

SPORTS NEWS

Boys Football Report

On Thursday 10th November the Eversley boys football team participated in a tournament at Edmonton County Power League. The tournament was formed of two groups with the top two progressing to a semi final and final.

The boys first game was against Raglan B and they started emphatically with a 4-0 win. A stunning solo goal from Sebastian put the boys 1-0 up minutes after the kick off. Shortly after it was two when Oliver slipped the ball through to Antonio who's delightful finish double the teams lead. The boys made it 3-0 when Antonio's low driven cross was tapped in coolly by Calum, and Sebastian finished the game off in style when Nathan's excellent pass fell to him and from just inside the Raglan half his incredible strike flew past the Raglan keeper and into the top corner to make it 4-0.

Up next was Prince of Wales, who were very difficult to breakdown and their goalkeeper produced a memorable performance to deny Eversley on so many occasions. Fortunately for the boys, they got their well deserved breakthrough goal with Antonio's corner deflected into his own net by one of the Prince of Wales defender's to put Eversley 1-0 up. The game was made safe not long after with a sensational ball from Tom to Calum who's perfectly waited pass fell into the path of Sebastian to make it 2-0 to the team. The boys made it back to back wins when Calum's shot deflected in off another defender and the team ran out comfortable 3-0 winners.



Enjoyment, Perseverance, Self-Belief



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The next game was the toughest of the entire tournament against the eventual winners St George's. The boys were so organised and disciplined and thwarted St George's for long periods until an unstoppable goal from the St George's forward put them 1-0 up with only minutes remaining. Eversley were pushing for an equaliser when St George's counter attacked and doubled their lead when a shot very fortuitously deflected off Tom and went past Andrew to make it 2-0.

The boys knew avoiding defeat against Hazelbury would mean they would go through to the semi finals. Eversley started off strong and were sustaining attacks, pinning Hazelbury back into their own half trying to make that all important breakthrough. Eventually it came with a lovely pass from Dilan through to Yashar who finished expertly to give the boys three wins from four and a place in the semi finals.

The semi final was against Raglan A and it was a very cagey game with both defences on top and no real clear cut chances. In the final minutes Calum thought he had won it for the boys but his left footed strike came back off the post and the game went into extra time. The teams still couldn't be separated after extra time so a penalty shootout was going to determine who would go through to the final. Devastatingly for the boys Raglan won 3-1 on penalties and went through to the final.

The boys deserved so much more but can be so immensely proud of their efforts. It was another first class showing from them. Well done boys!!!

Girls Football Report

On Wednesday 16th November the Eversley girls football team participated in a tournament at Edmonton County Power League. The tournament was formed of two groups with the top two progressing to a semi final and final.

Up first for the girls was St George's and this formed a pattern for the afternoon with most of the games being very tight low scoring encounters. Both teams defences remained on top throughout with no clear cut chances for either side. When the game seemed destined for a draw which on the balance of play was a very fair reflection of the game, St George's found a breakthrough goal when a low left footed shot flew under Esmee and into the bottom corner to give them a 1-0 victory.

Up next was St Andrew's and again this was another very tight encounter with both sides evenly matched. The game followed a similar story to the first with a lack of big chances due to how well both teams defended and the game ended goalless.

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Next up for the girls was Eldon. This game was more open than the first two with both teams trying to seek a goal which could be crucial in the context of the group. Ava's long range strike went just past the post as Eversley tried to get the opener. At the other end Eldon's forward was causing a lot of problems but some astute defending from Chloe, Jasaiya and Reya prevented her from scoring to keep the game level. With the game entering the final stages neither side could muster a breakthrough and the game finished 0-0.



The penultimate game of the group was against Grange Park Prep and the girls were determined to get their first win on the board. Isabella, Kayla and Sienna were causing problems in attack but some strong defending from the Grange Park defenders prevented them from scoring. Dilara went on a great run down the right hand side before cutting the ball back to Isabella who's shot went agonisingly through the side netting to keep the game scoreless. Frustratingly for the team the game finished 0-0 and although they still hadn't won it was their third clean sheet out of four which highlighted how strong they were defensively.

The team finished off their campaign against the eventual winners Raglan. This followed a similar pattern to the first two games with both sides showing great defensive qualities to prevent both forward lines from scoring. The game seemed destined for another goalless draw when the Raglan forward got through one on one against Esmee and she produced a sensational save to preserve her clean sheet.

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The girls ended their tournament in style against Merryhills in a third/fourth play-off. This was a really good test for the team having beaten them 1-0 last month in the league. Merryhills took the lead early on before Laura picked up the ball and played a perfect pass into Ava who's sublime long range strike flew into the bottom corner to equalise for Eversley. Shortly after an incredible moment occurred when Esmee had the ball in her hands and her amazing drop kick from her own box went straight in to the Merryhills goal to put the girls 2-1 up. With only minutes remaining Merryhills got an equaliser and penalties were going to decide who won. The girls made sure it wasn't going to be more penalty heartbreak for Eversley winning 2-0 on penalties thanks to excellent spot kicks from Ava and Isabella alongside a fantastic save from Esmee.

Similarly to the boys this was another excellent showing from the girls. They can be so proud of their efforts and performances. Well done girls!!!

(Niall Halloran)

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