

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 14 vs Forest Lions
ROUND 3 – DATE 27.4.2025
Rofe Park

Pennant Hills Demons were our Anzac weekend opponents, a team who consistently set the benchmark in our division. Rain meant a soggy oval, but we love wet weather footie and although the Eagles weren't quite at full strength a good game was on the cards. Brent proved we had a slippery surface by slipping onto his back before the start. There was no harm done, but that was sadly not the case later in the day when he was injured during the Masters game.

It was a low scoring first quarter. The heavy conditions and slippery ball made it difficult for both sides. Neither managed a goal and it ended with the Demons in front four points to one. Will Connor was back for his first game of the season and excelled in the backs, along with Lachie and Sharpey. Jon, Josh, Andrew and Tristan were trying hard, tackling and attempting to move the ball forward. For long spells the ball was stuck in midfield. Ewan and Henry had spinning wheels in the wet, but we did manage one decent attack. Andrew won the ball with a big tackle, Ewan collected the ball, ran and kicked forward. Finn collect the pill from a puddle and kicked for goal, only to see it rushed behind.

The second quarter was another midfield slog. The Eagles were fighting to keep in the game. Josh, Jon, Ewan, Riley and Andrew made notable tackles, Will and Lachie did everything to keep the Demons out, but they kept the scoreboard ticking over. The Eagles doubled their score with another rushed behind, but the Demons had pushed out to thirty-one points.

The half time message was to keep going, stick the tackles and try and get the ball forward quickly. The Demons gave us two of their taller players this quarter. Tristan kicked to one of them, who kicked to Finn who marked. His set shot off target for once and worth a point. Jon contributed again with a trademark tackle, but the Eagles were tiring and there was lots of soccering now. Henry and Ewan were now getting more ball out wide, and Loz slowly came to life getting involved. The Eagles got a point from a tight angle and their mood was lifting. Lachie, Josh and Riley won some ball. Then a move with Will to our Penno player, onto Loz and a hand pass to Ewan, only for the buzzer to sound. Demons up 40-4 with one quarter remaining.

One big last quarter effort was called for and the Eagles were soon on the attack. Josh kicked to Finn who went close for a point. Finn was soon back in the action with a tackle, then a one two with our Penno player, onto Loz who kicked back to Finn in the pocket. Finn launched it with the outside of his boot to score one of his finest banana kick goals. Brilliant! It was quickly followed by another with Loz finding Henry, who passed to Finn who kicked accurately! The run ended there. The demons replied with a behind and a goal to take control again. The Eagles never gave up. Josh and Tristan

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linked well, Jon. Riley and Andrew carried on tackling and kicking. We had one chance at the end but Ewan was taken down by a strong tackle in front of the posts. Jon showed off a great step and kick in our last attack, but the demons completed the scoring with a behind and a goal to win 53-17.

Coach Brent was happy with the team's effort, especially in the second half. It'll be a different game next time we play Penno when we have the full squad available.

Captain's comments: It was a tough game, but we kept on going even when we were 30 points down. We got a couple of goals in the second half. Lachie and Will were amazing in defence clearing the ball out on many occasions. We will improve our play in the next game and will keep up our hard work.

Goals: Finn (2)

Player of the Match: Jon Stucker – amazing tackling, kicking and stamina in the mids.

Callum Mills Award: Lachie Wall – consistently puts his body on the line for the team. Backs that up with good skills and distribution.

END OF PERIOD	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
 Hornsby Berowra Eagles U14 Div 3	1 0.1	2 0.2	4 0.4	17 2.5
 Pennant Hills/Westbrook Demons U14 Div 3	4 0.4	31 4.7	40 5.10	53 7.11

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