



Grand Finals

Sunday 4 September 2022

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Presidents Report

Grand finals are especially hard to make and even harder to win. We had 4 teams playing and were hopeful and snaring a premiership or 2. Unfortunately, this was not to be our day with both junior teams going down along with our youth boys and youth girls' teams.

For anyone at these games, we'd all agree the atmosphere was great and the crowd numbers significantly more than we would see during the year. A huge thank you to the Westbrook and North-West lightning faithful who ventured out to support our teams on grand final day.

With Grand Finals now played, we have presentation day next Sunday and then an off season to reflect and plan for a big 2023 season.

We say farewell to our top age Girls and Boys who will hopefully continue with their football careers along with many parents and volunteers who have helped significantly along the way.

We'll wrap up our award winners with one more club newsletter next week.

See you all at presentation day on Sunday.

Upcoming Events

Presentation Day – Sunday 18 September

Sunday 18 September in the Clubrooms

9.00am-10.30am - Auskick, Under 8's, 9's, 10's, 11's and Under 12's

11.00am-12.30pm - Youth Boys 13's, 14's, 15's and 17's

Free Sausage Sizzle for all players!

We can't wait to celebrate a terrific season for the club and community with you!

Annual General Meeting – Date TBC

We will lose a couple of key personnel at the conclusion of this season and will advertise the key roles on the committee. Please have a think about what you might be able to contribute next year and onwards. Help is valued in anyway and in any form but above all it is both a rewarding experience and valued immensely.

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MATCH REPORTS

Grand Finals | Sunday 4 September 2022

Westbrook u11-3 (2.4-16) vs Willoughby (9.8-62) – ELS Park

Previous days rain had the team fearful of a wet grand final on Fathers Day but the weather gods took over and calm, dry early morning was the order of the day. This time it was a trip to the hallowed ground of ELS Hall on the synthetic surface to face the arch nemesis of the Wildcats. Given the fact that the dogs were coming off two losses to the same team in previous encounters meant the team was aware of the challenge confronting them but never showed any fear in running out and giving it their all. The Blue Dogs fielded a squad of 18 against the Wildcats who had similar numbers with reserves on both sides.

The first quarter resulted in a committed start from the dogs out of the middle with the ruck contest being won early with clean taps to move the dogs forward. Regardless of the first quarter dominance the dogs rolled into quarter time only 1 goal ahead in a very even hard-fought contest. In the second quarter the same commitment was displayed by the dogs, but the Wildcats found ways of combatting that and started to gain ascendancy kicking 3-4 goals to none by the Dogs. Unfortunately, this continued into the third quarter and 3-4 goals were added versus none from the Dogs. Given the ascendancy it would have been easy for the Dogs to give up in the final quarter but that it is not the style of this great group of young men. Competitive to the end the Dogs took it to the Wildcats and won the final quarter by a close margin.

This is the section where I normally digress into the football skills part and what we did well and what we need to work on. Not this report. Instead, I want to report on something that I think is far more important. Not long before the grand final one of our team members had an accident in the gym and sustained a very serious neck injury that thank god, will not mean any major permanent damage. That put a lot of things into perspective for the playing and management group. Even though soundly beaten by their opponents on the day, this group of dogs taught us all how far they have come this season and what sort of fine individuals they all are. In the grand final some were given tasks they had not necessarily done before and did them with purpose and commitment and desire admired by all. When confronted with the physical challenge of the game, if one member was being specially targeted by the other team (fairly), some of the boys took it upon themselves regardless of their own welfare to make sure their fellow player was looked after. Even when several goals behind, never once did any member give up on the game and stop trying. And lastly, even though emotional with the defeat, never did we not acknowledge the opponent's success and hold our heads high. Sometimes a loss teaches you more about character than a win!!

Several special shout outs need to be made:

To Steve and Nicole Schenko – nothing more to say other than what a banner, thank you so much

To Geoff and Emma White – thank you so much for opening up your beautiful house in the afternoon to the families that could attend and what a special day.

