

U13s Round 8 Match Report

Mountain Lions/Hawkesbury v Hornsby-Berowra Eagles

In what was our second 'Magical Mystery Tour' game of season 2023, the mighty Eagles went off to play the Mountain Lions/Hawkesbury at Tom Hunter Park, Faulconbridge. That's right, all the way to the foot of the mountains for our Round 8 clash!

The drive was long but it was an easier trip than our last journey to play the Penrith Giants a few weeks ago. After covering some kms on the M2 and M4, it wasn't long before it was pretty clear we were in the Blue Mountains. The grass was green, the shops were quaint, the air was crisp and there were autumn colours everywhere.

We reached the ground with plenty of time to spare. It was obvious a lot of us had left earlier given none of us knew where on earth we were going! We strolled out of the carpark and into the playing area and I was immediately taken by some of the fashion choices of the mighty Eagles and their parents. Coach Tim was all business and was going for an intelligent look with some glasses. Gun mid Tyler was channeling David Beckham with a trendy new eyebrow slit. Jack's dad Pete had obviously lost a bet and had turned up in shorts in the cold temperature. Whilst Josh H's dad Chris must have had a seriously bad day on the punt as he was in a singlet!

Onto the match and the boys all had a bit of a spring in their step after their dominating win over local rivals Penno/Westbrook Demons last Sunday. The U13s Eagles had trained well during the week and were keen for a big second half of the season. It wasn't long and we were underway with a tap from Lucas which got us into a nice period of attacking play. Despite this, we couldn't quite find our forwards and the Lions responded with their own goal. Following this, there was plenty of commitment by our boys, lots of tackling and toughness. Two great tackles I noticed in particular came courtesy of Jack and Tyler. Despite our best efforts, the Lions/Saints/Hawkesbury/Western Sydney or whoever they were grabbed another goal. Quarter time score Lions 15 Eagles 0.

The chat was positive and the mood was good as we headed into the second quarter. An early behind got us on the board but the Lions responded with a quick goal. Not long after, there was a strange event in the match when the ball was clearly out of bounds but the call was never made. Both teams protested until the umpire took charge. Poor work from the Lions Boundary Umpire. This would never happen at the HB Eagles! This so-called umpire was obviously talking up the flanno he bought at Lowes Penrith during the week instead of doing his job.... Not good enough I say.

Midway through the second quarter the rain began. It was not heavy but quite steady. The temperature got colder and the conditions on the field got worse. Chris even put on another singlet.

Onto the third quarter and goals were hard to come by as the conditions deteriorated. A superb tackle by Callum gave us a bit of forward momentum but once again we couldn't capitalise. The Lions' defense was proving tougher than trying to extract conversation from Lucas and Owen on the long drive up.

By this stage, I'd lost track of the score but I knew things weren't going great for Hornsby. Despite this, the mood was still pretty upbeat. No matter the situation, I'm always proud of the attitude our boys and coaching staff show. This has always been the case and it's no different this season.

Buoyed by Tim's 3 quarter time rev-up, where he asked the team to focus on the things that worked for us last week against Penno, the Eagles had a sustained period of attacking play. Unfortunately, this only resulted in a couple of behinds for us but the effort remained. As the quarter went on, things got harder. We were already down a few troops and we'd picked up a few injuries during the game. The Lions started to get on top as our boys' exhaustion levels reached their peak. The home side may have had an identity crisis but they were certainly a talented team...

Final score Lions 84 Eagles 3.

While this scoreline is not pretty to look at, I was actually really impressed with the Eagles' effort. Even though we copped a battering, I think we were much better when compared to our early season losses. Our guys never gave up and the commitment never wavered. For those not there, the score really didn't reflect the effort of the Eagles and I think there's some good times ahead for our team. Let's get back to Rofo on Thursday night, listen to our coaches and get back to our winning ways against Kellyville/Rouse Hill.

Plenty of effort from Hornsby today but these three were very much worthy of receiving our game day awards. They never stopped and gave their absolute all..

Tyler Stead - Player Of The Day
Josh Hogan - Callum Mills Award
Ronin Austera - Callum Mills Award

