



Prelim Finals Sunday 28 August 2022



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Presidents Report

Week 2 of the finals had 5 Westbrook teams in action, U11s/12s/13s/15s/17s. A win this week would have teams joining the YG16-3s in Grand Finals.

Unfortunately for our U17s and U15s they went down, and their seasons are now over. For many of our U17s, this is the end of their junior football playing days. We hope you take many great memories of your time with Westbrook, and you continue on your football journey.

Grand finals aren't easy to make, are even harder to win and they don't come every year.

For U11s/12s/13s/YG16s, enjoy the experience and give it your best....



Kieran Jack Medal Presentation Night

You would have seen on our social media channels we had a number of players place top 3 in their respective competition B&F's and a significant achievement and recognition for our Vice President, Daniel Benson.



Noah Dinsmore – Equal 2nd U14-2 Mauro De Costa – 3rd U15-2 Oscar Irwin – 3rd U17-1 Arielle Walker – Equal 2nd YG16-3 Oliva Morris – 2nd YG18-2

Isaac Browne – Best 1 st year umpire North-West **Daniel Benson** – Trev Byrne volunteer of the Year



Upcoming Events

Presentation Day

Sunday 18 September in the Clubrooms (time to be confirmed)

Annual General Meeting

Date TBC (in the clubrooms)...

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

Preliminary Finals | Sunday 28 August 2022

Westbrook u11 (7.5-47) vs Penno (3.0-18) – Ern Holmes Oval

A beautiful morning greeted the dogs on their away trip to Ern Holmes Oval against the old foe the Penno Demons in the elimination final. Given the fact that the dogs were coming off a loss in the first final, tension was high in the team and there was a real sense of purpose as they took the field. The Blue Dogs fielded a team of 15 against the Demons who fielded 15 and so the contest was an even match with reserves on both sides.

The first quarter resulted in an explosive start from the dogs out of the middle with the ruck contest being won by Christian 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. The second quarter was more of the same in an extremely tight match with both sides kicking a goal and the dogs carrying the one goal lead into the break. The dogs defence line and mid field deserve mention here as Technical repelled and rallied many attacks and made scoring for the Demons very difficult. As they say the third quarter is the championship quarter and for 10 minutes of the third quarter the game remained very even until the dogs overall skill and dominance shone through with 2 late goals to carry a 3 goal lead into the final term. The final quarter saw the Dogs lock the ball mainly in the attacking third of the Demons and score two more goals.

Today was a tough match where the dogs really ground out the win with desire, passion and hard running. From the very start we got the ball going forward out of the middle and worked well in combination. Our forwards worked hard to keep the ball at the attacking end and if it got back out our mid field hunted as a pack and rebounded nicely. Our hand balling was good, our support was good, our commitment to the tackle in general was good and our 1 percenters like smothering and shepherding were all high quality, Compared to last week where our goal kicking was down on our behinds this week our conversion was much better.

Aa the Grand Final will be played on artificial surface at ELS Hall we will try and get a training session on this surface this week to help adjust. We now know we are back against Willoughby in the Grand Final who beat us in the qualifying final a week ago and we learnt a lot from that game. Focuses this week will be on marking, both the kind where you mark your player, and the kind where we catch the ball. These are going to be crucial in the final alongside limiting the impact of a couple of key players on the opposition.

Overall though, really strong team game and great preparation for the GF.

Goals: Hayden, Sander, Jai and Sam Finger Bun Award: Raf Report By: Manager Matt

Westbrook u12-2 (7.4-46) vs Penno (6.5-41) – Ern Holmes Oval

Having won their Elimination Final the week before, the U12 Div 2 Team progressed to second week of the Finals where they played a Preliminary Final against Pennant Hills for a place in the Grand Final. We had played Penno twice during the Home-and-Away season and, while the ledger going into this game read one win a piece, since we had prevailed in our most recent Round 15 clash at Ern Holmes Oval, we were confident that we could get the job done once again. However, they were also mindful of this and, having been narrowly beaten by Pittwater in the preceding week's Qualifying Final, we knew Penno would be motivated to seek redemption on both fronts.

From the opening bounce we seemed to have control of the middle. Cory's effective ruckwork meant that we were able to get the ball moving in our direction and by winning the ball ups, we were able to put Penno immediately on the defensive. Charlie Andrews took advantage of this and kicked the opening goal of the game on the run. However, Penno were able to respond immediately with a long bomb bouncing truly in the goal square to square the game at one goal each. Enter Mitchell Gryst who seemed to have saved arguably his best game of the season for this weekend. Showing awesome determination to attack and win the contested ball and strength to brush off hopeful tacklers to find space, he kicked the next 2 goals, with the second being just before the quarter time siren to give us a little more breathing space. This was just reward for our forward dominance and provided a fantastic lift to the team's spirits going into the first break.

The second and third quarters were similar to the first where we continued to show more intent to win the ball, our tackling continued to be strong, and overall the pressure we were putting on the Penno players were paying dividends, restricting their usual slick, open ball movement. As has been a strength all season, our accountable manon-man backline strategy continued to be a strength, with no better example being when Jackson's player pushed deep into our forward line in an effort to help clear their defensive area in the second term. Jackson went with him, won possession and kicked the first goal of the second term. Following this, quick movement into our forward line provided Samuel Lean-Fore, playing forward, with plenty of space to work in where, like Mitch, he was able to add two goals to our score line prior to half time. Meanwhile our backline continued to defend superbly, allowing Pennant Hills to score only one goal in each of the first three quarters and, when Hayden Greenwood kicked our seventh goal in the third, at the final break we held a strong lead of nearly four goals.

