

Under 13s Round 6 Match Report

Hornsby-Berowra Eagles v Pennant Hills/Westbrook Demons

Rofe Park 21/5/2023

We returned to the home of football - Rofe Park for our clash against the newly merged Pennant Hills Westbrook. Last time we met we lost by a whisker, so the boys were keen to make amends this time around. Conditions were sunny but quite blustery as we prepared for the big Sunday match-up against our rivals.

We love a milestone more than any team at the Eagles and we had two to celebrate. It was Emmett and Tyler's turn today to commemorate 50 games for our fine club and coach Tim got the boys into the dressing rooms for the pre-game speech and the charge onto the field through the banners.

The concern of who had the better banner between Tyler's and Emmett's parents quickly turned to the weather conditions. The gusty winds were a bit of a worry when you have a paper banner in your care. The immaculate banners were protected till the final minute from the strong gales and then hoisted up proudly for the boys to run through. The Eagles rushed forward towards the banners with force, the only hesitation being which banner to actually run through...

Onto the match and as expected, it was a tight tussle early. Both sides had periods where they got on top but scoring proved to be difficult. Josh T was solid as ever at the back, halting a few Penno attacking raids and Harrison also put in some notable work in defence. We started off proceedings with a behind which was unfortunately followed by a Demons goal. After this, the Eagles started to gain some dominance, keeping Pennant Hills down our attacking end. We registered another behind to make the score 6-2 to the Demons at the break.

It was a positive start to the second quarter for the home side with an early goal to the mighty Eagles. There was some great lead-up play from our mids and forwards on the way to this goal with Josh W being a standout. Despite all this, I'm still not sure who scored the goal! It may be one of 2023's unsolved mysteries but I'm sure by season end there will be 15 boys claiming it. Penno hit straight back with a goal of their own. Ollie G was a bit of one man band in defence leading up to this opposition score. He chased with all his effort and put his body on the line but unfortunately the ball travelled through the big sticks. A few unlucky bounces and some unexpected breakaway plays saw the Demons grab another couple of goals before half time making the score 25-8.

We were down but the mood and chat was still positive. Coach Tim's focus for the team was to help out the backs and to keep contesting everything. Only a few kicks would see us back in contention so the Eagles went into the second half with confidence and plenty of eagerness.

An early Demons goal wasn't part of the plan but Hornsby were back on the attack straight after. Some scintillating play from Josh H saw him score an unlucky behind which rocketed into the post. He made amends not long after with a goal which got the home crowd on their feet! Following this was a good attacking period for the Eagles. Josh W was ever-dangerous in the opportunities he had whilst Henry continued to glide across the field in his dynamic way, scooping up the ball and firing it back into our attacking half. Another breakaway goal from the Demons halted our momentum but a very nice goal from Luke A got us back into the contest. A special mention to Luke A and Noah from the Under 11s who helped us out for the day and were really two of our best.

Going into the 4th quarter, we were behind but not completely out of it. There was plenty of effort all round including a few willing plays from newly appointed captain Luke but unfortunately it was not enough. The score got away from us in the final term as Penno got on top. A disappointing result but there was plenty of endeavour and hard work from our boys. There were certainly some nice passages of play during the game but putting it all together for a whole match is the goal for us.

Final score Demons 57 Eagles 23.

Off to training this week to keep working hard and improve our skills. Everyone is working towards getting better and is committed to the cause so we have plenty to look forward to in Season 2023!

Player Of The Match - Ollie Guest
Callum Mills Award - Luke McGarry

Greg Allan