



# Weekly Round Up

## Round 7, 2024



***“Just let them play!”***

***– Gary Lineker***



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## U6 Echidnas vs Ropes Crossing Strikers FC

Not provided

## U6 Dolphins vs Doonside Hawks SC

Not provided

## U7/3 vs Quakers Hill Tigers SC

Not provided

## U7/7 vs Blacktown Workers FC

Not provided

## U8/7 vs Marsden Park Galaxy FC

After a break from training and a game due to the wet weather the kids were keen to get on the field. Mason scored a great goal and Jack had a few close calls. Jack was in goals for the first half and saved some great attempts at goals. Ivy did some great defending in the second half and stuck to her player like glue & they were unable to get the ball to him. Aryana was in goal in the second half and also saved some good attempts.

**Player of the Match:** Jack

**Encouragement Award:** Aryana

## U9/3 vs Ropes Crossing Strikers FC

So good to be back. A slow and clunky start was expected with no training and no games for a couple weeks, but it wasn't long before we got things going in the right direction.

No real clear opportunities at goal in the first half with Ropes strong in defence and quick on the counter meant we needed to be at our best



defensively, which we were with Ethan, Samuel and Liam leading from the back. Nate showed class in goals with some clinical saves in the first half meaning we were all locked up at the break.

Second half was again very even, Ezra showed some real class linking the play from the backline sending the ball out wide where Blake and Mason saw some luck, although the final pass just couldn't find its mark. Another quick counter from Ropes saw us short at the back and despite all our effort the ball found its way into the back of the net. Real resilience from this point on with Nate and Frankie combining nicely through the middle of the park. Leon then showed all his class by picking a stray pass up in the middle of the field before skipping past a couple of defenders and neatly tucking the ball past the keeper to draw level, before again some nice build up play saw him quickly see us take the lead. A brave save by Matteo diving at the oncoming striker saw him take some bruises for his effort but ensured we held the lead until the final whistle. An outstanding team performance with some individual brilliance to boot! Take a bow lads, well done!

**Player of the Match:** Blake

**Encouragement Award:** Ezra

## U9/6 vs Newbury Bulls SC

Not provided

## U9/8 vs Glenwood Redbacks SC

This was the best game of our season so far. We went down but we were competitive the whole way.

Well done to everyone for high energy, good passing, bigger kicks and some fancy dribbling (looking at you Narendra!).

Congratulations to Loki who got us moving forward all game and Isla who defended well and specialised in big, clearing kicks.

**Player of the Match:** Loki

**Encouragement Award:** Isla

## U10/2 vs Marsden Park Galaxy FC

Not provided

## U10/7 vs Quakers Hill Tigers SC

Not provided

## U11/2 vs Plumpton Oakhurst SC

Not provided

## U11/5 vs Polonia Rams FC

Our first match in Development League 5 was a hard fought game as we versed a very physical Polonia Rams. Shaking up our field positions in the first half led to some uncertainty in the players and it yielded the opposition some early goals.

The team settled into their positions somewhat and only conceded twice but just couldn't close on goal despite numerous attempts. A few injuries and some argy-bargy led to an exhausting first half.

Second half and some adjustments to the field positions yielded a solid defence and again more attempts on goals but we just couldn't find the net this week. The team communicated well despite the wind and picking Player of the Match Encouragement Award was made very hard due to the outstanding effort by the whole team.

**Player of the Match:** Marshall

**Encouragement Award:** Jessica

## U12/4 vs Ponds FC White

### **Kings Langley SFC 1 - Ponds FC White 7**

Going up against second place was always going to be a challenging game, made even more so by still not being back at a full strength squad.

The first half was a struggle from the start, conceding 2 goals in the first 10 minutes. We were caught out of position and let Ponds walk through the middle of the defensive line almost unchallenged. We started to pull it together close to the break, but we were then 4-0 down.

The second half started with a lot more energy. Brayden took the gloves from Lincoln, and a few small changes on the field set us up to really push the attack. Xander made some incredible runs down the right hand side, but was unable to find the players in the middle. We forced Ponds into conceding half a dozen corners, really putting the pressure on. However, their counter attack was strong and they managed to put another 3 past us in the second half. It would have been more had Brayden not pulled off an amazing left diving save to parry it out for a corner.

We did get a small reprieve in the last 5 minutes, able to put one goal in their net. Jaxon L being given plenty of time on the ball outside the 18, and with some enthusiastic encouragement from the coaching box, let it rip and put it just above the keepers left hand side. Unfortunately there wasn't enough time for that goal to spirit us on further, and we ended up finishing 7-1 down.

It was a well fought game, and definitely a team we can beat on one of our better days, so watch the space in the second half of the competition!

**Player of the Match:** Aaron

**Encouragement Award:**

## U12/6 vs Ponds FC

### **Kings Langley SFC 1 - Ponds FC 2**

There's a particular vibe around late morning kick-offs. There's just enough free time in the morning to be a distraction, and some days it's hard to get everyone's head into the game. This was one of those days.

We started strongly against a Ponds team that hasn't had much luck this season. We applied a lot of forward pressure, and there were many displays of individual brilliance. Overall though, the play was disjointed and very rusty after two weeks of no training due to poor weather. Ultimately it was the inability to pull together as a team and communicate with each other that was our undoing. Ponds were more disciplined and hungry for the ball. It could be argued that on paper we were the better team, but the better team on the field took the 3 points home with them.

Now that the sun has come back, there will be lots to work on in training, but still many games left in the season to regroup, regather and show the rest of the comp what we are made of.

**Player of the Match:** Jill

**Encouragement Award:** Monty

## U13/3 vs Quakers Hill Tigers SC

### **Kings Langley SFC 0 - Quakers Hill Tigers SC 1**

Not provided

## U15/4 vs Polonia Rams FC

### **Kings Langley SFC 5 - Polonia Rams FC 1**

Not provided

## O35/4 vs Eastern Creek Pioneer SC

### **Kings Langley SFC 1 - Eastern Creek Pioneer SC 2**

Playing at Eastern Creek's home ground is always a challenge. The field is legitimately massive, and it's so big that it forces you to approach the game in a different way. If you don't adapt, the extra space on the field can make it feel like you are playing against 12 instead of 11. We did not adapt fast enough.

Throughout the majority of the first half we stayed narrow and tried to play out through the middle of the park. In contrast, Eastern Creek used the extra width of the field to great advantage, consistently switching the ball wide. They also moved the defenders up into the middle field to add extra men into the attack, safe in the knowledge that there was plenty of space on the field to try and catch any attempts to attack on the counter. As a consequence, we were regularly left scrambling as they controlled the middle of the park. It was inevitable that they would score, and we went into the break 1-0 down.

The second half was much better for the Royal Blue. We pushed wider ourselves, and were able to tighten the screws some more. A low, hard shot past their shaky keeper put the ball into the back of the net and the game was on. Unfortunately it wasn't long after that a break down the side from a deceptively quick winger led to a 1:1 with the keeper and Eastern Creek took the lead again. We continued to push hard and left Eastern Creek stressed and cranky, but in the end we ran out of time on the field to scratch out a result.

There's still plenty of season left to be played, so onward to the next game.