

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 14 vs BAULKHAM HILLS HAWKS ROUND 14 – CHARLES McLAUGHLIN RESERVE

We have only journeyed to this ground once before and on closer critique it is a fine venue for Sunday football. A picket fence always frames a ground nicely, easy parking, a dedicated coffee van, well stocked canteen/BBQ and even a three-tiered stand providing that little bit of elevation to get a better view of the action.

If the first outing was anything to go by and finals spots up for grabs, the battle of the big birds was shaping up to be an enthralling encounter. After a bitterly cold Sydney winter, there was even enough bite in the sun for Chris to don his (Olympics inspired) green n gold Boomers singlet.

First Quarter

Some early territory in a good spot saw Luke gain possession and hand pass to Zac in the goal square who showed the reflexes of a Korean table tennis player to volley the ball home for an early major. The Hawks then hit the scoreboard but Josh W and Ronin were defusing incoming shells with the calm and precision of the Guatemalan trap shooters. A late goal on the buzzer to Luke and things were all square at **14 apiece** at the first break.

Second Quarter

Some early pressure play by the Hawks was repelled by Jack Adams and Callum with some strong intercept marks but eventually the Hawks hit the scoreboard. Henry then bought the ball out of danger with a four-bounce run that the Kenyan middle-distance runners would've been proud of, which led to a nice goal on the run by Archie Floyd. The eagles were fighting hard however with Tyler consistently marking strongly and Josh H at the ruck flying as high off the ground as the Olympic pole vaulters. Score was **30-23** to the Hawks at half time.

Third Quarter

A clean win out of the middle and Jake G pumped the ball long for Emmett to deliver the ball into a dangerous area and Zach displayed some soccer skills that the Matildas could've done with last week and the score was 30-29 and fingernails were being chewed with renewed vigour on the sidelines.

MATCH REPORT



The wider crowd could sense something special was taking place and the sturdiness of the lightweight aluminium grandstand was soon called into question as the spare spots filled up. Some more nice passing followed by the Eagles then Archie and Hamish delivered a rugby style clear out that the Fijian rugby 7's team would've been happy with! Not sure it was legal, but this allowed Jake S some space to bend the ball beautifully between the sticks and the score was then **38-36** to the Eagles at the last break.

Fourth Quarter

Jack R and Ethan P must've been watching some of the Greco-roman wrestling overnight as they grappled and tackled like their lives depended on it as the played ebbed its way backwards and forwards. Luke then displayed the strength and guile of a Hungarian water polo player to win another turnover tackle which he delivered to Ollie G to nail from range and the score was **44-42** to the Eagles with 10 mins to play. The Hawks hit back straight and it was **44-48**. With a spot in the finals up for grabs, Tim and Nick's blood pressure monitors were on tilt. A behind and another major saw the Hawks establish a 10 point lead (**54-45**) but the Eagles weren't going away. A long range goal to Jake S took it to **55-51** trailing with 4 minutes to go as the grandstand flexed and groaned with each passage of play as the crowd rose and sat intermittently in what was an enthralling and gripping contest.

A perplexing holding the man call followed and the Hawks converted with the accuracy of an Olympic archer and the final score was **62-51**.

An amazing game where everyone on the field (from both sides) absolutely gave it their all in what was a real season highlight. Obviously disappointing that the result didn't go the Eagle's way but the boys should be really proud of their achievements both individually and collectively.

Callum Mills award – Ronin Austera

Player of the game - Ollie Guest

Words – Neal McCarry (suffering sleep deprivation due to excessive Olympics viewing)

MATCH REPORT

