

MATCH REPORT

HORNSBY BEROWRA EAGLES vs Pennant Hills Demons

ROUND 1. 1/4/2023

Rofe Park

What a way to begin the season! Heavy morning rain and continuing showers meant the Eagles Nest, players and supporters were all drenched. Surface water abounded and the players splashed around trying to get an advantage. Pennant Hills managed one attack that gave them a six-point lead, but the Eagles fought back with Jon kicking our first point of the season. Andrew then won a free kick inside the blues 50 which he converted to six points with a huge kick between the big posts. Pennant Hills knew they were in for a tough game but kicked another goal to get to half time 12-7 up.

Coach Brent and Assistant Coach Nathan put in place a simple game plan for the second half. They asked the team to kick long and wide in defence, tackle hard in the middle and support your teammates under pressure, and the boys did a great job following the instructions. The Eagles started the second half strongly with increasing pressure through the mids with a high level of physicality with some bone-crunching tackles by Andrew, Ewan and Loz, followed by a tremendous effort from Hamish, Will, Jeremey and Lachie to keep Pennant Hills at bay. Will made a terrific block on the line to prevent PH going further ahead, with Hamish clearing to the wing afterwards. Josh, playing his first game for the Eagles, was heavily involved in midfield and somehow handballed to himself under pressure and kicked away. Unfortunately, the increasing rain made it difficult to claw back any more goals, Pennant Hills winning by 20-7 in the end, but it was an awe-inspiring start to the season, and the boys will do great things on a dry pitch moving forward.

Well played to all the boys, especially our new starters. Many thanks to our volunteers and supporters who braved the weather. Also, thanks to Alex Heathers for taking some terrific photos of the match that can be found at <https://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-qLQ6Bn/>

Player of the match went to Jon who kicked a behind and nearly slotted a major and put in a huge shift playing with and for his teammates. The Callum Mills award went to Josh, who played an amazing first game for the Eagles.

