

CLUB

9 November – Club vs Typhoons

After a disjointed start to the season, the game against Typhoons was Club's first game in several weeks, and whilst Typhoons certainly put up a strong fight, Club came away with a 42-21 win. There were some fantastic displays of linking between defence and attack as the ball was driven down the court, with our focus on the timing of leads paying off. The shooters put into practice the recent lessons from Norma Plummer's visit, with Natacha Cuvelier and Robyn Atkinson working the circle seamlessly. Defence consisted of Claire Mannion at GK, Jess McCauley at GD and Tassie Brakenridge at WD for the game. The defence focused on practicing the centre pass wall and the zone in the defensive third, resulting in plenty of circle defence intercepts and held balls by Typhoons. In the end it was a robust performance by Club, to take our third win for the season.

11 November – Club vs Valley Tigers

After having to reschedule this game at Valley's request, Club had to back up after the game two days earlier, and remarkably this was our first opportunity to play with a full team this season. The luxury of choice gave Coach Karin the flexibility to try a different combination in attack for each quarter, rotating between the four goalies and switching Elise Daly and Vanessa Cuvelier between centre and WA. Defence had Claire Mannion out at WD for the game, and Jess McCauley and Vic Smith switching between GK and GD. The game provided an opportunity to trial different set plays, and to focus on varying the pace down the court. Attack focused on the feed into the shooters, and how to ensure we were using both sides of the court driving into goals, and switching between playing front in goals, using triangles and lastly using screens and baseline drives.

Club's fierce pressure was felt all over the court, forcing Tigers to make bad decisions, giving plenty of opportunities for spectacular intercepts. Aside from defence's swag of turnovers, notable mention to Melissa Atkin's whose last quarter turnover was named intercept of the match. The ending score line was 65-8, a dominant display by Club.

16th November – Club vs Hantang Chilin

Club's third game for November and it was a physical match that took plenty of grit and patience to play our own style. The young Chilin team, who were promoted from Division 2 this season, came out with a determination and speed. However, the pressure, skill and height advantage certainly allowed Club to establish an early lead, up 16-3 at the first quarter break.

Without the Cuvelier sisters, Elise Daly stepped into Centre for the match. The attack were moving well together, practicing our set plays, with Robyn Atkinson and Tassie Brakenridge teaming up for the first half in Goals, netting 31 by half time. The attacking line-up was changed at half time, with Melissa Akins moving into GA, and Robyn venturing out to WA. The shuffle was another successful combination, with another 15 goals added in the third quarter. The final quarter saw Tassie and Melissa swap positions, letting Tassie have a run in GA for the first time this season! Getting slapped in the face and Melissa nearly flattened by the physical Goal Defense didn't impact our reliable shooters, who remained poised throughout the match.

Whilst the attack had plenty of the ball, it was the appropriate reward for the defensive line-up's hard work, as they turned over the ball through intercepts and sheer pressure on the young Hantang team. Even having her arms pinned couldn't stop Goal Defence Vic Smith from creating headaches for the opposition! The defensive trio, including Jess McCauley and Claire Mannion worked brilliantly, the centre pass overload and diamond defence layout both producing a swag of forced errors by Hantang, as well as some spectacular intercepts by each of the defenders. Go team!

The ending scoreline was 61 – 12, achieving the team's prematch aim of 15 goals a quarter, well done everyone.

23rd November – Club vs HKCC Demons

Club's fourth game for November and the Grand Final rematch! Club came out strongly, with the defensive line up of Jess McCauley, Vic Smith and Claire Mannion putting immense pressure on their attackers and turning the ball over several times in the first quarter. The attack started with Tassie Brakenridge and Robyn Atkinson in goals, Elise Daly at WA and Vanessa Cuvelier in Centre. The tall and aggressive Demons defenders required Club's attack to position strongly and have patience with their passes into the goalies. At quarter time Club led 6 to 5.

The second quarter saw Melissa Atkins move into GA, and the team developed a better rhythm all over the court. The timing of leads was noticeably improved and the conversion of turnovers was achieved with greater consistency. At half time club led 19-10.

The third quarter started poorly, with Club slow to react to the Demons swift counter-attack. Poor passing and missed goals at crucial times did not reward the continued hard work of the defence, who still succeeded in pressuring the opposition and making turnovers. The third quarter ended with Club narrowly ahead 21-18.

The final quarter shuffle saw Tassie shift to WD and Natacha Cuvelier come on at GA, to join Melissa in the shooting line up. The changed line up was a winner; with Natacha providing fresh movement as well as some much appreciated shooting accuracy! The additional height in WD assisted the defensive line up to continue to turn the ball over before Demon's had a chance to shoot, which allowed Club to increase its lead. The final score 28-23, Club's tightest winning margin of the season!

TYPHOONS

The winning streak continued for Typhoons beating Hantang Chillin by an impressive 46-12! It was a great game building the lead quarter by quarter, and with Pauline also able to roll out some new combinations from her (netball) bag of tricks. Everyone was on FIRE.

Unfortunately Typhoons went down the following week against reigning champs Club 21-42, and then the week after to HKCC Demons 37-51. Both very tough competitive games, everyone played hard till the full time whistle was blown. Redeeming ourselves from 2 losses in a row we bounced back in full force to then beat DB Black Pearls 52-35. SMASHED IT LADIES! Love the Typhoons fighting spirit. Next game against Valley Panthers will be the last game for Round 1. This will be a critical game to win determining a placing of 3rd or 4th at the end of round 1.