With their season and a position in the Grand Final on the line, we knew that Penno would not go down without a last-ditch fight. We had come back from a similar position the week before, so we did not count the game won just yet. Sure enough, Penno came out with all guns blazing, getting on top in the middle and providing strong supply to their forwards. Two quick goals at the beginning of the quarter and another at about the 7-minute mark to cut the margin to less than a goal had them believing they could snatch the win. However, characteristic of our team we dug in, ran down the clock and managed to hold them out for the remainder of the game, securing the win by 5 points.

And so, against what most people thought but what we set out to achieve during the mid-season break, we have risen from finishing third on the ladder at the conclusion of the home-and-away season, to win both our Elimination and Preliminary Finals to qualify for the big dance – the Grand Final against Pittwater. Whilst Pittwater, having finished on top of the ladder, are a formidable adversary, we have proven that if we stick to our game-plan and work as a team as we have the last few weeks, we can beat anyone because It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog!

Goals: Mitchel Gryst 2, Samuel Lean-Fore 2, Charlie Andrews, Hayden Greenwood, Jackson Lieb **Best:** A win only made possible by a fantastic team effort **Report by**: Peter Gason (coach)

Westbrook/Hornsby Berowra u13-2 (5.10-40) vs Pennant Hills (5.4-34) – Gore Hill Oval

Westbrook / Hornsby u15-2 (3.7-25) vs Miranda (6.7-43) – Gwawley Oval

After our hour trek to Gwawley Oval we were pleased to see near perfect conditions for footy. Lauchie was our only out from the first final however we were pleased to hear he does not require surgery on his knee. Congrats to Mauro who took out 3rd place in the Sydney Harbour Under 15's Div 2 B & F on Monday night.

In the first quarter the boys had more of the general play but with the breeze blowing across the ground, the ball often got stuck on the defensive side of the ground making kicking goals difficult. Miranda made the most of their forward thrusts kicking the only goal for the quarter. In the second quarter the boys continued to compete hard but Miranda were proving more polished in their forward half and managed another 2 goals. We went into the half time break 3 goals down.

Despite being goalless in the first half the message at half time was we are matching them in general play, however we must go forward from the attacking side of the ground and open up the forward 50. Eamon attacked the first bounce of the third quarter smashing the ball forward with Matt running onto it and kicking long to Sam B who gathered the bouncing ball and kicked truly. The boys had the better of the quarter and we finally began to get some reward with Jake snapping a nice goal on his left and Lukas taking a strong mark and converting just before the ³/₄ time siren. We went into the last break 1 point up. Miranda got a quick goal inside the first 30 seconds of the last quarter which changed the momentum of the game as Miranda ran out winners by 3 goals.

The backline were fantastic throughout the game with Cameron and Kian being the standouts. Given a job on Miranda's most dangerous forward, not only did Cameron keep his opponent goalless, he rebounded out of defence on countless occasions. Kian has excelled since being moved into defence, using his speed and long kick to great effect. Our midfield group of Eamon, Cooper, Matt and Mauro were excellent again working tirelessly throughout the game. The whole team can hold the heads high after this one.

Goals: Lukas 1, Sam B 1, Jake 1 **Report by**: Phil Irwin, Coach.

Westbrook / Hornsby u17-1 (5.3-33) vs Glebe/Newtown (10.19-79) – Drummoyne Oval

Although the Shots for and against is great, the majority of the Magpies behinds were rushed.

It with a heavy heart that I write this report, My last. The game on the weekend didn't go our way, The Pies showed why they hadn't moved from the top of the ladder all season, Nerves were obvious in the dogs before running onto the ground and they reared their ugly head during the game. With a combination of intense pressure from the wounded Pies the week previously and Nerves from the Dogs, it made for an ugly first half of football. But to capitalise from one's mistakes was going to decide the winner and eventual Grand finalists.

The first quarter the Dogs from 35 kicks found their mark a mere 15 times, turning over by foot direct to the opposition 14 times, taking this into account alongside the 8 dropped marks we were lucky to still be in touch by less than a straight kick at the first break.

This set the tone for the rest of the day as the Pies pressure built upon their confidence achieved in the first. The end of the second there was only 10 points in it and at the start of the third with the dogs getting a clearance from the centre swiftly passing through every Centre player hand score was pegged back to 4 points, but that would be the second last goal for the quarter and the game for the Dogs.

The Dogs however never gave up, never dropping their heads and fighting to the final siren.

Only one Finals team ends their season on a win at that wasn't to be us in 2022, But the way we fought through the whole season to claim our rightful place in the competition this year was admirable to all.

Although this would be the last game this group would play together for a couple of seasons, we as Coaches are happy at where the boys are with their football and confident they will forge their way in football as they enter the senior ranks or give the 17's another bash next year.

Congrats to Oscar for claiming 2nd Runner up in the associations B&F placing behind an unknown umpire that played for Kellyville, should have been Runner up mate.

It's been a pleasure over the years to have been afforded the responsibility to teach our Boys something, whether that be about football or life. The Coaches would like to thank our ever-supportive parent group in the faith they have shown us being involved with their "Now young Men"

Signing off for the last time

Jeff

Goals: The Team 5 **BOG:** Not the Umps **Report by:** Jeff Coach



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