

Round 11 Glenunga U9 Navy Blue vs Hectorville
Webb Oval, 9.30 am Sunday 24th July 2016

Icey Wind and Rain, Plenty of Guts, courage and goals!

It was a very cold day but we played very well. Great effort with the match boys. It was only 5 degrees and we were all really cold but we stuck at it like champions. Keep up the effort boys!

Max Stapleton, Captain

The forecast was for wind and rain with 5-6 mm from 9 am but I had no idea it was going to be such tough conditions.

It was cold, very cold. The two things the boys were asked for this match was a lot of voice and movement – mainly to stay as warm as they could, but also giving their team mates a moving target at both ends of the ground.

The rain was pretty heavy for the start, but you wouldn't have known. Elliott was going beserk, clean with the ball, great run and team footy. He finished with a goal but gave off a couple as well.

Mitchell was back, straight from 26 hrs on the plane and hit the ground running having a couple of shots at goal, just missing both.

Eden started well and slotted a nice goal and then Darcy kicked his first goal for the Rams – well done Darcy! It was great to see his team mates celebrate with him too.

This couldn't have happened without a dominant midfield, led by Max Davis but well supported by Jesse and Sam who tackled hard and worked well as a unit.

It was clear that the boys in the backline were going to find it hard to get into the action and were struggling with the icy wind.

As some of the boys started to add layers of clothes, they kept tackling and moving the ball forward well as a team. Emerson, Charlie, Harry and Max S tackled relentlessly and kept the ball surging forward.

Max Davis and Jesse had plenty of opportunities and scored a goal each. Max's was a beautiful drop punt from a long way out on the angle.

Most of the boys were doing it tough by now, cold fingers, drenched and still a half to go. Visualisation techniques of trying to get the boys to picture sitting on a beach didn't really work.

A few of the boys were strong in telling us they had had enough and hit the hot chocolate and warmth of home. I think they were the smart ones!

In the third quarter the boys continued to battle with the ball on the ground a lot and hard to pick up with jumpers down over the boys hands.

Finn and Seb played as though they were born to play in this weather. They both tackled, ran, and used the ball well. Charlie also worked incredibly hard.

Max S battled hard and had a running shot at goal into a howling gale and just missed to the near side.

Charlie's hard work paid off as he slotted a birthday goal for his mum.

The Hectorville coach wasn't sure how many of his boys would make the final quarter. They managed 8, we had 9, with 5 of the boys done for the day. Both teams played it out to the end.

Darcy showed he is a wet weather specialist kicking his second goal for the day, as well as Bash who dominated this quarter kicking 2.2.

Mitchell and Finn also had sensational last quarters, with a few marks and great entries into the forward line.

It felt like winter in eastern Europe, not that I have been there but that's what it looks like in the brochures. Finn, Max Davis, Seb, Eden, Harry, Darcy, Jesse, Mitchell and Charlie (apologies if I have missed someone) managed to get to the line. All the boys still had enough in them to sing the club song.

Boys, you will remember this match when you are older. Yes it was tough conditions. Particularly cold, wet and windy, but you all were incredibly strong, brave and you should all be very proud of your efforts individually and as a team. You pushed through the tears and the pain and kept working for each other. You have developed into a great team and moments like this, whilst they feel really tough at the time, you will look back on as a defining moment of this team. As my old man used to say, character building!

Parents, ditto – all of you! Particularly Briony (not sure if Mark was there too as couldn't see very well through the specs!) who drew the short straw as goal umpire for the day.

Well done Jenn for actually recording goal scorers and the scores itself.

After Sunday's match, I reckon we can do anything!

Enjoy the week back at school – boo!! Stay warm and fingers crossed next week is a bit more enjoyable.





