



NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YOUTH GIRLS

MATCH REPORT

**NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YG 11 Div 2 (Blue) (5.4.34) vs ST IVES SAINTS (3.4.22)
ROUND 12 - SUNDAY 21 JULY 2024
ACRON OVAL, ST IVES**

Another week, another set of Saints. This time we travelled up to St Ives to play the more aptly named of the pair of Saints in the Div 2 competition at the bushland-nestled Acron Oval. After weekend after weekend of rain and unpleasant weather, it was a delight to finally get a clear if blustery day to watch the girls play Aussie Rules.

Having had a substantial loss to St Ives earlier in the season, and with them sitting clear at the top of the ladder the girls knew they'd need to put in a dedicated effort to come away with a win – and they backed it up, holding St Ives scoreless in the first, goalless in the second (0.4) while they scored goals in three of the quarters.

The girls loved the parents' response to the windy weather, enjoying sweets in addition to the traditional oranges at half time to keep their energy up, and followed by cupcakes after the final siren from Isabelle's birthday.

Highlights:

- Isabelle played in defence today and showed her commitment by laying tackle after tackle on Saints' players trying to break away from the contest. She also read one of Poppy's taps perfectly to set up a rebound out of defence too.
- Olivia F was spectacular in defence today, taking several defensive marks and clearing the ball on to the wing for teammates to rebound with.
- Georgia G was consistent through the midfield, winning the ball herself and often breaking two or three tackle attempts in the process. She continues to hit the scoreboard with a couple of well-earned goals.
- Alisha set the standard with her running along the wings, up and back, and laying a couple of strong tackles. She set herself up cleverly as an outlet target when the team needed to get the ball out of defence.
- Sofia brought her tackling game today, with the Saints girls often being first to the ball Sofia wrapped them up time and again to force more stoppages to our advantage.
- Georgia B had some beautiful gathers of the ball and a great kick that cleared a number of Saints players and deserved a goal but unfortunately only resulted in a behind.



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- Olivia B played a tough game, with dedicated running and always willing to attack the ball on the ground.
- Arielle was welcomed back for her first game since the opening rounds! She made an immediate impact with a combination of strong tackling winning holding the ball decisions and several good possessions from smart positioning off the contest.
- Lucy brought her forward pressure game today, chasing down defenders looking to bring the ball back up the field, and owning the space in our forward line to burst forward herself to earn a goal.
- Hazel showed clean hands today, winning the ball herself a number of times including a confident mark.
- Sandy proved a real weapon with her kicking - getting the ball in defence and sending it half way up the field several times, which was amazing to see. She put that together with reading the opposition kicks well, getting in a position to mark a number of the Saints' kicks, and overall was a well-deserved Player of the Week.
- Poppy played as a defensive mid for most of the game and made the most of it, stopping any Saints forward forays passing through her space with her marking and ball winning, as well as pushing into the ruck as needed at times.
- Tia really hit the ground running today, with her smart positioning and strong hands to win the ball in the forward line seeing her kick a goal and a behind early on, before moving down back and locking down a Saints player while there.
- Sam was a big part of our early lead, combining effective ruck taps with great follow-up work on the ground and breaking contact to send the ball forward, or winning it on the ground with smart bodywork to protect the ball. She even hit the scoreboard with a goal.
- Emily P & Nathalie backed up from the earlier Div 1 game, showing their resilience - Emily P played well through the middle, including several stints in ruck against the taller St Ives girls, while Nathalie again stood up as defensive general and last line in defence, with impressive communication between her, Olivia F and Isabelle for defensive responsibilities and structure.

Score:

NWL Div 2 (Blue) 5.4.36 dft St Ives Saints 3.4.22

Report by Donald Shepherd.



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