

MATCH REPORT

HORNSBY BEROWRA EAGLES vs PENNANT HILLS/WESTBROOK

ROUND 2 - 14/4/2024

ROFE PARK

Finally, the season began at a glorious Rofe Park and what a wonderful start as Hamish led the team out through a guard of honour. The Demons started strongly, and our defence was under heavy pressure. Ronin and Angus took a couple of defensive marks, Ewan got a kick away, then Andrew, Ronin, Kieren Petkovic, and Angus put in a series of smothers and blocks but couldn't prevent the Demons leading 14-0 at quarter time.

After the restart the Demons continued to dominate despite big tackles by Finn McCabe, intercepts by Liam and Noah and Ryan showing some skills. Ronin continued to be a rock and began a move forward involving Finn Nilsson, Noah, and Andrew. A little later Ryan and Andrew exchanged passes and we gained a little territory. The Demons kept the scoreboard ticking over and scored a spectacular goal from the pocket to lead by a distance at half time.

The Demons added another six to begin the second half, but the Eagles began getting more ball and strung a nice move together, Finn to Noah, to Tristan, to Andrew to Finn McCabe. Kieren Fisher then made a pearler of a tackle to stop the Demons in their tracks. Ewan, Liam, Hunter and Angus also made good tackles, but the Demons added to their lead and we lost Lozza to an arm injury. The Demons gave us a couple of players for the last stanza and the Eagles managed to hold possession and territory. Kicks and hand passes found Eagle's hands and pressure was applied to the Demons defence leading to two behinds and then a well-deserved goal kicked by Liam that got a huge cheer from the boundary. The final buzzer sounded soon after.

Coach Brent recognised what a difficult match it was, adding that we were hampered by missing players through injury and holidays, and that the final quarter showed we could play well. The players that stood in were magnificent and stuck to their tasks. Andrew took out best on ground. His performance was full of energy, good skills, and hard work around the ruck. Finn Nilsson won the Callum Mills award for continually wanting the ball and being a dangerous attacker when he received it.

Today was about much more than football. It was incredible to see Hamish and family at the game. Hammer proved an excellent goal umpire, and Adam was runner and helped coach the forwards. Sarah, Elise and Ivy Joy, along with grandparents were also watching. We wish them well as Hammer continues his treatment and look forward to his return playing for the team in future.

