

Round 8 Glenunga U9 Navy Blue vs Unley Jets  
Kingswood Oval, 8.30 am Sunday 26 June 2016

*A great test and a new standard to aim for*

Early start this week at Unley. The Linden Park mob were a bit dusty but full credit to Johnny, Mark, Emma, Greta and Simon for fronting up.

It was pretty cold and the boys were a bit worried about the ball hitting their hands. TOUGHEN UP BOYS!! That didn't really matter in the first quarter because the Unley team had most of the footy. This was the best team and probably the best 8-12 individuals we have played this year. They were very well drilled, particularly running past the person with the ball after a free kick or mark and playing on really quickly.

Finn, Eden, Charlie and Jackson were kept on their toes in the backline. They tried really hard, with both Charlie and Finn having memorable quarters (and matches) repelling plenty of attacks.

Max D and Tadgh worked well in the first quarter and Max S tackled well. Our forwards just shivered.

The boys started a bit of chatter that we were going to get flogged, they were too good blah blah blah. After a chat at quarter time, suggesting if they thought that way they might as well go home we focussed on the basics, winning the ball in the midfield, playing in front, manning up in defence. The boys responded well. In particular Seb played well in defence, Charlie and Finn continued their great game.

Charlie was a real standout performance. He attacked the footy, ran and ran, read the ball well and was not intimidated. He is having a great season.

Tadgh and Max D kicked a point each to get us on the scoreboard and the general play was much more even than the first quarter.

We really adjusted in the second half outscoring Unley 2.1 to 1.4 which was a fantastic effort given the first half.

Darcy played his role well in defence, really concentrating and playing on his man. We sometimes got caught attacking the footy and over running the ball but the intent was great.

The midfield worked really hard, Emerson, Seb, Will and Harrison. Emerson came off after an accidental kick in the face, but came back on shortly after. Jackson again did really well, concentrating over the whole game and playing his best defensive game, sticking to his man all match.

The pressure was on to score a goal in the match coming into the last quarter. This was our best of the day. Elliott, Harry, Jesse and Darcy had great quarters, breaking even in the midfield.

The forwards, Emerson, Seb, Will and Harrison also worked well as a team and carried on their good form from the Flinders Park game.

It took a spectacular mark and goal from the boundary to get us on the board. Harrison 'Eddie Betts' Prosser deserved it as he had worked hard all day, shared the football and kept focus over the whole game.

Seb also jagged a great goal to enable us to finish off the match in style, outscoring Unley in the last quarter and half.

Max S had a great last quarter in defence, dropping back, reading the play well and saving 2 certain goals through a great mark and contest where he rushed a point.

Max D and Tadgh also had good quarters, playing in front and beating their opponents.

This was our biggest test. This was a different Unley team compared to the first game of the year. They were skilled, drilled and really showed us the level we will need to be at in coming years.

A few things stood out:

- We responded well when put under pressure in the game, we didn't give in and kept fighting – that never give up spirit was fantastic
- We need all the boys to be switched on, play their role, concentrate and do the simple things that we talk about well each week (eg. Stand on their opponent in defence). When we don't all do this, cracks open and it makes it harder to defend.
- Its important to keep moving the ball quickly – Unley did this very well, they were well drilled but kept taking the game on, attacking and running. We will see if we can step it up in this area this week.