

MATCH REPORT

HORNSBY BEROWRA EAGLES vs Lane Cove Cats

ROUND 14. 13.8.2023

Blackman Park – Steve Chisolm Oval

The last game of the season coincided with Lachie Wall's 50th game for the Eagles and the team followed Lachie through his banner hoping to avenge the narrow defeat to the Cats in May. We welcomed back Braden after his second long term injury and began well. Andrew won the ball up against the tallest player on the oval, Kieran collected and kicked for Will to mark. Andrew then marked, and the Eagles trapped the ball in Cats territory. Good forward pressure led to a behind, but it was cancelled as a soccer shot. The advantage shifted as the Cats controlled the ball in midfield. Will was spoiling, Jon and Harrison tackling and Sharpy was often in the action. The Cats midfield was taller and began to make use of that advantage, eventually leading to a goal. That was their only score, Angus, Will and Lachie doing a great job in defence.

The second quarter was also tight. The Eagles moved the ball well. Kieran, Logan, and Josh linked up, as did Will, Ewan, and Andrew. Tristan stayed wide to receive kicks and stretch play. Harrison, Lachie, and Ewan put in some big tackles, then Hamish with a huge hit in the Mids. The Cats still edged it though. Angus was heroic at full back taking marks and kicking away intelligently, but the Cats kicked 1:1 for a 13-0 half time lead.

The third saw the Eagles under plenty of pressure. The tackles were still flying in, notably by Josh, Andrew, Logan and Will. Kieran and Ewan were buzzing around skilfully avoiding tackles and kicking away. Sharpy got a lot of ball and tried kicking to the wing. Resolute defence kept the Cats to four behinds in this spell. Running out for the final term the forwards were confident of scoring, having not been held to zero ever in their memory. Kieran opened the fourth with a massive tackle. Hamish then took a trademark overhead catch. Loz went slightly deeper to collect a loose ball and managed to kick to the wing under pressure. Tristan found Finn and his grubber kick evaded the hands of the Cats full back for Finn's 8th goal of the season. Finn followed up with a behind, but the Cats pulled away kicking 2:4 in the last term. 33-7 didn't do the Eagles justice, as was noted by the Cats' manager and coach, who complimented us on our play. It was a tough and physical game, and the Eagles gave their all, but the Cat's midfield and height proved a difficult barrier to break.

Coach Brent got the team together for the last time this season. He told the boys how proud he was of their effort and commitment not just in this game but also over the season. Brent said the league ladder wasn't reflective of how the

team played because we gave every side a good battle. Our team now has plenty of experience, skill and determination, and if they stay together as expected Finals Footie should be a gettable goal next season. We have more 50th's and banners to look forward in 2024 so onwards and upwards, team! Huge thanks to Brent and Cathy for coaching and managing the side so well, and to all the Eagle's families and supporters. It's great to hear the shouts of encouragement coming from the boundary.

Player of the match – Angus Smith. Outstanding match at full back. Saved four or five goals, marked well, and distributed to hands on the wings.

Callum Mills award –Andrew, Lachie, Kieran and Will. Formidable opponents every week. Andrew won the ball up battle against a giant, Lachie and Will were right amongst the action, both tackling and kicking well. Kieran also, what a step and kick he's developed this year!

Result:

Hornsby Berowra Eagles	0	0	0	7
Lane Cove Cats	6	13	17	33

Goals: Finn.



Match Report by Steve Barton