

MATCH REPORT



HBE Bald Eagles Intraclub game.

DATE 9.5.2025

Rofe Park.

Intraclub master's practice game four was a 10v10 affair played on a dew-covered Rofe Park under the lights. It was a game that had everything; skills, tackles, great goals and some high-quality profanity.

The game began on a smaller ground setup which clearly favored the non-bibs quick hand passing game and negated the bibs' running power. Such was the speed of the game it was difficult to decipher who kicked what behind or what goal. Even the scorers struggled to keep up, one reading a book and the other possibly drinking this match reporter's 'energy drink'. Anyway, bibs in front at quarter time.

Bibs extended their lead in the second too. Their game was flowing on this tiny pitch. Ali requested in the good spirit of the game to extend this to full size, a daunting prospect for some of us, but not for the fittest and longest kickers. Glenn was reveling in it. He was in and around the ruck going hard at the ball, and indeed Richard's head after rolling on it accidentally post tackle. The divot had been replaced by game time on Sunday. Glenn offered more than that though, kicking one of the first goals with a booming punt. We were then treated by what can happen in the white-hot heat of contest. Mate V Mate Benny had a good old-fashioned grapple with Marc, who in just about breaking the tackle, called his mate something rhyming with ace formula one driver James Hunt. Ryan, officiating with composure, marched him 50 for it. I think Ben kicked a goal from it, one of three or four for him in the game. Marc was also on the scoresheet with at least two goals.

Things were getting even harder to follow in the third. The full-length pitch resulting in clouded vision through sweat and exhaustion. The scorers had given up and were now a full-on cheer squad for Cathy, who kicked another two goals. The first went through high between the posts, the second was a bobbly effort that was shepherded over, possibly by a defender. Andy chimed in with two goals. Neil had a blinding (that means exceptional) quarter, setting up a few goals. Sadly, one accurate kick found Barts in acres of space. It landed soft as a butterfly on his beer belly so he couldn't help but catch it. Instead of using the ball sensibly his kick was short of its target, and it cost bibs a goal.

The fourth is merely in dream world. Non-Bibs kept well in front and deservedly won the choccies. Brendan was having a battle royale with Collin. He channeled his Irish Gaelic football jersey and played true goalkeeper with dash and dare not seen since Tadgh Kennelly. He save a certain goal spoiling one of Collins' shots, hurting his hand in the process. Collin, playing with broken ribs still, mentioned the connection with Brendan's hand was better than any he'd had with the ball this year.

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Despite Collin's rib injury, his leg speed made him lucky there were no speed cops on Galston Road. He'd have been fined for doing over 60 in a school zone.

Ali relished the whole game diving on the ball, getting kicks and hand passing away and almost begging for more tackling! A comparison to mid-90's Tony Liberatore has been made. Clare went close to scoring after gathering the ball and lining it up only for the on target shot to be smothered. Clare's performance brought to mind 2016 Bulldogs players, I've been told, and the call for her throwing has been bought into question. Was there a Sydney bias? Not with Ryan, he's a benchmark of integrity.

The beers afterwards tasted as good as ever. I've been reminded two beers equals two Panadol so two post-game help with pain relief.

We'll end with a shout out to Marc for a rucking four quarters after a few beers and for his dexterity nursing a baby and a beer at the same time. Who said men can't multitask?

Names and incidents may have been changed to protect the innocent.

More practice required before game day on June 27th. Brendan's found a mob mad enough to take us on.

Post match comment to the match reporter from young Jack from the U8's after earlier getting a falcon from distance. "You need to practice more and go to the gym!"

Thanks to all players and contributors.

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.

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Awesome returns from injury by Glenn and Fitzzy, 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.

