

U13s Round 15 Match Report

Hornsby Berowra Eagles v Mountain Lions/Hawkesbury

The time had come for our final match of the year and there was a slight feeling of sadness as we knew another Eagles footy season was coming to an end. Out on the playing fields of the hallowed grounds of Rofe, we could see the U11s putting the finishing touches on the visiting North Ryde team. There was a bit of a chill in the air and the sky was overcast, certainly not unpleasant but not the blazing sunshine that we used to each Sunday this season.

Our opponents today were a formidable one, the team with endless football talent but no actual identity - The Mountain Lions/Hawkebury/Saints. Whoever they were, no one at the Eagles was under any illusions how tough the task would be today. They were a big, strong and talented side with most team members already regular buyers of products from the Shick and Gillette companies.

Despite our task, the mood was positive as it always is at Hornsby-Berowra. The boys were bouncing about with smiles on their faces and coach Tim looked focused. Before the bounce, he was caught in serious conversation with the club president and the umpire. No doubt making sure everything was in place for a great final match. Either that, or he was making sure they kept a sausage for him after the game.

It wasn't long until we were underway for our final fixture of the year. Play was competitive early and you could see the young Eagles were determined to make a game of it. Henry got things going with a great tackle, triggering a nice attacking passage which saw Ollie go on one of his trademark runs through the midfield, showing his lightning pace. The Eagles were super impressive and were rewarded with a GOAL! Inspired by last night's amazing victory by the Matildas, Captain Luke was able to soccer the pill through the sticks for an awesome sixer! This wouldn't have been possible without some great lead-up work from Luka, Harrison, Josh H, Jack R and probably a few others I've missed.

We went to the first break trailing 15-6. There was good competitiveness on show, all the boys were willing to keep the scuffle up and put it to their more fancied opponents. We were already in front as we weren't able to kick a goal against them last time! Our effort was enough to agitate the opposition coach who was getting stuck into his team to my right, his Sergeant Slaughter aviator shades threatening to steam up.

Onto the 2nd quarter and some handy kicking and marking from Luke, Tyler and Josh W got us into a nice position. Jack A was on the end of it all and was unlucky to only slot a behind from his kick. Noa continued to be dynamic in the middle, working hard in attack and defence. The fight and determination didn't end throughout the second term, the constant effort winning us a few calls from the umpire.

At the main break, the mood was very positive. Tim's main message was to keep up the good work and to watch the Lions playing on from their marks.

A fantastic tip from the opening bounce of the 3rd quarter by Josh H set up a stunning run by Tyler. He kicked to Lucas who marked and handpassed back to Josh H. Unfortunately, the goal attempt just went astray but it was a nice passage of play. This work was rewarded almost immediately after when Tyler was able to nab a fine 6 pointer after a similar raid. Shortly after, Josh W showed a stack of bravery, winning a free after copping a nasty hit from behind courtesy of a Mountain Lions behemoth.

Despite being behind by a margin on the scoreboard, the mood was still buoyant from the mighty Eagles. The boys launched themselves into the final term with a huge team cheer. The only real negative at this point was coach Tim's awful comedy, referring to Josh W's ice-pack(which was a plastic glove with ice in it) as a 'handy ice-pack'. Oh dear.... Back to the footy and Ollie was doing what he does best and that was getting the home crowd going with another scintillating dash. He finished off his run with a cracking goal, nailing it from a distance. Harry continued to be strong in the middle, mixing it up with much bigger opponents. The highlights kept coming in the last quarter. This time, it was Jake's turn for a bustling run, splitting the Saints' defence. He kicked to Lucas, who handpassed to Emmett who just missed grabbing another Eagles' goal. However, our boys weren't to be denied. Josh H wasn't going to let the crowd go home without a smile on their faces, slotting an absolute ripper goal from a fair way out. A fantastic finish to a really impressive effort from our Eagles.

Final Score

Hornsby Berowra Eagles 26 Mountain Lions/Hawkesbury 86

Callum Mills Award - Harry Croft

Player Of The Day - Josh Hogan

Sure, the margin was wide but we never looked at this game as a simple win/loss scenario. If this game was to be measured on effort, improvement and desire it was a big win. We kicked 4 goals against the clearly dominant side in our comp and competed from start to finish. 10 out of 10 from me.

So that was it, done and dusted for another year. We had a great little presentation run by the father and son team of Neal and Luke where we thanked everyone and celebrated another great year. Most importantly, we presented the best in the business - coaches Tim and Nick and manager Clare, with a well-deserved gift from the team.

Hornsby Berowra Eagles - it's such an amazing, fun and welcoming place to spend your winter and it's always a bit sad when it ends. Long may it last!

Greg Allan

