

Hornsby-Berowra Eagles U13s Round 4 Report

Penrith Giants v Hornsby Berowra Eagles

Dehydrated food, bottles of water, flashlights, compasses, maps and distress flares were all items packed by the Hornsby-Berowra Eagles Under 13s crew for their expedition out to Grey Gums Oval at Cranebrook. When checking Google Maps in the morning to see where Lucas and I were actually going, my attention drifted to some of the reviews. As always, there was a range of opinions. Some of my favourites included "Muddy. No seats in the shade. A grotty place." and "Swamp land... rainwater run off area!". It promised to be an interesting day.

After spending about \$35 in tolls, we eventually reached the ground. Thankfully, it was just another suburban oval and a good one at that. The surface was a bit spongy but certainly not too wet considering the rain in the morning. Our opponents were the Penrith Giants and the mighty Eagles were keen to bring up their first win of the season against them.

It was a special day for the Eagles as it was respected team member Luke McGarry's 50th match. The boys lined up ready to burst through the banner and honour the bustling midfielder. The small crowd on hand provided a great atmosphere as Luke and the boys charged through, ready for a big effort against the Giants. There were mixed emotions from Neal however... I could see in his eyes that he was really happy for Luke but also terribly upset that the hours of effort he and Audrey had put into the banner had been destroyed in milliseconds.

The whistle blew and we were underway. Lucas got a handy tip from the bounce which landed in Tyler's arms. The ball was quickly distributed to milestone man Luke for a goal within only seconds of the start. A great fast start from the Eagles, the boys were determined to play from in front today. Not long after we had a nice passage of play with some impressive kicking and marking from Tyler, Josh and Luke which resulted in another goal for Luke! Tyler grabbed a goal too. We didn't have it all our own way though with Penrith nailing two majors of their own. The score at the first break was 18-12 to the Eagles.

The chat at quarter time was calm and positive from coach Tim. The boys listened intently and seemed very focused. To start the next term, Josh H kicked two behinds that could have easily been goals. Then... the floodgates really opened. Josh H grabbed the goal that had eluded him so far and this was quickly followed by two goals from Tyler and another from Luke. Things were looking very promising for Hornsby as we went to the main break with a huge 46-12 lead.

After the excitement of the second quarter there was a bit of a lull in the scoring in the third. It didn't matter too much though as this applied to the Giants too. Despite this, this didn't stop Luke slotting another goal after some tidy lead-up work from the other Luke who did a fantastic job filling in the higher age group. Henry continued to be dynamic in the backs, often bringing the ball back a long way with his effortless running play. Mad redhead Charlie was without his running mate this week but that didn't stop him pulling off some nice tackles at the back. Jake was also getting his hands on the ball a bit more in the middle too which was great to see.

3 quarter time score Eagles 59 Giants 14.

The wind really started to pick up in the 4th quarter. Coffee and chip cups went flying and I reached for my jacket. The portable pergola that the opposition had kindly provided for us threatened to take flight. If it wasn't nailed into the ground it may have flown all the way back to Rofe Park. The challenging conditions didn't stop our boys as the goal fest that we saw in the 2nd quarter continued in the 4th! After a huge tackle courtesy of Noah and Henry, new recruit Jack A took a stunning mark in front and calmly slotted the goal to get the score rolling. Excitement machine - Josh W scored a well deserved goal and then grabbed another soon after just for good measure. Even Emmett, who usually specialises as a back man showed his skills in front by hammering home a 6 pointer. It was a great day for the mighty Eagles with the score ending up 93-14 in our favour.

Who else but Luke could lead the team song for our first victory of the season? He really is the Boonie of our team when it comes to this job! The boys sang the song with gusto, ecstatic that we'd achieved our first win for the year. A relieved but very happy Tim presented the player of the day award to Josh H. Josh was a powerhouse throughout the match and really stood out. The Callum Mills award went to Luca who played his tagging and defensive role in the middle expertly.

Onto next week, where we get to have another crack at Baulkham Hills. We were close last time so let's see if we can get one over them this time around. I've got a feeling that the confidence that the boys got from this win will do wonders!

Greg Allan