

MATCH REPORT

HORNSBY BEROWRA EAGLES vs Lane Cove Cats

ROUND 7. 28/5/2023

Rofe Park

Back to the Eagles Nest for match seven and proceedings got underway with Uncle Laurie performing the smoking ceremony. Our dodgy goal umpire wondered whether the boys took in too much smoke because the Eagles got off to a very slow start and the first half was nothing like any we've played so far this season. Whilst we bunched up, the Cats spread out and exploited big gaps in our midfield. We managed one good move with Kieren finding Jon, onto Andrew and then Sharpie and then Kieren kicking long but into Cats hands. The Cats kicked four goals, with the Eagles replying with a fine goal by Logan from the right pocket. Loz drew in a couple of tackles, found Finn, who passed to Logan who made no mistake. 24-6 down at quarter time.

The Cats kicked 2:2 in the second quarter with the Eagles not troubling the scorer. Hamish, Lachie, Lachlan, Andrew were beginning to stifle the Cats, and Harrison was also tackling and seeing more ball. Behrad and Jeremy were in around the action but only crumbs up front and the Eagles were down 38-6 at halftime.

Coach Brent had to lift the boys to stop us getting mercied. The message was simple. Forget the first half happened and it's back to 0-0. Increase the physicality as in previous games, don't wait for them to pick up the ball, win the ball, be a kick away to spread out and kick long! Harrison upped it straight away with a big tackle. Kieren, Josh, and Andrew linked play. Josh found Loz, he linked with Finn and the kick across to Jon who just failed to hold onto the mark. Much better! Lachy and Tristan were in the thick of things, Logan marked Kieren's kick and scored another six pointer. He followed that with minor. The Cats kicked two goals for a 50-13 lead, but the Eagles were on the comeback trail.

Another big pep talk from Brent before the last stanza, and this raised another big response by the Eagles. Everything that was wrong first half was now corrected. The Eagles were throwing everything into tackles, marks, and kicks. Harrison again with a big tackle and a behind, Josh with a kick for goal that was off target for once but found Logan's safe hands which led to his third for the game. Lachy took the next mark from Will's kick and found Finn who went on a huge run, bouncing along the way. He passed to Logan and quick as a flash Logan had four! Josh and Sharpy then linked up, Kieren and Ewan were showing great skills with the ball on the floor, Ewan found Logan and as sure as eggs are

eggs Logan hit his fifth! The Eagles were flying, but their wings were clipped by the final buzzer. The Cats were relieved to hear it and took out the game 50-34.

A game of two halves, that ended quite close considering the first half struggles. Coach Brent was happy with the second half and congratulated the players for putting their bodies on the line and coming back so strongly. The big thing for future games is to be switched on, he said, not just at the start of the game but also in the warmup.

Player of the match – Harrison Duque. Playing consistently well and making tackles that lift the whole team.

Callum Mills award –Josh Andre. Another big performance in the mids and up front. Taking a lot of marks with great hand skills.

Special Mention – Logan Bilbe. Five goals. 30 goals in 27 games and amazingly more improvement to come.

Result:

Hornsby Berowra Eagles	6	6	13	34
Lane Cove Cats	24	38	50	50



Match Report by Steve Barton