

MATCH REPORT



HBE Bald Eagles Intraclub game.

DATE 27.4.2025

Rofe Park.

Intraclub master's game three on a wet but playable track at the Eagles Nest. Under the lights, bibs v non bibs, twenty mates against mates with Ryan to officiate.

Non bibs took the first quarter. Steve Wall kicked two majors, Glenn, Fitzy and Brody were dominating, and Brendan was effective tidying up in the mids and defence. He smothered what appeared to be a certain goal after Glenn took a mark and had a shot. Bibs best work was out wide with Adam and Brent combining on the right, and Toby running hard on the left. Eamonn was causing headaches for the non-bibs, kicking one in the quarter and three in the match.

The bibs were down on the scoreboard but not panicking. They said they had to win the first contest, or realize they'd be chasing runners all night. The second quarter was hard fought and a little more even. The non bibs had more ball and territory, but they were kicking minors instead of majors. To be fair they weren't easy chances on the run or set shots hitting the post from distance. Eamonn kicked a good goal to extend the lead. Bibs added points with Adam and Toby kicking six pointers. Non bibs still ahead at half time.

In the third the non-bibs began to tire slightly. President Wall's performance was said by some to resemble LeBron's acting antics in basketball. Umpire Ryan saw through it all like a seasoned pro. Toby and Adam had a good fitness edge and were putting points on the board with two goals each in the match. Their bibs must have been industrial strength because they were getting pulled aplenty. Mark was proving an immovable object in the ruck, but it was the non-bibs who managed a goal before the buzzer with a kick finding Cathy. She gathered and kicked true from 40 out. Non bibs still ahead, but bibs still composed and in the hunt.

It was all on in the final stanza. Ali Bones diving on the ball, Barts "contesting" with Brody but unable to stop him scoring a cracker after getting away with a huge dummy and step. Brent went hard at the ball and was called for a fifty after a high tackle on Brendan. These two had a battle royal, Brent also being punished for holding the ball after a tackle by Brendan. Toby was always buzzing around and influencing play. Great ground skills under pressure. A behind for the non-bibs extended the lead. Neil kicked accurately from the from the goal square to find Barts in acres of space. He kicked probably 35 meters to Adam who charged out from the left defence. A sprint, a couple of hand passes and a behind for the bibs. Non bibs kicked a goal, but bibs finished slightly stronger despite an injury to Brent. A great game, the score irrelevant, but the bibs won 61-59 anyway. Well played everyone!

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Handshakes and drinks followed, just as the heavens opened. Is there a team anywhere crazy enough to take on the Bald Eagles?

We have some honorable mentions:

Commendable effort from Luke in the Bibs team to play the whole game in hiking footwear with what started out as white socks.

Col Pace played through a painful rib injury.

Awesome returns from injury by Glenn and Fitzy, getting plenty of ball after muscle injuries.

Injury list: Ryan remains out with broken ribs. Brent's on crutches with a grade three calf tear. Both are looking at a few weeks on the bench.

Thanks to all the contributors.