

MATCH REPORT

HORNSBY BEROWRA EAGLES vs Balgowlah Suns

ROUND 12: 23/7/2023

Rofe Park

A perfect winter Sunday at Rofe Park saw the team run through the milestone 50th game banner for Will Connors and Hamish Smith into warm sunshine and a light wind. Could the Eagles avenge their narrow Mother's Day loss to the Suns? The Suns took a point lead making the most of what little wind there was, but Logan, Andrew, and Lachlan soon had the midfield under control. Behrad hand passed to Will, onto Logan and then Andrew broke through a tackle. Ewan was fouled, kicked to Logan who marked and then kicked long for six points. Sharpy then took a mark and kicked long, but the ball was touched for a point. Lachie and brother Hayden were then involved in the backs, Kieren smothered, Lachlan got a good tackle in, and Hamish defended stoutly despite a leg injury. The Eagles added another point, and the Suns could only clear the ball to Logan who notched his second from distance. 14-1 at the first hooter.

Quarter two was an even contest that the Suns won a goal to a behind. Hayden, Tristan, Sharpy, Will and Lachlan were prominent for the Eagles, especially in defence. Angus again proved a reliable last line of defence stopping a couple of breaks but had no answer to the goal scored after a break from midfield. 15-7 at half time.

Brent was happy the way the Eagles were playing but asked them to up the physicality and make the tackles stick. Andrew certainly did that working around the ruck. Jon, Tristan, Logan and Hayden were able comrades, Behrad also helping smother the ball. Logan found Jon who was slung for a foul. The kick fell to Andrew to kick his first goal since the opening game of the season. Will then gathered the ball with good hand skills, moved the ball onto Kieren, then Jon advanced it to Andy. Andy kicked long but just missed Loz, who shepherded for Josh to gather and shoot low for a six pointer. The Eagles now applied a lot of forward pressure. Josh, Hamish, and Logan stopping any opposition advances. Kieren then stepped away from a tackle, found Jon who went on a run. John found Logan who kicked his third maximum from an awkward angle. The Suns replied with a goal and tried to regain impetus, but Andrew had a crazy spell making three tackles in about 10 seconds! Hamish, Jon, Kieren, and Logan then kept the ball safely until the end of the quarter.

"Keep going" was the coaches message as the boys took a couple of sweets for energy. And keep going they did. Logan to Kieren, a trademark step and kick to Andrew in the pocket. Andrew snap kicked from a tight angle and goal! The best

of the season was a shout from the boundary! Angus was then injured with a jarred shoulder in contact. Missing our full back the Suns kicked a goal, but the Eagles kept control. Ewan and Kieren combined, and a kick was marked again by Andrew who kicked accurately again for another goal. An impressive 45-19 win, played with great spirit and importantly good discipline with an Umpire not afraid to march the teams 50 metres for any indiscretions.

Brent was very impressed with the team's performance and effort, and it was great to see him and the boys enjoy singing the team song at the end.

Player of the Match – Logan Bilbe. Brent said it best – he played an absolute cracker. 20 goals in 12 games this season, and a great work rate through the mids.

Callum Mills: Andrew – amazing performance and a weapon up front with three goals. Sharpy – possibly his best game of the season. Great skills and energy.

Will – a typical 100% game on his 50th.

Special mentions: Tristan and Hayden also impressed, Hayden playing up with the U12's for the first time alongside his brother.

Congratulations to Will and Hamish on reaching 50 games, and to the team on a fine win. Many thanks to everyone supporting on the boundary. A big crowd for the milestone match!

Result:

Hornsby Berowra Eagles	14	15	33	45
Balgowlah Suns	1	7	13	19



Match Report by Steve Barton

