

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 14 vs Westbrook/Demons

DATE: 19 May 2024

VENUE: African savannah

It has been lean pickings for the Eagles so far this season but after the drenching rains of recent times Mike Kenny Oval was looking un-seasonally lush and verdant. The expanse and scale of this particular venue is such that one could liken it to the great plains of Africa where survival is a daily struggle.

The cross-territory rivalry between HBE and this Westbrook/Demons joint venture is a storied history of epic battles for supremacy and dominance of the prime lands, and this was to be no different as the teams lined up. Kill or be killed. Feast or famine.

The blue herd had the better of the opening stanza in terms of territory but couldn't quite convert. Summoning his inner spirit animal Ronin at the back took on the persona of a territorial rhino and refused to cede an inch. The demons could only manage meagre scraps of 2 behinds. After finally gaining a forward 50 entry Luke wrapped up an opponent with the strength of an angry baboon and forced a turnover, but the eagles couldn't convert. Quarter time score **3-2**.

After over-hearing the demons coach summoning his inner jackal and screeching at his team, the second quarter saw the intensity step up. Following an epic pre-game migration (10km fun run), in a great show of determination Jake Sefton doggedly chased down and felled his quarry, this led to free kick and some valuable territory allowing Jake Adams to pop up out of nowhere like a meerkat and goal from close range. Soon after we saw Archie take on the spirit animal of a water buffalo, first snorting then charging with venom through flailing arms in a strong run and Tyler goaled from range. A goal of the season contender from Jake S saw a half time score of **23-3**.

The opposition were clearly intimidated not emerging from the shelter of the change rooms for quite some time after the main break with eyes darting nervously as the eagles from the north circled their now wounded prey. Ethan P soared high for a great mark and realising he was beyond range squared the ball up nicely for Josh H to goal from in front and posture afterwards like a bull elephant asserting its dominance. Josh W and Hamish ran like prairie dogs seeing off any forward raids. Jake and Zach in the middle marked consistently and linked in well with the giraffe like Lucas in some nice passages of play. The eagles were set for the final kill but still needed to exercise care with a three-quarter time score of **30-4**.

The final stanza was a thing of savage beauty. In the back quarter Jack R attacked his prey and appeared to feed off its entrails like a hyena as he extracted the red sherrin. Then followed a team record number of consecutive marks and kicks for Ollie G to then display cheetah like acceleration out of danger and goal. Emmett and Callum racked up the touches up front as the goals began to flow in a final feeding frenzy with Alistair pulling off a great strip and goal. Henry B then ran through the heart

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of the pride lands with the speed and grace of a gazelle as he took four bounces and a goal from Jake S and the final fight left in the opposition ebbed away.

A fantastic whole of team performance with everyone contributing and enjoying the feast. **Full time 52-5**

