



NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YOUTH GIRLS

MATCH REPORT

NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YG9 RED v YG9 BLUE
ROUND 05 – FRIDAY 10 MAY 2024
MIKE KENNY OVAL, CHERRYBROOK

Summary of Game – by Greg Allan

Reporting on my second intra-club battle in 2 weeks, I was beginning to wonder if the great friendships that the girls were starting to build would be finished before they started! Particularly as this was a Friday night clash. There's nothing like dark skies, cold air and floodlit fields to bring about some 'white line fever' and a bit of 'blood in the nostrils'. I'm joking of course.... The spirit and enthusiasm is always first class at the Lightning!

Coaches Brendan and Nikki put the girls through their pre-game routine before both teams got to run through a super impressive Northwest Lightning banner, complete with red, blue and yellow streamers. I wonder if we can steal this for Rofe? Unfortunately for me, I managed to miss almost all of the first quarter. An impromptu stint at the barbecue and then the canteen took me away from the action. Not ideal or planned but luckily I had some great note takers in Nicole and Sam to keep me informed.





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Before I get into the match, I apologise once again if I've missed periods of play or got the girls' names wrong. I was hoping to have a better grasp of things this time around but the numbers were even harder to see in the dark so there's some guesswork involved. From what I can gather from the story told to me, the first quarter was a bit of a goal-fest! Juliet A grabbed a fistful of goals and made a bit of a mess of the scoreboard but there were plenty of other highlights. This included Evie making a great run in the middle together with a well-earnt free kick shortly after. Charlotte EG and Iris were also cutting up the midfield whilst Josie was kicking strongly downfield and making her mark in defence. Maddie N also bolted down the park at one stage and was unlucky not to score. Sounds like I missed a fair bit but when I finally found my place on the sideline, the first thing I noticed was a great darting run from Charlotte D from the Reds.

The 2nd quarter was a tough battle early but Charlotte EG broke the drought with the first goal of the term. There was plenty of commitment in defence from both teams with a particularly good tackle from Tilly standing out amongst a lot of good work from the girls. Iris broke through the scramble in the middle to get into the clear only to just miss a major with an unlucky kick. Never mind, she grabbed a tidy mark which was then kicked downfield to Charlotte EG who nailed another 6. The Red team continued their solid clearance work throughout the quarter, Maddie L scooped up the ball in one nice play from the ball-up and took off only to be rounded up in a good hit from Emily. Just on the stroke of half-time, the great overall play by all was punctuated by a stunning mark by Evie.

At the half time break, coaches Brendan and Nikki discussed strategy with their teams whilst the girls feasted on a smorgasbord of oranges, mandarins and.....snakes! It wasn't long and the players were back on the field for the third. Neyanshi did a great job early to repel a big clearance from Juliet A. Tilly was making a bit of an artform of her handpassing, dishing it off with class to her teammates. Some super goals followed from Hannah and Estella, Hannah grabbed another which she absolutely drilled through the sticks. The wide open spaces of Mike Kenny Oval were suiting a lot of the girls with a lot of them finding plenty of space to run. The running game that was starting to feature didn't stop Charlotte D from making a superb tackle which earnt her a free. As the clock wound down to three quarter time, Hannah booted another goal for fun!

Into the final term and Myah was awarded a free kick from an accidental high shot. Unfortunately, her handy kick was intercepted by a crafty mark from Juliet A. Iris had turned up in a Red jumper in the last quarter and she wasted no time putting in her incisive trademark runs for her new team. Evie continued her impressive running game and Juliette S was having some good impact in an even final stanza. Indiana was noticeably strong in the backs whilst Maddie S and Ariela were proving to be a useful combo in the middle.

The final siren blew and the match finished in the best way possible - a belting out of the team song by all players. The song may be slightly lyric heavy but that doesn't stop the girls making it an awesome experience each time. A bit of a tip from me though going forward might be to take out your mouthguard before you start singing!



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Best and Fairest Red - Neyanshi Khare

Best and Fairest Blue - Juliet Allan

Goals

Estrella 1(0)

Charlotte Eg 2(1)

Juliet A 7(1)

Iris 0(1)

Hannah 4(1)