

U9 HBE Red vs Westbrook Bulldogs Blue

Round 8 – 4 June 2023

Mike Kenny Oval

For Round 8 we travelled to the home of our good friends and rivals the Westbrook Bulldogs, for the first time this season. The weather forecast was not entirely accurate, with a grey and wetter-than-anticipated start to the day.

The Bulldogs got off to a flyer with two early goals in quick succession. To our boys credit they didn't panic: the midfield steadied, won some clearances and our team responded with two quick goals in reply, thanks to great accurate kicking from Tadhg.

After that we had an even, strongly-contested game which went back and forth for a long period. Great defensive efforts at one end, undone a couple of times by unlucky bounces, but again the boys kept their heads up and responded well. Comedy goal of the week goes to Alex who rather than kicking high over a defender on the goal line, opted to trickle the ball around the base of the goal post, bamboozling everyone in the process.

The weather cleared up for the third quarter. Defence is the hardest thing to coach...this quarter saw the ball stuck in our back third for quite some time as the boys tried to figure out how to get it back out. After experimenting with sideways chips to the wings, with mixed success, they figured out that a big boot forwards usually does the trick.

The coach's pleas for a big last quarter effort were heard. Once again the midfield was busy winning clearances, running balls out and getting them forward, for a pretty even finish to the game. There was some good tap work from several players this week, in addition to our usual strong tackles and clean high-ball marks. One focus for the next game: less crowding around the ball, more spreading out and picking up opponents.

Player of the week went to Cameron, who had his most touches for some time and was very busy in the midfield. Our Callum Mills award went to Freddie, who ramped up the intensity in the last quarter and ran it out of the middle repeatedly.

After the game we went for a group photo with several other teams taken by AFL Media, so look out for that on their social pages. Thanks to all the parents for helping out this week in Tom's absence - you were missed mate, but we made it through!