To Ang, Geoff, Steve, Ivan and Vic – thank you for your ongoing support and effort in helping the boys all season

And lastly, in my humble opinion, to one of the best men and coaches going around in Ian Smith – your effort, your preparation, your concern, your time and your commitment to these boys is simply outstanding.

Result: Willoughby Wildcats 9.8.62 v Westbrook Bulldogs 2.4.16

Goals: Hayden and Rohan

Report By: Manager Matt

Westbrook u12-2 (4.7-31) vs Pittwater (7.7-49) – Blackman Oval

Whilst the days leading up to the last Sunday's game were wet (typical of the season in general), owing to the fact that the clouds broke & the sun came out and we were playing on a synthetic ground which had seen 2 games prior to ours, the surface was dry and conditions were perfect for our 11am Grand Final match against Pittwater. Whilst Pittwater were the Minor Premiers and had defeated us twice during the season, the last time we played them with a full-strength team the margin had been a mere 2-points, so we knew that we matched up well against them and had every chance of reversing the tables.

At around 10.55am, led by our captain Cory Mardling, the boys broke through their Grand Final banner and took the field for the last time in 2022. While there were understandably some nerves before the game owing to the importance of the event, the endeavour the boys showed in the opening quarter was fantastic. With strong bodywork in the contest to win the ball and good use of handball to players in the clear, we had the better of the general play with much of the quarter being played in our forward half. Unfortunately, the ability of Pittwater's backline to take key intercepting marks hindered us from taking full advantage and, kicking with the wind, they were able to score two goals against the flow of play to take an early 11-point lead at the first break.

The second and third quarters were an even tussle with neither team really getting on top. Samuel kicked our first goal in the second term, while Hayden Greenwood was instrumental in both our 3rd quarter goals, kicking one himself while also unselfishly centring the ball following a strong mark next to the point post to Adam Saddick at the top of the goal square to make sure of the result. However, in each quarter Pittwater matched our scoring efforts, also scoring 1 and 2 goals in the second and third terms respectively to maintain their quarter-time lead.

At only 9-points in arrears going into the last term, we knew the game was far from over. We had staged some gutsy comebacks in the past few weeks and, with one or two quick goals in the last, who knows what could happen. However, although the boys played valiantly, it was not to be our day. Pittwater scored 2 goals to our one in this quarter, our goal courtesy of Ryan Dinsmore, and they eventually run out winners by a mere 3 goals in a tightly contested affair.

Although the result did not go the way we had hoped, I was, and still am, just so proud of the efforts of all the Westbrook U12-2 players. It was an extremely competitive and determined Grand Final performance that was not decided until the end and our boys should hold their heads high. Our Mids (Cory, Charlie, Ryan, Darcy, Samuel and Adam) were superb in contesting the ball around the ground and defending the exit from our forward line, our Backs (Riley, Ben, Jackson, Hamish, Campbell) were resolute as always in defence quelling many a Pittwater attacking foray and our Forwards (Leonard, Hayden, Josh, Mitch, Jake, Luke, Marcus, and Tom) worked exceptionally hard all day against a strong Pittwater defence, both in creating space and applying pressure when the opposition had the ball.

Thank you to all those family, friends and wider Westbrook family members who came down to support our boys on the day, your voices of support were greatly appreciated. My sincere thanks also to Nathan Rayment (Team Runner) and Lauren Gason (Team Manager) for their valued support, the direct encouragement to our players, the extra set of eyes for me and overall support that you both provided was invaluable beyond words, both in the lead up to and during our Grand Final.

So... our brave Westbrook boys are the 2022 Sydney Harbour U12 Division 2 Red Runners-Up – a truly fantastic achievement. I hope this experience, both of the day itself and the teammates you shared it with, will be a fond memory that will stay with you for a very long time. WELL DONE BOYS!!!

