

Match Reports 2019

Year 9-11 Girls

Round 1

At the first Friday night fixture of the season for Warwick Greenwood's Year 9-11 Girls Team it was clear there was an abundance of nerves and excitement amongst the group. With a number of past senior players out of the side, it was the first time a predominantly new combination of players had taken to the field together. From the first bounce you wouldn't have known it though, with the Knights jumping out of the blocks to get a number of well deserved goals both on the run and from set shots. Forward line pressure was pivotal at allowing for multiple scoring opportunities and the backline communicated effectively to ensure the opposition had no easy shots on goal. Wembley managed to wrestle back some of the momentum in the second half but the Knights ran away with it in the final quarter, with teamwork and selfless acts on show for an array of impressed parents and supporters. As a coach it was impressive to see our younger players step up to the challenge of playing in a higher grade as well as our emerging senior leaders drive support and encouragement on field. I look forward to seeing what this team can achieve as they get more football experience together.

Round 2

Round 2 of the season threw a massive curveball at the Year 9-11 Knights girls with only one umpire available for their game. To ensure the game could go ahead, Head Coach Faletti took on the second umpiring role and passed the coveted blue coaching vest to Assistant Coach Sarina McVee. Nerves were already rampant at the prospect of a 2018 Grand Final rematch but this sudden unplanned change added an element of uncertainty. To her credit Coach McVee jumped straight in and settled the team with her positive demeanour.

From the outset of the game it was obvious this was going to be a hotly contested game, with both teams working hard to try get an advantage on the other as the ball ping-pinged between the two arcs. Two quick goals late in the first quarter saw Claremont take a lead with Warwick Greenwoods failing to convert opportunities in their forward 50. The game continued as such, well contested but with the Knights failing to convert any major score while it was obvious Claremont were desperate for a win on home soil. Like the previous week, both the Knights Senior and new/emerging players worked tirelessly and there were some exceptional passages of play, but unfortunately they fell short this time round.

Encouragingly all players kept their heads held high in defeat and will no doubt be looking forward to facing Claremont again later in the season.

Round 2

A massive thanks to support staff, parents and supporters who pitched in to ensure everything on the sidelines ran smoothly as well as to Sarina for taking on a very daunting role at short notice, but handling it with aplomb. I'm certain the players would agree she will make a fantastic Head Coach in the future.

On a very cold night up in the far north the Warwick Greenwood Knights took on the Joondalup Jets. The first quarter saw the Knights jump out of the blocks and score a number of goals. However their dominance was short-lived from the second quarter when Joondalup started to use some of their speedy players to move the ball into the forward line and have multiple scoring opportunities. A tightly-contested third and fourth quarter ensued with neither team able to consistently gain the upper-hand. Despite every member of the team working hard for each other to the point where everyone was exhausted a goal to the Jets in the final minute of the fourth looked to seal it for them. Luckily when the goal umpires conferred the Knights walked away two point victors. It was a difficult task to pick awards but play of the day went to Annie Feist for a phenomenal block that resulted in a goal, Coaches Award to Madi Dodd for her ferocious tackling and chasing to try to nullify a dangerous player and Best on Ground to Bree Wills for her dominance in the ruck position and clearing kicks to advantage.

All courtesy of Meex

Year 10 Boys (Maroon Competition)

Round 1

Warwick Greenwood vs Carine Cougars - Carine Open Space 3pm Sunday 28 April 2019

The game itself had patches of good play but was generally scrappy and the boys got run off their legs in the last quarter which gave Carine about six easy goals. The final scores were not an indication of the true capability of both teams and I look forward to the rematch at home in about 6 weeks.

The intent and effort of our players was excellent, and as I said in my post match comment every player gave their all and were competitive with some good signs given the 1% efforts and never give up attitude. My view of the outcome of the game was that is largely irrelevant given where the playing group is at and what we are trying to achieve. We have had no real opportunity to have the whole playing group train together nor even play a scratch match and with the numbers on the weekend a limited bench against an opposition that had 4-5 players to rotate and keep fresh.

I think our players will be better for the run and I expect improvement each week as we get more training into them, as they play together more, as they get fitter, as they get more comfortable and awareness in match play (poise) and as we get a couple more players back and maybe a couple of new players. On the issue of new players I would like to welcome James Stack and Tennessee Kickett to the team with both players demonstrating on Sunday that they have some real talent and are going to be great additions to the team.

From a seasonal perspective, what is in effect a new playing group and the rise up into the A Grade competition will be challenging but importantly will provide a valuable opportunity for each and every player to improve and take their football where they want to take it with an eye to next year and beyond. The amount of game time means that they players will get fit and they will be playing against the better players in their age group. The players (and parents) will know how good they are at the end of the year not by how many games they win but how much improvement they have made in their football both individually and as a team and how they compete against the odds. This will hold them in good stead for the open year 11/12 competition in 2020

In conclusion I expect that there will be some hard games ahead but also there will be plenty of games and periods in games where we will see the competitive mettle of this group of young men particularly when they play at home.

