

Round 1 Report

Hornsby-Berowra Eagles (17) v Lane Cove Cats (64)

We had a rare Tuesday public holiday game today where the U13 Hornsby Berowra Eagles travelled out to play the Lane Cove Cats at Blackman Park. The reason for the odd scheduling was because our Round 1 game was washed out before the school holidays. Both sides agreed to meet today so here we were.

The day was a special one in that it was ANZAC Day. I thought the Lane Cove club did an admirable job in commemorating the occasion. Before the bounce both teams were lined up, solemn words were spoken which were followed by a minute's silence. It was a time to pause and think about how lucky we were to be out playing and watching footy and to thank those who have served.

Conditions were quite hot once again as we waited for the umpire's starting bounce on Lane Cove's synthetic pitch. The whistle blew and we were away for our second match of the year. The Cats started the scoring with an early goal. The Eagles fought on however and it was a competitive opening quarter. Ollie got us on the board with a super goal that was achieved through some tidy lead-up work from the mids and forwards. Hornsby continued to work their way into the match with some nice marks from Josh T and Henry. We went to the first break down 8-7.

Onto to the 2nd quarter and the Cats once again grabbed an early goal. They also had a few other chances to kick a few majors but luckily for us, they were unable to convert them. Josh T was again solid at the back but was suffering a bit from having a lack of options to kick to. Callum got us back into the game with a beautiful straight kick for goal after a penalty. At the main break we were behind but in touch at 23-15.

Coach Tim's message at half-time was calm and clear - more communication, to mark up on the opposition and to keep the movement going. Our boys listened well and looked focused on the task at hand.

A few things went against us in the 3rd quarter and Lane Cove started to gain the ascendancy. They benefited from a marginal high tackle call which gifted them six points. Our boys were a little unlucky with some of our goal attempts too with Ollie and Josh H having some very close calls which resulted in behinds. There was some nice defensive play in this quarter from the team with the mad redheads putting on some nice tackles. Ronin in particular never gave up and had a great match throughout. At the end of the quarter we were down 39-17.

Unfortunately things got away from us in the final stanza. Lane Cove kicked three consecutive goals and despite our efforts we couldn't stop them. The boys didn't give up though with Henry and Josh T being the most resilient. They both had a stack of work to do today at the back but never shirked their task. Final score 64-17.

A tough loss for the Eagles but as Tim said at the end of the game we have the whole season ahead of us. There's obviously a lot of improvement to come and it's time for the boys to work hard at training on Thursday so we can nail our first win for the year. We're up against the newly merged West Penno/Westbrook side and wouldn't that be a great team to beat for our first win! There will be plenty in our squad with a point to prove so we can look forward to an awesome whole team effort next Sunday at the home of football, Rofe Park.

Player Of The Match - Ollie Guest

Callum Mills Award - Ronin Austera