



NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YOUTH GIRLS

MATCH REPORT

NORTHWEST LIGHTNING YG 11 Div 2 (Blue) (3.2.20) vs
MOSMAN/WILLOUGHBY SWANS (1.2.8)
ROUND 13 - SUNDAY 28 JULY 2024
ERN HOLMES OVAL, PENNANT HILLS

Back home this week, at Pennant Hills in cold and very windy weather. The girls got acclimatised/numbed early for photos (next opportunity is training on August 7 for anyone who missed it!), with a prediction that some parents will be surprised to see their daughter grimacing and gurning in their headshots from the breeze.

The girls really showed their strengths today, with a full team dedicated to tackling and stopping any Mosman breakaways from the contest and it really shows how much they've developed, as earlier in the year the same handball-heavy tactics from the Swans cut through the team. This time everyone was jumping in (sometimes literally) to try and stop their run, and when we had the ball the girls produced a number of smart kick-mark sequences that really showed their development too.

The Lightning held strong for three quarters, keeping Mosman scoreless while scoring three goals themselves with it locked in our forward line, before the Swans got a consolation goal late in the last.

Highlights:

- Aurora was brave out there today against many taller girls, including fronting up for a ruck contest! She dove into tackles and kept the Swans defenders honest in our forward line.
- Olivia F started into defence with her usual impeccable rebound game before transitioning more into a midfield role and showing her ability to cut through traffic and kick the ball forward a number of times.
- Eliza just consistently brings such clean hands to the contest wherever she plays – grabbing marks and winning the ball off the ground to great effect.
- Flossy showed her courage this morning, stopping a number of contests where she was the only Lightning player against a couple of Swans to stop them getting an easy rebound out of our forward line.
- Pippa scored two of the three goals with persistent ball chasing in our forward line, pushing through any contact and getting free to kick clear. She's even added some clever handballing while tackled to free up a teammate to continue the run forward.



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- Valentina was a fantastic outlet forward of the contest for teammates to get the ball to from the many ruck contests, and also took a couple of intercept marks under pressure.
- Arielle showed that the team has missed her this season, being named Player of the Week in her second week back for contributing in every role she played – starting with tough tackling in the forward line to lock the ball in, moving to brave ruckwork against the taller Mosman girls, and finishing with similarly strong work in the midfield in contest after contest.
- Hazel had a really solid game as captain this week, especially with her defensive work – there's not many girls able to stop an opponent with a single hand but she managed it against the Swans, amongst consistently stopping their forays forward when playing in a high defensive role.
- Poppy produced a ball winning impact in many of the contests today. On a day where neither team regularly managed to get the ball cleanly away from a ruck contest, Poppy would win the tap, follow the ball, and kick it into space to allow us to defend further away from our goal – a key part of keeping Mosman scoreless for most of the game, as well as scoring a goal herself from it.
- Tia provided a much needed forward target for most of the game, allowing the team to kick it forward where she would lock it in against her opponent for the rest to arrive. She managed to hit the scoreboard for a second week running.
- Imogen overcame a quiet start to show her ability to read the ball and her speed by reacting quicker than her opponent, getting balls entering the Swans' forward line with time to spare, and sending strong kicks back up the field several times.
- Isabelle was a tackling machine today, helping lock the ball in and around the ruck contests, winning a couple of holding the ball decisions, and even managing a clean ruck tap to a teammate, all while marking a Swans opponent as closely as she could.
- Elore showed commitment in every tackle she laid, stopping any escape whenever a Swans ball carrier came into reach, and then doubled down on her impact with some great burst out of congestion to help get the ball into our forward line.
- Olivia B provided another hard at the contest body, with strong tackling and when she won the ball you could guarantee it would head forward to our advantage.
- Sofia F continued her enthusiastic attack on the ball, predominantly from defence. Not only would she nullify Swans' ball movements with either winning a ball in contest or jumping into a tackle to ensure they couldn't dispose of the ball, she also showed her dedication by running back from the contest to get in front of any Swans ball movement if they did win a ball in dispute.
- Juliet and Hannah joined the team from the U9s this week and both had a real impact. Hannah was a ball magnet, winning the ball over and over and even took a



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mark (if it was U9s – unfortunately it didn't go far enough for U11s), while Juliet was fantastic in space, collecting the ball and adding real dash especially to the forward line, taking it well forward every time.

Score:

NWL Div 2 (Blue) 3.2.20 dft St Ives Saints 1.2.8

Report by Donald Shepherd.





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