

## **Back to Back Premierships for the Lindfield U16As**

At Lindfield Football Club, we celebrate our many winning teams and we look at the formula that helps deliver success.

Our Under-16A Super League side is one of those winning outfits, undefeated in NSFA games over the past two seasons and back to back premiers in 2020.

In 2019 as the Under-15As, they won the NSFA Vice-President's Shield, knocking off the region's two Under-16s teams in the process, including an U16 State Cup finalist. In 40 years of this competition, only a tiny handful of winners have been U15 teams. The Under-15A also won the Super League Championship Final and completed the special "triple" for the 2019 season.

In 2020, Lindfield U16A won 11 of their 13 games and were held to two draws. In a dominant performance, they scored 67 goals in the shortened NSFA season and conceded just eight. Their closest rivals scored 28. In both 2019 and 2020, they'd secured top position with rounds to spare.

The nucleus of the team has been together for the past three or four seasons under coach Tom Greeley, generally training one night a week on artificial and one night on (very bumpy) grass. It does mean the team is ready and prepared whatever the surface they encounter on weekends.

Over the last few seasons, training has been a delight to watch, coach and participate in as the boys have built a strong sense of comradery. Each session has brought joy to not only the coach but more importantly the players. Not only have the boys come to training ready to adapt and learn, they come armed with witty humour and a curious mind to develop their skills and football understanding well beyond their years.

### **Anthony #2**

New to the team in 2020, Anthony is highly reliable and calm at centre-back. Skilled on the ball and deceptive, he always looks like he has plenty of time to do whatever he wants. And when there's trouble, he sorts it out quickly. A great addition who won the coach's award in 2020.

### **Arin #12**

A classy forward, Arin dazzles with his speed and footwork on the wing or at centre-forward. He was often double marked by opposing teams as they tried to keep him quiet. Some of his successful long-range shots stopped keepers in their tracks in 2020.

### **Bailey #3**

A rapid wing-back, Bailey combines with both the mid-fielders and wingers to wrap around down the left side, turning defence into attack. Bailey is a defender who scores goals and contributed more than half a dozen assists for the season.

**Blair #17**

Another fast forward who can play on either wing, or a very capable wing-back who shuts down forwards with speed and strength. Also known as “bullet-proof”, Blair is a nightmare for defenders to control.

**Caellum #18**

Caellum’s height and speed provide the team with more options at centre-forward. He gained in confidence during 2020 and is great to watch at speed in defence and attack. A true example that a defender’s worst nightmare is a player who can out muscle and outpace anyone in the backline.

**Charlie #1**

The team’s keeper drives halfway across Sydney to guard the Lindfield net. Charlie made some great saves in 2020 and conceded only eight in 13 matches, while the team averaged more than 5 a game against its opponents.

**Charlie #10**

Another goal-scoring midfielder, Charlie finds a way to get the ball into the net. He has plenty of stamina in the centre to run down attackers and to distribute. The team refers to him as “magic-man” as he enjoys prancing on the ball and tormenting the defence.

**Jack #8**

One of three solid centre backs, Jack is determined and dominant at the back for the 16As. His big boot on occasion allows him to link with the forwards to turn defence into attack, and sometimes makes guest appearances at wing or in the frontline to put his head on a corner.

**Jack #99**

Big and strong, Jack is a utility who has played at wing-back, wing and centre-forward in 2020. He’s a handful in the six-yard box who can out jump keepers. His animated attitude allows him to creep into the doubts of any defender.

**James #7**

The team’s captain is attacking midfielder James, who topped both the goal scoring and assists. A positive talker and organiser with a big engine, James won the player’s player award and filled in for the Lindfield 18s and Premier League Reserves.

**Jordy #19**

Key to the defence at defensive-mid, Jordy is adept at extinguishing attacking raids and distributing to the attacking mids and forwards. He has a magnetic pull when it comes to shutting attacking play down.

**Lachie #5**

Lachie is a highly skilled offensive player who late in the season moved to the centre-forward position from midfield. He is a goal scorer, deceptive with the ball and an opportunist who can pounce with a powerful shot.

**Martin #6**

A cool centre-back, Martin is composed on the ball and often distributes long balls to the forwards with his powerful clearances. He is always the key man in high pressure defensive one to one situations.

**Michael #11**

An impact player who joins the front line to score goals and create problems for defences. Tall, he is an all-round sportsman who moves effortlessly at speed.

**Morgan #9**

Adept at centre-forward and on the wing, Morgan's ball skills allowed him to lay off assists to his teammates and to find the back of the net on plenty of occasions in 2020. Another good addition for Lindfield.

**Nathan #22**

A fast, capable, secure wingback who will peel off a shot late in the game to surprise tiring defenders and keepers. An integral part of a backline that kept many teams scoreless.