Round 2

Warwick Greenwood vs Joondalup Kinross - Ellersdale Oval 3pm Sunday 5 May 2019

Sunday was a tough day in the office for the boys. Firstly, the opposition Joondalup Kinross (JK) are a very good team that comprise at least one State and several West Perth “futures players”, they played very well across the board and were on the up.

A point that I made to the boys throughout the game is that whilst we were first to the ball as much as JK we often didn't commit 100% to getting hold of the ball and then didn't hold our tackles. These are 2 fundamental actions that JK did very well and which if done consistently wear down opposition players. Picking up the ball and tackling are two things that any player, regardless of skill level can practice and improve on, and we will be focusing on these actions this week at training.

The way JK played the game on Sunday reflects the level of speed, skill and impact that emerges as the players get older i.e. the game does not get any easier or simpler as the boys mature. As I have said before this group of players is in development for the next stage of football if that is what they want to do next year and the years that follow. For a second week in a row however I cannot question the intent and effort of our players which I thought was excellent and I was proud of the way they kept fighting on despite the opposition being well on top. These boys don't give up, which is a good trait.

That said, a couple of comments were made from the sideline on the weekend that whilst they might reflect parent/spectator frustration are not conducive to a better performance by the players. We all ride the bumps and mistakes of the players, but they are learning and trying their best so without mollycoddling or sugar coating, it is my and many others view that if the only comment that comes to mind is negative then best say nothing at all.

This week we play Scarborough at Millington Reserve Sunday at 3pm (Be there for 2pm please). Like us Scarborough are yet to win a game so it would be good to see the players hit the training track this week and focus on the skills and intent needed to improve.

Round 3

Warwick Greenwood vs Scarborough - Millington Reserve 3pm Sunday 12 May 2019

A very entertaining and well fought out game of football. I thought the game was played in good spirits, both teams were evenly matched, and we clearly were well in the contest until the last quarter when we eventually (and understandably without a bench) hit the wall.

Our players improved from the previous weekend and are acquitting themselves well which suggests to me that the players are developing and enjoying themselves despite the scoreboards not being the right side of the ledger. The most important aspect to me was the improvement around the ground in the physical contest of the players and the transitions we started to see through good use of space and the ball. The players are picking up the tempo and building confidence in their fitness and ability to win the contest.

I am confident that as the season continues the longer game time, they are experiencing will hold the players in good stead for match fitness especially when we are able to get a bit of a bench to rotate and rest players.

This week we play North Beach at Ellersdale. Much like our first home game against Joondalup Kinross we need to give 100% effort to those fundamental actions of picking up the ball, holding tackles and putting the ball in front of our players as this is where the contest will be.

Round 4

Warwick Greenwood vs North Beach - Ellersdale Oval 3pm Sunday 19 May 2019

A good quality and competitive game with both teams going strongly for the ball, with some excellent individual performances. Given North Beach beat Joondalup Kinross by 4 goals (who then beat us by about 20 goals) to kick the first 2 goals and then go down by 10 goals after a long arm wrestle was a very good effort and reflects a growing confidence in the players that they can take on anyone and won't lie down.

The impressive part of the day for me was the defence which was resolute against a hard driving unbeaten team who rebound very strongly from half back. Therein also lay the problem for the day where we were unable to take enough scoring opportunities or put enough pressure on their defence when the ball got through their half backs and went into our forward line.

Increasing scoring opportunities is something that we will focus for this week's game against the second Carine side (the Cats) who we take on at Beach Oval at 3pm Sunday.

Round 5

Warwick Greenwood vs Carine Cats – Carine Open Space 1pm Sunday 26 May 2019

A very good overall performance by the team with consistent effort applied across the four qtrs to record a 6 goal win, the teams first of the season.

The will and capacity of the players to apply physical pressure on the opposition is improving on a weekly basis which is starting to show in the results. Continuing this improvement and focussing on run and support to teammates is the next stage for the team in order to create more options when either coming out of defence or moving into the forward 50 which are critical for a team looking to build a winning score (Just ask the Dockers!).

Going into the bye round this weekend it will help the players to recover from what was quite a physical encounter against the Cats including unfortunately the loss of Luke Evans for several weeks due to a finger injury where he now joins Jayden Wu on the sidelines. We hope to see you boys both back soon.

The addition of the two players from Sorrento, Jye and Peirce, was very helpful this week as it gave our midfielders some additional support and we look forward to continuing to welcome such permit players which allow us to have a bench and remain competitive through what can be a long 80 minutes of football.

All teams now go back to zero points and the team will be able to really reset itself for a strong 10 game season now that most of the cobwebs have been blown out and we have a reasonably settled side. I understand the updated fixtures will be released in the next several days or so, and we can start the season afresh.

Boys, see you at training.

Go the Knights!