

MATCH REPORT



HBE 14s vs CANADA BAY CANNONS
ROUND 7 – 26th May 2024
ROFE PARK

The usual stunning day at the home of football greeted us on arrival. Today was a little different though as today was photo day. Our boys are old hands at this so know the drill and what to expect. I think they were glad that the shots were not taken in the freezing cold conditions that they usually are. Belinda mentioned to me that 50 plus Auskick kids had their photos taken earlier this morning! Considering this, our photographer was holding up rather well. The valium he took at midday and the flask of hard liquor he had concealed in his camera bag were obviously doing the trick.

The portrait photos passed without incident but the team photo is always a bit of a challenge. As the boys got ready, some serious fights were breaking out between the 'smaller statured' members of our team about who was taller. Josh H and Lucas just stood around wondering what the fuss was all about. It was time to get into position and resident clown Tyler was pushing the limits of our brave photographer who was clearly on edge. I was waiting for the inevitable fart to come from one of the boys but thankfully for all it didn't arrive. During the photo, co-coach Nick copped a harsh 'bald' joke from the sidelines but he took it in reasonably good spirits. I'm thinking the next one though may end in bloodshed...

As fun as the pre-game activities were, the footy called and after a warm-up in the afternoon sunshine it was time for the game. The boys all morphed back into human form after last week's African safari adventure at Cherrybrook, hoping to register their second win on the trot. Our opponents today were the Canada Bay Canons. Another team with an unusual name just like the Alliance a few weeks ago. I haven't heard the name Canons in a sporting team since Phil Smythe was doing his thing for the Canberra Canons back in the NBL in the early 90's.

We were away and it was a close tussle early with both teams scoring a behind. A brutal tackle by Jake S just in front of the Eagles cheer squad earnt us a free and gave us an attacking chance. Our mids were working well early on, doing the tough stuff that you see early in the game. Ollie, Tyler, Josh H, Hamish, Ethan and Jack R were all making their presence felt. Two great marks in a row from Luke kept our momentum going forward and after a couple more behinds, Tyler booted our first 6 pointer of the day. Following this a super overhead mark from Jake S saw us grab our second. There were a few times that we were under threat but Henry got us out of trouble with his trademark dashes. To end the quarter, Lucas kicked a tidy goal, getting his reward for some handy work up front. 21-1

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The 2nd quarter started with a beautiful interchange of handpassing from Henry and Luke which got plenty of appreciation from the Hornsby-Berowra punters. A minute or so later, Luke grabbed our next goal after plenty of forward pressure from our boys with Alistair noticeably having an impact. A rare forward entry from the Canons got them their first 6 and they got a bit of confidence from this. Defensive hardman Ronin wasn't having any of that though and plucked one of their shots from the air in a very tidy mark. Josh W, Ollie and Henry continued the good work at the back and we were away again. Henry in particular was dazzling the crowd with his skills, making a globetrotter-like move whilst on one of his long runs which our opposition were surely getting sick of the sight of. It didn't bother him though and he combined well with Jack A who found Emmett, who marked nicely and in turn found Jake S who scored our next goal. Emmett was looking strong up front, putting his body on the line and handling the ball well. The hard work paid off as Emmett got another major for the Eagles. Just before the half-time break, Jake S added to our big score with another goal that was kicked from a decent distance. 47-7

Onto the 3rd and Zach continued his goal-scoring form with a 6 pointer of his own. He was proud of this and so he should be, even checking with Clare when he came off that it was registered in the official score! Just in front of us, Archie halted a Canada Bay run in a very abrupt style winning the ball back for us. After his return back to the Eagles, Archie is gaining a real reputation as the hitman that every team needs and every opposition team fears! There was an unusual period of no scoring for a little while after this but Josh H broke the scoring drought with his first for the day, Ollie added to the pile-on not long after. Lucas also joined the party late in the third nailing a set shot after a free from an angle. 71-7

The 4th quarter began with Jake G put in a tough display at the back, having his turn at deflecting any Canon fire. Despite this, the Canada Bay side put on a bit of a show in the last term for their crowd who had supported them well throughout. They grabbed a few scores but it didn't matter too much as the clock ticked down. One late attacking highlight for the Eagles saw Josh W kick a very nice set shot goal from an extremely awkward angle. Well, at least it looked like a goal, unfortunately it was ruled a behind. Still, an impressive kick all the same. The final siren went and as Tim and Nick gathered our boys for the post match speech, the message was unsurprisingly very positive. Two big wins in a row has the confidence high. Our boys are looking good out there and enjoying their footy. Who knows what the future holds for the mighty Hornsby-Berowra Eagles!

Final score 74-24

Player Of The Match - Henry Brown
Callum Mills Award - Lucas Allan

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