

**HBE U13 v PENNANT HILLS/WESTBROOK
ROFE PARK
ROUND 3 – 30 APRIL 2023**

Ronin's 50th Game!

The game started out with the levels of fanfare and professionalism often only seen at the highest of levels of team sport!

Ronin (23) had reached a milestone of 50 games, and with the banner up and being held taught the team was not going to simply walk back 5 meters and go through it, oh no! They ran all the way back into the sheds, lined up behind Ronin and made the 50-metre sprint to smash their way through the crape paper. The flashes of red and yellow in their jerseys resembled a brush fire caught in the wind. Congratulations on making 50 games Ronin!

The first quarter was tough, Pennant Hills scored 2 goals and 2 behinds against the Eagles – 0. They Eagles looked like they were in the cage! Pennant Hills had secured a goal early and followed that up with a barrage of attacks that secured the second goal and the 2 behinds.

As the whistle sounded for the end of the first quarter, the team ran off to their coach for some words of advice and encouragement.

As they came out for the second quarter Pennant Hills scored early again, a behind, then a goal and another behind. The Eagles got the ball down their end of the field for a much-needed kick at the posts, they managed to get a behind before chasing Pennant Hills back down to their end of the field.

That sensation of points on the board must have been enough for the Eagles because they quickly sent the ball back up to their end of the field for a well-earned goal right in front of the posts!

Pennant Hills returned those efforts with a run down the field again and a swift kick at the posts only to hit the upright and only score a behind.

The ball fell into our hands after the restart and with a compelling hat trick kick and mark efforts from number 3 Josh Ward, number 50 Josh Hogan, number 45 Callum Wundram the Eagles were getting close to the goal posts once again!

A couple of fumbles and the ball was marked by number 11 Tyler Stead, then back to 45 Callum for another mark and after a miss a quick recovery from number 11 Tyler again he had a crack at the posts for another goal!

Have the Eagles turned this around? Can they keep this momentum going?

After a restart at the centre the Eagles didn't mess around – back to their end of the field they went! Another goal! Just before the whistle was blown marking the end of the second quarter.

The score at half time was Pennant Hills 23 (3.5) to the Eagles 20 (3.2)

Into the third quarter hydrated and alive with adrenalin the Eagles took to the field with screams of intimidation.

Within 30 seconds they had scored again! It happened so fast there is still speculation on which team member it was, more than a couple players may still be taking the credit for it...

The response from Pennant Hills was just as swift, they were not giving up yet! They pushed a goal past our backs.

The Eagles returned quickly with a behind! And another! The defence from Pennant Hills was consistent. Just 45 seconds later – bang! Another goal from the Eagles!

This game was picking up pace!

Pennant Hills took control of the ball and managed to get 2 behinds, a well fought defence from the Eagles. Another defended kick at goal by the Eagles resulted in a behind - right in the middle of the goal posts! Pennant Hills were getting points, but not the points they wanted.

The Eagles had enough of playing down the Pennant Hills end of the field and sent it back up for another go at putting points on the board, they managed another behind.

Going into the 4th quarter the score sat at – Eagles 36 (5.6) to Pennant Hills 32 (4.8)

It was on, the whistle went and for both teams it was now, or never.

Pennant Hills shot back early with a very quick and very precise goal.

After the restart the Eagles showed off their skills again with a thrilling three man kick and mark combo number 15 Jack Robson to number 11 Tyler, to – can't tell you, it happened so fast! After a bit more rough and tumble the Eagles scored another behind.

Pennant Hills were not taking this lightly and they fought back with a behind, followed by another, and another. Pennant Hills were making ground sure, but it wasn't convincing, the Eagles were still in the running.

The Eagles were down by 5 as they headed for home with minutes on the clock, and by minutes we are talking only slightly more than 2!

The ball bounced around, from Eagles player to Eagles player. They wouldn't let it out of their talons!

A passing kick to Tyler and the hands went up in the air, Tyler took the mark! He was back a bit, but he was lined up right in front of the posts.

With the clock counting down from 60 seconds he took a few steps back, looked up at the posts, the crowd stood up, Tyler kicked the ball –

But it wasn't to be, the ball didn't fly straight, he managed to get a behind to bring the final scores to Pennant Hills 43 (5.13) to Hornsby 39 (5.9)

To be fair it wasn't Tyler's fault. The spectators standing together taking a collective gasp in anticipation created a vacuum on one side of the field, pulling the ball to one side mid-flight.

Great game Eagles and congratulations again Ronin.