

MATCH REPORT

HORNSBY BEROWRA EAGLES vs Willoughby Wildcats

ROUND 6. 21/5/2023

Els Park

Was this to be the day where the Eagles stopped their streak of losing narrowly? During Kicking Dynamics on Thursday night Coach Brent was still buzzing about last weeks' performance at Balgowlah. The Eagles welcomed back Angus after last week's mouth injury, but lost Braden to a wrist injury. Team player that he is Braden was still there to cheer the boys on!

The match began with a midfield wrestle, the cross wind not helping ball movement. Jon, Josh, Hamish were soon into their work along with Andrew helping to stifle any Wildcat possession. Hamish put the Eagles six points in front after taking a trademark mark and kicking long and high between the big sticks. The Cats came back with a couple of minors after kicking from distance and another that was touched by Angus, who also marked on the goal line. Logan and Tristan hit a couple of behinds and then our best move. 46 to Hamish, to Kieren to Jon who found Finn. Tristan then gathered in the goal square and would have kicked a goal but for the buzzer to end the quarter.

The second quarter was another midfield battle. Lachy, Lachlan, Ewan, Harrison, Andrew, and Will were all up for the challenge. It was bunched, but the Cats sneaked a couple of behinds. Eagles went scoreless but were kicking and marking well. Logan marked overhead, 16 marked. Lachy and Will linked up. 14 marked. We were controlling the ball but not territory. 8-5 to the Eagles at half time.

The Eagles edged the third by a point, two behinds to one. Lachy was putting his head where others fear to tread, Andrew, Ewan, Kieren, and Finn saw more of the ball. Loz got to a ball first and snapped high over his shoulder but there was no Eagle in the square to mark. One of the behinds came from Finn, who kicked high into the wind. The ball was arcing between the sticks, was touched, landed on the line, bounced back, and was rushed over by the defence off a shin or knee cap. Behrad also had a kick from similar distance that fell just short. The Eagles' defence remained resolute, and it was all to play for at 10-6 going into the last stanza.

The Cats came back again in the last quarter scoring one goal two, but a tactical masterstroke had Josh up front who got a maximum making sure Logan's kicked counted. Josh then put the game out of reach with a fine mark and kick. The Cats replied with their goal and had pressure at the end. Lachy screamed at our defence telling them they mustn't score again, before touching an opposition

shot to save five points. 22-14 to the Eagles at the final buzzer, and the first win of the season was deservedly secured.

Brent was delighted again with the team's effort and all-round performance saying they played hard, kicked well and stood up for their teammates. At last, the team got to sing the team song and did so with gusto!

Player of the match – Andrew Livey. Another huge performance and is consistently playing to a high level winning the ball and distributing.

Callum Mills award – Harrison Duque and Josh Andre. Both have been amazing defensively and going forward.

Special Mention – Braden for supporting the team when injured. He's now considered an official lucky charm. Also, Logan for another immense display driving the team forward.

Result:

Hornsby Berowra Eagles	8	8	10	22
Willoughby Wildcats	3	5	6	14



Match Report by Steve Barton