

Round 4 Glenunga U9 Navy Blue vs Hectorville Red
Daly Oval, 8.30 am Sunday 22 May 2016

The Wall

On a warm but windy autumn day, we played Hectorville away. We won the toss and started well with lots of possession in our forwards in the first quarter but weren't able to convert to high scores. Our defence was solid for the whole game, not allowing the opposition to get any scores. We chipped away and put some more scores on the board throughout the rest of the quarters. Jackson and James deserved more scores for their effort. Some fierce tackles by Jesse and James in the third quarter showed our determination to get the ball. We need to work on our communication and team work for next week.

Tadgh Brophy, Round 4 Captain.

Our first every match against Hectorville who played in NEJMA last year. Great oval at Daly Oval, felt bigger than others we had played on but it would play to our speed advantage.

An impressive performance and one that the boys thoroughly deserved after three weeks of nail biters.

Great defensively all game all over the ground with very few forward entries from Heccies. It was competitive but the way the boys held their position in defence, with one out the back to collect the ball that went over the back, we were able to continually mop up.

The midfield were also very disciplined, with one player dropping out the back to also keep control, which worked all day.

The ball spent plenty of the time in our forward line for the whole match and we probably could have scored another 10 goals. We missed a few set shots and a few under pressure.

The biggest single impact on the score though was that once we got the ball in the forward line we tended to have the blinkers on and were a bit selfish trying to kick the goal ourselves, rather than feed it out to someone in the clear in better position. This was pretty common across the team and meant we often were under pressure with that last kick or were tackled or caught holding the ball.

Tadgh, our very own Tadgh Kenneally or Jim Stynes who has changed codes this year from Gaelic footy (looks like a natural) won

the toss and thought he was back in County Kildare so decided to kick into the wind, as he felt the conditions were ideal for football (expect to see Tadgh playing in the International rules series in a few years).



Tadgh having one of about 4 shots at goal for the day

Mitchell was on song in the first quarter with Eden, Max D and Harrison. Harrison had coped a knock to the hip during the week and after getting a whack again had to put the tracksuit on and rest up for next week.



Eden clearing the pack again



Will balanced as usual, sharing the footy, but we need to find a right boot!

Elliott, Tadgh and Will in particular had a great first quarter, with all having shots at goal. We missed a few, a few fell short but Elliott jagged his first goal for the club (2) with a long torpedo (I spoke to him at the start of the game and said if he gets to kick out of full back to try the torpedo and he said that's all he kicks!).

Elliott had another excellent game, his third on the trot.



Elliott gathering at the back then passing nicely to Sam

The second quarter was similar, this time with Max and Mitchell and Eden getting plenty of the ball in the forward line. It took a while to score but Mitchell kicked a long goal and then Max D slotted one from just inside the zone (35 m out) after it took a friendly bounce in the goal square. The work Max has done on his kicking has really improved his impact – great stuff Sloaney!

In this quarter both James and Jesse laid bone crunching tackles, firstly James charging through like bulldozer and colliding with a Heccies player with a great hip and shoulder.

Jesse then ran 15 m flat out towards the player with the ball, did not slow up one bit and launched himself at the boy with the ball (think WWF wrestling off the top turnbuckle!).

They both got plenty of the ball as well and had a great game.



Jackson and Harry with great tackling pressure

All four boys were slow to get up but I was really proud of our boys commitment and courage and ability to dust themselves off and play on.

In the third quarter they strengthened their midfield but we continued to defend really well.





Max collecting, keeping his feet and trying to break free

We scored another 2 points with Harry and Finn just missing, and Jackson having a couple of great chances in the goal square as he gathered the ball beautifully, cleanly and was ready to score but was unfortunately tackled. He could have kicked a couple of goals and was great at holding position at full forward.

The last quarter we had a strong midfield and the ball spent most of the quarter in our forward line. The midfield of Elliott, Will, Max D and Mitchell forming the Great Wall of China and the forward line of Tadgh, Finn, James and Darcy working hard to score.



Mitchell and Eden ready to pounce

The forwards rotated position through the quarter but we couldn't find enough space to get a clear shot at goal and finished the quarter with 3 points.

Great reward for effort with last Fridays training being the best for the year. The boys were switched on, defended and competed well.

We do need to work on three things to increase our scoring ability:

- using our voice much more, so that when our mates are getting tackled we can flick the ball out with confidence to a team mate
- move the ball on quickly if getting tackled or under pressure to someone in a better position or in the clear – not trying to do too much; and
- making sure we keep plenty of open space in the forward line so it is not so congested.

The message at training this week will be about playing the team game.