

Round 1 Glenunga U9 Navy Blue vs Unley Jets Blue
Webb Oval, 9.30 am Sunday 1 May 2016

Really competitive start to the year

The media attempted to interview Sam after the first match but he was under orders not to talk to the media. Below is the Captains Report for this week.

No comment.

Sam Killick, Round 1 Captain.



2015 U8's - Wow how the boys have grown!



2016 U9's

Round 1 Team with Charlie Tonkin, Elliott Gavin and James Bafile unavailable.

At a much more sociable hour than last year the boys carried their Friday night training concentration into a cool and windy match day. With the wind blowing from the south we kicked with a strong breeze in the first quarter.

The boys were switched on in the warm up and the traditional one on one wrestle got the boys in the zone and ready for their first match with tackling.

We started strongly with the midfield of Max D, Emerson and Harry giving the forwards plenty of opportunity. Most encouraging was how the boys gave off quick handballs to their mates in better position.

Jesse was positioned in the goal square and his first touch for the club was a magnificent check side goal from the pocket. It was a sign of things to come from our new recruit.



Jesse getting into the game early

Max S took a strong mark in front of a boy twice his size (he goes to school with Vijay and was pretty pumped to beat him in a one on one) then kicked a great drop punt to Finn who also goaled.



Max and Tadgh applying the pressure



Finn with a strong grab in the pocket



Tadhg moving the ball long and quickly towards goal

Second quarter

The boys defended well as the ball spent plenty of time in Unley's forward half. It was really difficult to get the ball out of defence into the gale, but we pressured really well and Unley didn't get an easy shot at goal for the whole match.



Sloaney, oops Max D applying one of his 75 tackles for the match with great support from Finn and Harry

We were pleased with how the boys followed instructions to kick long from defence and not to lead short and across goal. Darcy, in his first game was very good in defence and held up a number of attacks.



Emerson clearing from defence

Emerson was a stand out chasing and putting pressure and laying perfect tackle after perfect tackle, pinning the arms and getting rewarded with a few holding the ball decisions.



Emerson laying a ripping tackle at top pace

It was pleasing to see the boys working hard to keep their feet too.

Third quarter

We had the breeze again but the ball tended to be played between half back and half forward. There was plenty of ball ups and pressure around the ball but what it showed was we need to try to keep a bit more space around the contest to open it up a bit.



Seb breaking from the pack with great support from his team mates

Fourth quarter

We had some chances to score into the breeze but the Unley defence was sound. A couple of chances when the ball went over the back but instead of holding our position in the goal square, some of the boys tended to push up around the edge of the zone and the ball kept getting held in with too many around the ball.

In defence we were under siege but were disciplined and kept one back to defend the ball over the back. Jackson made a critical interception late in the quarter that stopped a certain goal.



The skipper, Sam with his trademark 'don't argue'

Tadgh finished the game well and should be very happy with his first game for the Rams.



Tadgh using his height to give us an advantage in the ruck. Max S and Finn in perfect position.

It was great to see the boys sing the song with gusto and welcome the new boys to the team by getting them in the middle of the circle. There seems to be a strong comradery amongst the group which will help us as we get into the year.

We have improved an incredible amount in 12 months having gone down to this Unley team by over 10 goals in Round 1, then 5 goals later last season.

The boys have worked hard and improved their team work from the initial carnival, sharing the ball around much more out of the contest. We played in front and really defended well. There are no concerns with the tackling intent at all.

The other pleasing thing was how well they organised themselves at each ruck contest, having obviously listened at the last few training sessions.

Now to work on creating a bit more space at the stoppage or when one of the boys is being tackled so we can use our run and skills. In defence we will continue to work on how to clear the zone.

Thanks to all the parents for getting straight back into the groove with the various jobs.

Next week up against Mitcham Hawks away.