



# NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YOUTH GIRLS

## MATCH REPORT

NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YG13/2 5.7 (37) d ST IVES SAINTS 2.3 (13)  
ROUND 7 - SUNDAY 26 MAY 2024  
ACRON OVAL, ST IVES

### Three snapshots of a Sunday in St Ives...

The lazy Autumn sun, glimmering through dappled autumn leaves; lush green lawns carpeting expansive front yards between wide footpaths and lengthy driveways; and the soothing sounds of 80s rockers KISS with *I Was Made For Loving You* blasting from the Acron Oval PA system.

Could there be a better start to a Sunday footy outing than this?

The Lightning certainly weren't going to miss this second opportunity to catch up again with the Saints, after Round 1's scheduled match in April was rained out.



There's plenty of history between these two teams. The Lightning's veterans no doubt remember last year's Round 15 special where the Saints managed to claw back in front with just seconds to tick.

And the Saints are perhaps still smarting from the very sharp prelim final just a fortnight later where their premiership aspirations were snaffled by a cheeky Lightning point. Fair to say Coach Daniel prefers the latter, and didn't mind reminding everyone of that history when setting the task for our Bolts on Sunday.

Fuelled by the warm Sunday sun, the Lightning didn't need much reminding. Quick to the ball, and comprehensive in attack, there were plenty of attempts on goal, and while only one recorded as a major, the rain of points put the Lightning well ahead at the first break.

Handballing was the challenge for the second term, and the Lightning took the direction well. With only



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one spare on the bench, there were plenty of opportunities to run as the Lightning again kept the Saints bottled up and comprehensively dictated the flow of the game.

The half time break allowed the Saints to regather and they emerged in the third quarter with a renewed spark – which we're confident had nothing to do with the Acron musical soundtrack. Constant pressure saw them with some significant time in attack and the Lightning forced to work together to defend; successfully, mostly, and able to limit opportunities for the Saints to score. A couple of sneaks through made for a very engrossing contest heading into the final change.

It was all to play for in the final quarter and at first it seemed as if the Saints surge might overwhelm the Bolts. But then the momentum flipped – and after an on-field incursion from a four-legged friend, the Lightning switched back to attack. Three quick goals put the game to bed, and made for a definitive statement from the Lightning about where they see themselves in this redrafted Division 2 competition. Next week looms as the reboot for the season as the Lightning line up against the formidable Willoughby-Mosman Swans.



**Goals:** Gemma (2), Alex, Sarah, Olive

**Score:**

|         | Q1      | Q2       | Q3       | Q4       |
|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| St Ives | 0.0 (0) | 0.0 (0)  | 1.1 (7)  | 2.3 (15) |
| NWL     | 1.1 (7) | 1.7 (13) | 2.7 (19) | 5.7 (37) |

**Report by:** Shane McLeod

