

11/11/12 match report u15 LML girls

Not quite enough time to equalise, Central gets away.

Loddon Mallee's Sunday outing against Central started with a minute of silence in honour of Remembrance Day. Once the whistle blew Central was keen to dominate, pushing play into our half. Rikki Ross took on their wing attacks and did great work to blunt them. Jasmine West as goalkeeper saved some strong shots. A corner taken by Central was perfectly placed for a header into the top of the net, for the first goal. A turnover in the middle gave the ball to Central again, their fast attack too much for Lightning's defences and a second goal was on the sheet. The girls were taken aback at the deficit, but Kylie Thompson, Annabel Martin and Maggie Smith helped push the forwards up. Sadly no one could convert chances to goals; the gusty cross wind was no one's friend.

At half time coach Heath Trathen settled the girls, telling them, "keep possession, play the ball around and let it happen." Two minutes in, it did. A tussle down the right side saw Annabel Martin beat off the defence and score Lightning's first strike. Central poured on the pressure, making defenders Rikki and Tara Thomas run hard. A chest-to-chest struggle between keeper Jasmine and the Central striker sadly ended with a goal for the city girls, putting the score at 3-1. The centre attack kept trying, but at times did not pass to the wings when chances arose. Tayla did manage a blinding run down the middle, with Mia Killick helping to draw the keeper far out of the 6-yard box and Tayla sending the ball to the back of the net. Kylie also supported well throughout the play. Late in the game, hesitation when a possible handball was not acknowledged cost Lightning another goal, giving a score of 4-2 down. On the rebound Central conceded a corner, and Janna Lawson passed in to Tayla who gave Loddon Mallee a third goal. Felled by a powerful sliding tackle soon after, Tayla played on but could not quite equalise before the full time whistle.

The final score of 4-3 was disappointing, but many Lightning players put in an excellent game in a strongly contested match