Typhoons are pumped.... BRING IT ON!!

WHIRLWINDS

Round 5 vs. Kowloon Sapphires

The tone of this game was set the moment Kim Pascoe arrived and pronounced her penchant for "Liking it hard". Hard it was! Down 3 goals in the first 2 minutes against what seemed like a 7ft opposing GS, the team finished the first quarter behind and slightly bamboozled. After a quick pep talk from Ronnie, Whirlies got stuck in during the second quarter and clawed back a few goals. Some creative umpiring meant parts of the game emulated that of a rugby match. Tussles on the floor, in the air and under the goal post resulted in a 21-all third quarter ending score line and a tired looking Sapphires team. Strategy came into play in the last quarter as Whirlies worked hard to win turnovers in the centre of the court, stay calm and convert intercepts into goals, eventually closing out the match with a 33-27 win. This was the first game the team really had to dig deep and pull together to come up with the win and will certainly make for an interesting rematch!

Round 6 vs. Giants

Change of scenery and coach this week for the Whirlies, playing their first game away from the comforts of home and without Ronnie in command. The team was in good hands though with stand-in coach Pauline and got off to a solid start. The tiny, nippy giants played a very different game to Whirlies and at times the team fell into their style of play and lost their structure. Although a good 26-16 win, Whirlies lost intensity as the match progressed and overall didn't capitalise on a good opportunity to get some goal difference points on the board.

Round 7 vs. HKCC Griffins

What can I say about this game besides the fact that a number of the Whirlies team members decided to have absolute Barry Crocker's on the same day. With a combined age of probably double that of the HKCC Griffins, it was likely that fitness would be the key to winning this match. Surprisingly, it didn't come down to that at all. A continuously consistent Griffins team held their centres throughout the match and calmly converted the few turnovers they got, to win the match 42-35. A slightly disjointed Whirlies team, who easily got double the amount of turnovers, rushed their shift into attack so as to not convert and made silly errors on their own centres. As Katy Chandler so insightfully put it, the solution to the team's shortcomings today was simple - 'guys I think we all just need a really boozy team social'.

Round 8 vs. DB Buccaneers

Off the back of a disappointing result last week, the team got back to basics and started out the game strong. Against a very experienced Buccaneers side, it was clear that winning this game would come down to accuracy, speed and fitness. The Whirlies Shooters were definitely the standouts of the match, nailing shots from all over the circle. By half time the team had built up a healthy lead, however after dropping to 2nd in the league on goal difference this week, there was extra incentive

to keep pushing hard throughout the second half. Whirlies finished the match with a deserved 48-17 win and hopefully enough goal difference to put them back on top!

HURRICANES

November 2nd 2015

In this match we were able to come together and pull out a strong win against the HKCC Optimists, 40-24, almost doubling their score.

In the first quarter we played a flustered game and we were not completely in our zone. We still managed to hold our own; unfortunately we lost this quarter 8-7. The next quarter with fresh legs on court we began to switch on and eventually we overtook the Optimists and finished this quarter with a win, 18-15.

Starting the 3rd quarter we knew to ensure our lead we had to pull our lead ahead by a couple more points... and so we did! This quarter showed turnovers in the defensive end, fluid ball movement and accurate shooting. At the end of the quarter we were in the lead, 29-22.

In the last quarter we knew that we were playing to keep our lead. With court play similar to the 3rd quarter we were safely able to bring our 4th consecutive win home, as well as our match with the highest goals against!

November 9th 2015

In our match against the Valley Leopards, we brought home yet another win!

In the first quarter, the game was very close, with many turnovers and both teams getting shots on the net. The final score at the end of this quarter was 6-4. Going into the next quarter, the score of the game remained close, although we started dominating the game and managed to win this quarter 13-11.

After our halftime break, with fresh legs on the court we outscored and outplayed the Leopards, winning the quarter 21-18. In the final quarter we then brought the game home with our 5th win 28-22.

November 16th 2015

Despite having a small team this week, with all of our HK U16 representatives away on tour, we had a difficult game ahead of us against the Kowloon Diamonds. Although we were down for most of the game, we were able to pull this back up, ending the game in a draw 22-22.

Starting the game, in the first few minutes we let the Diamonds run away with some points. We were struggling to regain our lost points, unfortunately ending this quarter 9-2.

The next quarter showed some consistent play, although due to many turnovers, and many more goals, we were beginning to regain our composure and this resulted in 6 goals scored by both teams this quarter. The final score at the end of the quarter was 15-9, for the Diamonds.

After our improvement in the second quarter, we came on court after halftime with a new found energy, switching on and as the Diamonds tired out, our consistent fitness and play. We ended up outscoring the Diamonds by 2 goals this quarter. We finished the quarter on the Diamonds heels, 19-15.

In the final quarter, our intensity and determination won out and we were able to bring the game all the way back to a tie. With a penalty shot at the end of the game from the edge of the shooting circle we unfortunately missed, leaving us with a tie 22-22. An amazing comeback that was the result of hard work!

November 23rd 2015

In the match against the HKS Pipers, it was a difficult game that unfortunately resulted in the Hurricane's first loss. In the first half there was lots of roughness placed on us from the Pipers, we tried our best to battle it out. Unfortunately this did not work in our favour and with inconsistent umpiring we were not able to keep up to the score of the Pipers, the first half ending 10-6.

The next half saw some improvement on the behalf of the whole team, we were able to score more goals and we were able to tire out the Pipers. Unfortunately despite all our efforts, we ended up losing the game 22-14, a tough loss.