

Reflections on the Football Season – Kalamunda U7s & U6s

With the disruptions at the start of the season due to COVID-19, it has been certainly an interesting football season for our wonderful U6s and U7s teams.

Our club chose to join the Football West Hub format for the year which has provided our young players to play in a controlled yet competitive format. As we belatedly started the Hub in Forrestfield, it was quite interesting to watch the kids adapt to the playing format quickly and start putting into practice aspects of working as a team. Well, at their age, playing as a team does not come naturally as we all know. However, given the encouragement of the coaches and the enthusiasm and support of the parents from the sidelines, the value of playing as a team and the enjoyment of achieving something with teammates has grown on them from week to week!

A wise man once said, “before any kid can become a pro, they must enjoy playing the game like a kid”. Indeed, that stands out as the most plausible reason as to why, we, as parents and/or guardians get up early on a Sunday morning sacrificing part of the precious weekend time and travel a fair distance, on occasion, to see our kids enjoy their football. At the end, that is what matters most. Everything else, will come in its own sweet time!

In terms of performance, our U7 teams have really performed well through the year and while there are those weeks where things haven't gone exactly to plan, my observation is that all 3 of the U7s have grown as a team considering their ball control ability and level of involvement. Overall, the U7s progress and team play and commitment compares well in relation to other teams in our Football West Hub.



Both the U6s & U7s have shown great deal of promise and the learning while at-play bodes well for our Club's future. This, in no small measure, is due to the positive engagement from the Team Leads (Sunday coaches), the well-structured training sessions on Wednesdays and you as parents. I have been across development of junior football players across several clubs over the years and while my observation could be viewed as a bit biased, my thoughts (as one of the kid's parent) is that the atmosphere at Kalamunda Football Club facilitates a very positive learning experience, whether during mid-week training sessions or on Sunday match days. This positive atmosphere certainly has been among the best I have seen. Let's ensure we all keep this up as we are now moving towards the last few weeks of the season.

Our U6s team including our Girls development squad, are also showing signs of potential especially if they continue their experiences into the next season. Our nascent U6 Girls team is a mix of young ladies developing skills as well as few that can mix it with anyone in their age group. Great to see that the Girls do apply themselves even when they are outclassed or overpowered by more experienced boys teams. For them, that great balance in terms of skills development on the ball (as well as off the ball), will continue. With the Club's overall commitment to the female player

development, there will be more opportunities for our junior girls to become a more cohesive and competitive team while still maintaining the required level of enjoyment.

The excellent response to the Club's off-season training program for the girls will certainly allow for the program grow into next year and beyond. The progress of our other two U6 teams has been also a joy to watch. They have been well committed and organised every week (thanks to the team leads) to be competitive and show their progress along with the other U6 teams in the Hub. I think we can all see a good group of developing kids in that age group.

And finally, with the opportunity for all the kids (up to age 12) to continue the summer training program at Kalamunda United, it will be great to see for those kids that are keen to develop further skills to join training on Wednesdays. note Club announcements and details in relation to that program.

To everyone, enjoy the upcoming warmer months and the off-season. for your continued support.

Hooman Samimi
Coordinator

About Hooman

Hooman is a resident of the neighbouring Darlington and has returned with his family to the Perth Hills after several years. He has been involved with junior football programs since the early 2000s and served on number of Football West Junior committees as well as supporting junior football development in the Hills area.



Please

Thanks