

Round 7 HBE U9 Red v Pennant Hills
Ern Holmes Oval
28 May 2023

U9 Red travelled to Pennant Hills for the first time this season. A fine sunny morning began with Indigenous Round celebrations. Everyone enjoyed the welcome to country and smoking ceremony, and our host even managed to get all the players dancing.

The teams overcame a few last-minute hitches to get the game underway. It was a close-fought first quarter, with neither side giving much away.

Things opened up a little in the middle of the game, with plenty of shots at each end. We struggled for accuracy on the run and under pressure but unlike last week, the other side didn't manage to pile on a run of goals, keeping us in the game.

In the last quarter the boys dug deep and defended grittily. The ball was stuck in our half for some time but right at the end we got a forward entry and a nice finish from Vinni, to end the game on pretty even terms. Our long kicks, marks and tackling were good as usual - next game the focus will be on chasing the contested ball. Well done to the boys for lifting after some disappointment last week and putting in a good four-quarter effort.

Player of the week was Billy, who really stepped up with his chasing and tackling just when we needed it after half-time. Our Callum Mills award went to Oscar W who copped a ball full in the face during an "accidental smother", took some time out, ran back on and laid an effective tackle straight away, then got himself back into the action for the rest of the game.

Big thanks to Tadhg's dad Ryan for stepping up to umpire the game - it's not easy and I know we put you on the spot at the last minute - well done! Thanks to the Demons too for lending us some of their players, all of whom contributed enthusiastically.