

GLENUNGA UNDER 8 YELLOW

ROUND 12 MATCH REPORT V PHANTOMS – 31 JULY 2016



I always start with a weather report and we again had a nice day but conditions were muddy. Good decision at the start to pick the outer side which was just a bit less muddy than the alternative.

After some confusion about who was kicking to which end, the game settled and our boys set the tone of the match from the start.

While our forwards kicked plenty of goals, it was our defensive pressure and our willingness to handball that were the pleasing aspects of our game. Our boys put huge pressure on Phantoms when they had the ball and made sure they stayed ahead of the kicker which usually caused a turnover through a rushed kick or handball. In the defensive zone, there we probably 5 or 6 times when the Phantoms were in possession and running to goal where they couldn't get a clean kick or handball due to our pressure. We also rucked and tapped well to our teammates and every player was able to say they did a handball during the game.

In the first quarter, our midfield of Hugo, Harrison and Talan were doing an excellent job with Harrison taking a lovely tap from Hugo and all boys combined with handballs and kicks between each other. All the boys battled hard when the ball hit the ground. Talan also roved well from the tap.

The forwards also combined to share the goals around with Harry running direct to goal with a couple and Oscar and Josh also making nice space and finding each other for goals. The defence probably only had one entry but Will passed to Leroy and he then passed it on to Hugo which ended with a goal. There were a few times during the game where our boys kicked or handballed with 4 or 5 touches that ended up with a goal. This is the type of football that Justin has been encouraging and he would be very pleased to hear that this play continued in his absence.

In the second quarter, William, Leroy and Will T had a good battle and made sure that all the kicks that Phantoms sent forward were rushed and Ethan, Oscar and Hudson worked very hard defensively to stop goals being scored when Phantoms had multiple entries. Hugo was able to take advantage of a limited opportunity in the forward lines for the only goal of the quarter.

In the third quarter, Leroy had showed that he had taken on board Justin's comments about running at the goal with 2 nice goals this quarter. He made space and kicked a nice drop punt for his second goal.

In the final quarter, the backline of Will T, Harrison and Talan had a very quiet quarter as the midfield of Hugo, Josh and Harry G totally dominated the play and sent it forward and importantly formed a wall across the centre. The excitement was in the forward lines with Oscar showing his class with three goals. In particular, there was one goal when he was being well covered that Oscar took a bounce, took a step back and thought his way through and didn't rush to end up with a nice goal. Hudson kept attacking the ball and had a few chances of kicking goals against good pressure from the Phantom defenders. In the end, both Ethan and Hudson both deserved the hard fought goals against big pressure. Harry G took some nice taps and used his pace to break clear and find a teammate. Hugo took some nice marks and Josh also was involved all quarter.

At the end of the game, our boys took a little bit of time to gather in a line to acknowledge their opponents. It is important that we show our respect to the other side. The lure of sliding in the mud was quite irresistible!! They finished with a very rousing rendition of the Club Song which got the attention of the Phantoms Coach for the next game, Scott Camporeale the Crows Assistant Coach who looked on with a wry smile!!

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I was very pleased with the effort by all the boys across all four quarters. The ability of the boys to link up with handballs and kicks is very enjoyable to watch. Our boys are leading to space and there were very few times where we just blazed forward. Well done all of you as this style of game will hold us in good stead when tackling is allowed next year in Under 9's.

We had many good players today. Hudson again showed he likes it in the wet with a dogged effort, Harry G with his run, Hugo with marks and long kicks, Oscar with his direct running and efficient disposal, Josh with a consistent effort across all the quarters, and Ethan, Will T and Leroy for their strong efforts. Encouragement to Leroy for his 2 goals, and team award to Harry G who did look to get his next kick or handball to a teammate. Well done also to Harrison, William and Talan for getting their hands on the ball in muddy conditions.

GRAHAM'S COMMENTS FOR EACH PLAYER

Leroy

Last week Justin asked you to straighten up with your kicking and you showed that you could do that with 2 nice goals. This week, try to work on picking up the ball and running with it to steady yourself for the next kick. You made nice space and remember to lead forward as well as leading back.

Harrison

Well done Harrison. You really set the tone of the game with a lovely take from the ruck tap. You had plenty of possessions and continued the improvement you are showing every week.

Harry G

Really deserved the team player award with some lovely clean disposals and that customary pace and run you provide. You also ran direct at the goal which resulted in 2 nice goals in the first quarter.

Hugo

Another good game Hugo with nice marks and strong kicking. Don't be afraid to handball it to a teammate who is close to bring them in the game. You defended well in the midfield and in defence and you ran the ball nicely in muddy conditions. Try to measure your kick into the forwards as most umpires won't allow a goal kicked from the centre!

Hudson

Loved your persistence all day especially in the last quarter. You had a couple of shots for goals that didn't work out but you kept presenting yourself and finally were rewarded with a nice goal under pressure. This is the kind of effort you are doing every week and your improvement is continuing.

William R

Some nice touches today and you made sure every one was effective. You also kept up with the play and played the defensive side as well. There were a couple of times when you had great position to receive a kick in the forward lines but it just didn't work out. Try to lead forward for the ball and I am sure you will get the result you deserve.

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Josh

A really good effort in every quarter Josh. You made good space, and used the ball well but also you defended well when they had the ball.

Ethan

Another hard working effort. Remember to take a couple of steps back behind the mark to give yourself room to kick. I particularly like the way you did a successful pass to Hudson when you could have had a long shot for goal.

Will T

Another strong game Will. You made nice space and got some nice marks. You also tried to bring your teammates into the game. Good captains game.

Talan

Got your hands on the ball on quite a few occasions. Had a couple of quarters where there were not many times it came into your zone but that sometimes happens and will change from week to week. Some nice handballs and running forward from the midfield.

Oscar

You continued the good game you played last week. We rarely see you fumble and you used your pace well in defence to blunt quite a few entries. Some nice goals in the last quarter with smart footy.

Harry N

I know you played a fair bit of footy on Saturday and sometimes you just don't feel right to play. Remember to enjoy your footy with your mates. All the boys really want you back with us next week as you are an important teammate who provides such a competitive contest when you play. Have a few kicks of footy during the week and we look forward to seeing you at training on Friday.

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