¼ by ¼: Q1: 0.1 v 2.0, Q2: 1.3 v 1.2, Q3: 2.2 v 2.1, Q4: 1.1 v 2.4, FINAL: 4.7-31 v 7.7-49

Goals: Samuel Lean-Fore, Hayden Greenwood, Adam Saddick, Ryan Dinsmore

Best: A sensational team effort

Report by: Peter Gason (coach)



Westbrook/Hornsby Berowra u13-2 (4.6-30) vs Pennant Hills (4.8-32) – Blackman Oval

North West Lightning YG16-3 (1.1-7) vs East Sydney (4.9-33) – Macquarie Uni

The Grand Final, the best of the best, battling it out for ultimate glory. The Northwest Lightning would take on the East Sydney Bulldogs Red team in the most difficult environment. The rain gods opened up the heavens early so the pitch was soaked, muddy and heavy underfoot. This was going to be a battle, a physical war with nature and fierce opposition.

1 st Quarter

The first ball up of the Grand Final took place under steady rain and the contest was tough and physical right from the start. A wet and muddy ball wasn't conducive to elegant football and the first quarter was scrappy with neither team having many chances. Late in the Quarter the Bulldogs monstered the ball into their attacking half and a loose kick off the ground slid past defenders and through the goal. A follow up behind and the first break saw the Lightning 7 points down.

2 nd Quarter

With only a goal in it the Lightning came out determined to take back control. They fought hard as Nikki chased and brought down a Bulldog into the mud, earning a free kick. The Quarter continued much like the first as both teams fought back and forth. The Bulldogs kicked a behind and kept the pressure on forcing TC to rush the ball through for another behind. Down by 9 points at the main break as the rain eased, this was still anyone's game.

3 rd Quarter

The fierce contest was heating up even more as both teams upped the physical ante. Tackling, bumping and shepherds left many players muddy and sore. The Bulldogs were the first to press the attack, scoring a behind before holding the advantage to add a major. The intensity from the Lightning lifted even higher as they fought back bravely. Muscling the ball forward they finally got on the scoreboard with a quick snap at goal missing for a behind. Despite the lift in intensity the Bulldogs had an answer for it as they scored two late behinds to leave the Lightning with an 18-point uphill battle.

4 th Quarter

A last quarter huddle fired them up, the Lightning girls were giving it everything. They had the Bulldogs rattled as some poor discipline towards the umpires gave Halle a 50m free that saw her line up near the goal square. Settling her nerves, she kicked it right through the middle from a 45-degree angle and lifted the Lightning spirits even higher. The Lightning threw every last ounce of energy and effort at the win but momentum swung against them late in the quarter as the Bulldogs shut the game out with 2 late goals.

The spectacular season came to an end as the final siren sounded and despite falling short, I think the girls won even more fans from the sidelines. They lifted their game to a level never before reached and fought bravely and fairly right to the very end. In exhausting and treacherous conditions, they showed the true fighting spirit of what it means to wear the Lightning jersey.

They've been amazing role models on and off the field with their determination, teamwork, laughter and smiles. It will inspire more Lightning girls to emulate what they demonstrated this season, next year will only get bigger and better for everyone who dons the jerseys.

Bring on season 2023, we'll push to go one better!

Go Lightning ⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡

Score: Northwest Lightning 1.1.7 St Ives Saints 4.9.33

Goals : Halle - 1

Report by Jared Quick

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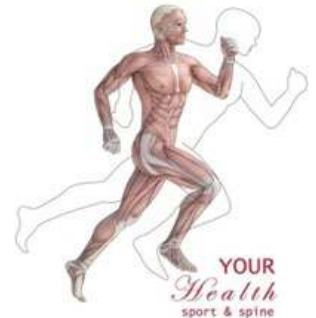
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WESTBROOK CLUB SONG

*Good old Westbrook forever,
We know how to play the game.
Side by side we stick together,
To uphold the Bulldogs name.
Hear the barrackers a shouting,
As all barrackers should.
Oh, the premiership's a cakewalk
For the good old Westbrook.*

NORTH WEST LIGHTNING CLUB SONG

*Girls of Northwest
Yellow, Red and Blue
Hornsby, Penno, Westbrook
Lightning through and through
With a lightning flash, a lightning strike
We'll give our very best
You can't beat the girls from the lightning team
The mighty girls of Northwest*