

Round 5 Glenunga U9 Navy Blue vs Lockleys Red
Webb Oval, 9.30 am Sunday 29 May 2016

Starting to really play team footy

It was a fantastic day for footy and it was great to see so many families turn out, including Charlie who came out to cheer us on!

In the first quarter we played well and the other team was really tough. Our team played a strong defensive game and stopped lots of Lockley's kicks from going through the goals and scoring.

One thing we need to improve on for next week is our leading into space and yelling out loud.

Emerson took some great marks and kicks. Harry, Emerson and Sam played their zone really well with all their handballs and sharing the ball. Go RAMS!

Elliott Gavin, Round 5 Captain.

After a washout at training on Friday night, and most of the boys having stayed up to watch or go to the Crows, I was a bit nervous about whether they would be ready to go for this match.

We spoke about how well our defence and pressure has been but also how we need to improve our team first attitude. The message to the boys before the game was even if individually they have 40 touches and kick 5 goals, unless they play a team game there would be no awards. That means sharing the ball around, giving off to others when in trouble and not being selfish and doing it all yourself.

The boys started a bit slowly and whilst we won our fair share of the ball in the middle we were a bit sloppy going forward. Will looked like he had gone 3 rounds with Mike Tyson with his black eye (you should have seen the other kid – Max D?) but he gathered heaps of the footy in the first quarter (but drop punts, not check siders please!).

We talked about having the one defender out the back in case the ball goes over the back as we did last week. Harry did a superb job in this role, reading the play well, running straight at the footy and clearing defence a number of times.

We had limited shots at goal with the forwards needing to play in front more, but Tadgh managed to kick a nice goal.

In the second quarter Elliott controlled the defence with Seb. James was a bit distracted early in the quarter and his opponent kept disappearing, but after about 5 or 6 chats, he worked really really hard for the last half of the quarter, and won a key 1 on 1 contest, stopping a certain goal – well done James!

The forwards were working hard when we had the ball but needed to defend a bit harder when we didn't have it.

Emerson and Harry controlled the midfield, winning plenty of the footy and sharing it well.

Finn kicked a beautiful drop punt goal from about 20 m out on the run and Emerson and Mitchell had their chance too.

Elliott dominated the third quarter in the midfield, he was everywhere, tackling and sending the ball forward many times. Seb gave him good support and James and Jackson worked hard and didn't let the Demons get clear.

The ball spent most of the quarter in our forward line. Harry, Sam, Emerson and Darcy shared the ball around in amazing fashion. There were regular chains of 3 or 4 handballs, and most of them resulted in goals. We piled on 4.4 for the quarter with Emerson slotting 2, Sam and Harry one each but could have even been more.

The highlight was Harry using the old one handed pick up over the head of the opponent and on the boot for a goal ala Koutafides style (ex Carlton great).

This was one of our better quarters for the year with the boys really adopting a team first approach. This is one we can build on in coming weeks.

In the final quarter the Lockleys midfield attacked the ball harder than we did and also kept their feet and deserved their share of the footy. Our defence generally held it shape but Lockleys managed to score a couple of goals for the quarter.

Again, Elliott played well up forward kicking a good goal and Tadgh had a good quarter in the midfield.

Emerson played down back again in the sweeper role and again used his skills, pace and footy smarts to read the play, deliver the ball well and clear the area.

This was a really pleasing game for a number of reasons:

- Our defence continued to work well, especially with the boys maintaining good position – that is two weeks in a row where the opposition really found it hard to score.
- We continued our strong attack on the ball
- We moved the ball on quicker, shared the ball by hand when the option was there to use and played much better team footy

This week we play one of the other Glenunga teams. We will be working on:

- Teamwork – run to support, handball and lots of voice
- Goal kicking
- Kicking skills

Awards from the Hectorville match after the big game – the boys look pretty stuffed but enjoying the oranges!

