

## SPORTS NEWS

### Girls Football Report

On Wednesday 1st February 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 from each group going through to the semi finals and final.

The girls first match was against Raglan. This was always going to be a tough game for the team because Raglan were the winners of the last tournament. Raglan started brightly and took an early lead. The girls responded brilliantly and some excellent link up play between Laura and Ava before Ava's low driven shot was kept out by the Raglan goalkeeper. The game was heading into the final stages with Eversley pushing for the equaliser, Raglan counter attacked and doubled their lead and the game ended 2-0.

Up next for the girls was Woodpecker. Woodpecker started brightly and took a controversial lead. It looked like a foul on Esmee but the referee gave the goal and Woodpecker were ahead. Eversley responded brilliantly though and were awarded a penalty when Ava's fierce strike was handled by a Woodpecker defender and Eversley had a penalty. Ava's penalty was saved brilliantly by the keeper and Woodpecker maintained their lead. Shortly after the girls were level with some excellent link up play between Kayla and Isabella before Isabella's cool finish equalised for the girls. The team were pushing for the winner to get their tournament campaign up and running and their hard work paid off when Ava's powerful corner was converted expertly by Isabella and Eversley were 2-1 up. Some composed defending from Chloe and Lily towards the end of the game meant the girls got their first win of the tournament and were up and running.



**Enjoyment, Perseverance, Self-Belief**



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The penultimate group game for Eversley was against Oakthorpe. This was an extremely tough match as Oakthorpe had beaten Raglan in the game prior. The girls started excellently and a powerful corner from Ava was deflected in by the Oakthorpe defender and Eversley were 1-0 up. Oakthorpe responded well and instantaneously drew level when the ball broke to their striker and she lifted the ball over Esmee and into the net to make it 1-1. The team showed so much courage to respond to this setback when Chloe's incredible, long throw in won Eversley a corner. Ava stepped up and lightning struck twice, her corner hit an Oakthorpe defender and the girls were 2-1 up. Just like the game before Chloe and Lily's resolute defending combined with great composure from Eversley meant the girls held on for a brilliant 2-1 victory.

The last group game was against Grange Park. The girls needed to avoid defeat to progress through to the semi finals. Eversley started this game to be solid defensively and preserve their clean sheet as they knew a draw would get them through. Grange Park were penetrating with attacks but the girls had an answer to everything and seemed destined for a place in the last four. With seconds ticking Grange Park got a throw in on the right hand side. The ball came into the box, hit Ava on the shin and diverted past Esmee into the goal and Grange Park had the lead. The whistle blew almost immediately after the goal and it was an incredibly unfortunate ending to what was a fantastic tournament from the girls.

The girls played the other Raglan side in a third place play-off after the group stages. Having missed out on the semi finals in the cruelest manner it could've been easy for the girls to drop their heads but they all showed a great attitude to this game. Ava picked the ball just inside the Raglan half and went on a great run before firing an unstoppable strike past the Raglan goalkeeper into the bottom corner. This was the perfect ending to a brilliant tournament by the girls.

All the girls had a fantastic attitude throughout the afternoon and showed great sportsmanship to all the other teams they faced. Well done girls!!!

(Niall Halloran)

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## Netball

Eight of our fantastic Year 6 netball squad played against Grange Park on Thursday 2nd February. They played 4 quarters of 6 minutes each and looked strong throughout the game.

In the first quarter, Eversley had a confident start with Amelia winning the toss up to earn Eversley the first centre pass. They hit the ground running and wasted no time in scoring their first goal. With great passing and moving well into spaces, it wasn't long before Eversley were 2-0 up thanks to Tiah and Aleyna's shooting. The defense were working amazingly throughout which meant Grange Park were unable to score in the first quarter.

During the 2nd quarter, we saw more of a fight back from Grange Park, and while there were snippets of great play from both teams, neither were able to convert this into a goal, so the scored stayed at 2-0. We can thank our defense - Hanah, Seray, Laura and Floriana - for stopping any Grange Park goals in the first 2 quarters.



After a team talk, the girls were raring to go again in quarter 3. The attackers brought the ball down well, with lots of great passes between Amelia and Olivia to get the ball into our shooting circle, resulting in another goal for Eversley - 3-0!

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Moving into the last quarter, there were multiple position changes and unfortunately the girls couldn't quite get back into their stride; Grange Park showed fighting spirit and managed to score a goal of their own. The final score was 3-1 to Eversley - a great success!

We were really pleased to see the girls taking on advice within the quarter breaks and putting into practice the skills they've learnt in training. We were also so impressed with the teamwork and sportmanship shown by the girls; a special mention here to Tiah, who confidently offered words of encouragement and support to bring the team together during the breaks between each quarter. The team were really proud of their performance (rightly so!) and they all really enjoyed the experience.

Well done girls - you've done us proud!

(Miss Boothby and Miss Kilkenny)

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