

Round 7 Glenunga U9 Navy Blue vs Flinders Park
Flinders Park Oval No. 2, 9.30 am Sunday 19 June 2016

Playing with a team first approach pays off!

The morning was sunny but cold and wet still from the overnight rain. The oval was smaller than usual. We won the toss (no-one had a coin). There wasn't any wind so we kicked downhill. First quarter we kicked some early goals and never looked back. Everyone played well. Well done boys!

Jesse Laing, Round 7 Captain

After some forward scouting from some contacts at a few other teams that had played Flinders Park, we were aware that it might be a bit of a rough game. After 2 weeks off, each of the boys were given one specific thing to work on each for their game, but the team message was simple – Team work! This meant using our voice so our mates knew where support was, sharing the ball and not trying to do too much with it.

The first quarter was pretty even in the midfield and our defenders had to work hard to stop them scoring. Tadgh and Charlie in particular worked well together, reading the play and going on a number of attacking runs each.

Elliott dominated up forward, winning the ball on the ground and in the air. Great reward for Elliott for practising his drop punts over the past 2 weeks, he kicked a great goal and most of his kicks were nice drop punts. It shows practice pays off!

Harry kicked one of the goals of the year with a check side goal, running to the pocket and his celebration was equally as impressive.

The umpire was paying marks without the player having much control of the footy, as well as paying free kicks against for some tackling techniques that have been let go for the year so far. The boys were a bit confused, but I was really pleased with how they concentrated on the game, played in front and got the benefit of the umpires decisions. That's footy and the good thing was the umpire was really consistent all match and we adjusted well.

In the second quarter the two Max's tackled hard and Max D showed the benefits of team first by giving of a great handball to Max S who was positioned perfectly to support, and who proceeded to bang it on his boot for a great goal. Eden also kicked a nice goal from in front and Max D had a couple of chances as well.



Max S banging through a great goal after receiving the handball from Max D

Tadgh and Charlie continued to have a great game, with Tadgh winning the ball in the air and Charlie on the ground.



Tadgh having a great game, launching a long kick into the forward line

In the third quarter, Emerson, Seb, Will and Harrison worked well together in the midfield, playing in front and tackling hard. They gave the forwards plenty of the ball with all the forwards Tadgh, Charlie, Sam and Jackson playing well, sharing the footy and having plenty of shots. Tadgh ended with 1.3 including one that he launched from 30 out.



Emerson with a clean pick up and clearance.



Will breaking the tackle



Will not so lucky to break the tackle at 1 on 4

Charlie has had a few chances to goal over the past few weeks but it was this week when he kicked his first goal for the RAMS – well done!

In the final quarter Will, Seb, Emerson and Harrison stepped it up to a new level. They applied great forward defensive pressure. The ball hardly left our forward line. Harry, Jesse and Darcy positioned themselves well to intercept in the midfield.



Harrison applying great pressure in the forward line



Darcy kicking into the forward line after a well earned free kick



Jesse looking balanced, intercepting and launching another attack



Emerson playing in front and paid the mark

Elliott had a great quarter, continuously intercepting, and with great vision and team first footy, kicking to someone on the lead – exactly as we had discussed as a team.



Elliott playing in front again

The forwards were trying to kick goals from too far out and the pockets for half of the quarter and the coach was getting a bit frustrated. After marking an X at the top of the goal square and pleading with the boys to kick it to the top of the square, the boys responded. It was really impressive how the boys adjusted and responded. The ball now hitting the top of the square and all the boys having chances to score. They hit the pack hard, roved the ball well and looked very very dangerous.

After the match I was told that a few of the Flinders Park boys were niggling and hitting some of our team a long way off the ball. I was really pleased that our boys didn't react and fight but they kept their focus and attention on the ball. In particular Max S, because if it was his brother he would have knocked his head off.

Today I was most impressed with how the boys listened to specific individual areas to concentrate on and our Team first game style. This was a major improvement on past weeks, it was noticeable the sharing of the footy from everyone in the team and the result showed.



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