen a lot of the girls play this year, it really struck me how much they'd improved from the trial match I saw about a month ago. There were a lot more skills being used in this match and being used well too, the coaches are obviously doing a brilliant job.



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The two teams that had just gone to battle joined together for an enthusiastic team song. This ended a great morning perfectly!

Reds Best and Fairest - Evie

Blues Best and Fairest – Juliet

Report by: Greg Allan