



Youth Girls U15 Western

Coach – Paul Smith
Manager – Natasha Vitanza

TROPHY WINNERS

Best and Fairest	Imogen Gow
Most Consistent	Talia Jose
Best Team Player	Emma Vitanza
Leadership & Commitment	Alysha Ramsay

Played - 16 Won - 10 Loss - 6 Draw - 0 Position – 3rd

SEASON SUMMARY:

Reflecting back on season 2017, the girls should be very pleased with their efforts in winning 10 games throughout the season, making the finals and winning a final. Highlights throughout the season include: the jumper presentation in late March, a resounding 25-point win over Emu Plains in the first round, the voting of Emma Vitanza and Alysha Ramsey as co-captains, having to place the team song on Facebook so the new players could learn the words, our 84-26 win early in the season against Hawkesbury, playing games with 12 players and no reserves against teams such as Auburn with 19 players, boot camp with Claire, ground duty on Mother's day, the pizza night in May, Imogen being selected in the U15YG's Rep team, post training cupcakes for Olivia's birthday (mmm cupcakes), cakes/lollies and other goodies that would appear after games, training with the U18 girls team and the Eagles women's team, the end of season lunch at the pub, making the finals, beating Baulkham Hills in the qualifying final and the never give up attitude shown by the girls in all our games and in particular during the elimination final.

I want to thank our manager, Natasha for her tireless effort in washing the bibs, cleaning out the kit bag and organising the girls (and the coach) on game day. Massive thanks also to John for being the runner each week, offering the girls feedback via his 'runners rant' and for organising drinks, food and a venue for us to go to after our last game of the regular season. Thanks also to Paul for waving the flags most weeks and helping at training, Ross for waving the flags, Emma for filling in as the manager, goal umpire and pastry chef when needed. Phil for running water (in between various 'man colds' and old man's soccer injuries), Vic for his ongoing support and for filling in as coach for a few weeks and for all the other people that stepped up when asked. Finally, a big thank you to the girls for always trying their best, for being supportive and respectful of each other on and off the field and for allowing me to coach them, I feel really privileged to have been able to do so.

Paul Smith



Player Profiles

Olivia Amiet – It was awesome having Olivia in the team as she always competed for the ball well and was a consistent player throughout the season. Olivia's game improved each week and her versatility meant that she was could play in several positions as needed. Olivia always came with a lot of energy to training.

Alyshia Angioni – Alyshia was a late addition to the team, joining mid-season, having never played AFL. From her very first game it was evident that Alyshia was a 'tackling machine' and when she tackled someone they stayed tackled. With another season under her belt, Alysha will shine on the AFL field.

Abby Gibbons – Abby was a key target for the team as she roamed between full forward and centre half forward. Abby started the season kicking plenty of goals and gave the team a lot of confidence as the season progressed. I hope that Abby continues to play AFL as I am sure she will develop into an even better player as she develops more 'game sense in reading the play'. Abby had an awesome season considering she has never played AFL before. Overall Abby finished second in the goal kicking with 14 goals.

Imogen Gow – Imogen was most deserving of her **Best and Fairest award** (as voted by the parents) with 58 points and leading goal kicker with 22 goals. Imogen is an elusive player who caused havoc for the other teams. I'm not sure what was more delightful, seeing her kick a heap of goals in the forwards or watching her run from deep in the back line to deep in the forward line, running around players and having a stack of bounces along the way. Imo, well done on an awesome season.

Sarah Hurley – Sarah had a mixed season often plagued by injury. She never complained and always went about her football with a steely determination. Her accurate kicking and ability to 'read the play' ensured that she was a reliable defender and an imposing figure in defense. Sarah's versatility and experience meant that she could play any position on the field and would often move into ruck or on the ball as needed. If Sarah stays injury free she will really shine next year.

Talia Jose – Talia attacked every training, every game and every opposing player with great enthusiasm and commitment. She is a wonderful team player and always lead by example. Her endurance and ability to win the ball time and time again, in congestion, ensured she was pivotal to the success of the team. Most weeks TJ featured in our best players and it was only fitting that she received the **most consistent award**. Talia also kicked 9 goals for the season, and polled 44 points for best and fairest award, well done!



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Natasha Miller – Natasha was always committed to each and every contest and her fearless approach and energy in tackling opponents was almost boarding on foolhardy. Natasha's commitment to trying to win the ball for the team usually meant that she ended the game battered and bruised. The other team certainly knew they were in a contest whenever Natasha was in the vicinity. It's great to coach someone who loves their footy and the energy that Natasha brings to every training and game was awesome. Natasha finished fourth in the best and fairest award with 34 points.

Georgia Newell – Georgia also was a late addition to the team and her height certainly ensured that she would be spending most of her time in the ruck. Her ability to win the ball in the ruck and get to each ruck contest around the ground was incredible, considering she has never played AFL before. It was wonderful having Georgie join the team and seeing her improve each week. Georgia will certainly be one to watch in the future as she continues to improve and refine her rucking skills.

Alysha Ramsay – Alysha was an absolute pleasure to coach and see develop as the season progressed. Alysha's determination, commitment to the team, whether it be at training or on game day highlighted her 'team first' attitude. Alysha always put the team first, never complaining about being moved out of the center or coming off in the last quarter in a game, when unwell. She was a wonderful co-captain and a fine example to all (with the exception of the time she pranked the coach and team with her arm in a sling in the lead up to finals). Alysha always gave 100% and is most deserving of the **Leadership and Commitment award**.

Jasmine Rohde – Not a week would pass without Jasmine asking if she could play further up the field. Unfortunately for Jasmine, but fortunately for the team she was just too damn good in defense. There were a number of games we may have lost if not for Jasmine's efforts in stopping the ball before it crossed the goal line. Her ability to know when to run towards an attacking player and know when to stand her ground served her time and time again. If Jaz plays next year she needs to negotiate a goal saving financial incentive with her mum not a goal kicking incentive.

Courtney Smith – Courtney improved greatly as the season progressed, this was noticeable in her improvement in tackling and gaining more possessions in general play. Courtney certainly brought a great deal of fun and spontaneity to training often adapting a drill at training (such as running off with the ball or putting the ball down for a 'try' rather than handballing, when the mood suited her). We need people like Courtney at training to remind us that we don't always need to be serious and that having fun is also important.

Emily Wood – Emily is the quiet achiever, going about her football business without much fuss or bother. I don't think Emily realizes how well she played this year and her importance to the team. Emily always tried her best and contested well each time the ball was near her. Well done Emily, on a great season.



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Emma Vitanza – It was fitting that Emma was selected by her team mates as co-captain as she always lead from the front and demonstrated during each game why she was deserving of the **Best Team Player** award. Emma was certainly missed during our local derby with Baulkham Hills due to her netball commitments. Emma never took a backward step on the field and always gave 100% for the team. She always displayed the qualities required by the co-captain of a team and polled 46 points in the best and fairest awards.

Sophie Vitanza – Sophie was a reliable backline player who could always be depended on to bump an opposing player off the ball or put on a shepherd to allow a team mate to pick the ball up. A lot of our attacking raids started with Sophie gaining possession of the ball or allowing one of our players to gain possession of the ball. It was reassuring for the team to know that Sophie was positioned there in the backline.

