

MATCH REPORT



HBE Bald Eagles Intraclub game.

DATE 18.5.2025

Rofe Park.

A dark, cold, wet and windy Rofe Park saw the latest intra club practice game. 10-a-side on a heavy ten restricted size oval. Brent, still recovering from a torn calf, umpired and gave the players a firm but fair talking to. Any rough play or backchat would be met with either a penalty or a textbook WWE-style suplex! Safe to say the game, whilst competitive, was played in friendly spirits with any lip kept almost to nothing.

The first quarter flashed by, almost too quickly to recount properly. Tackles were flying in, kicks flying out, and hand passes were proving difficult with the slippery pill. Everyone was getting on the ball and despite conditions there was some good linking plays. Non-Bibs dominated and were a few goals in front at quarter time.

Barts entered the game late having had an extended warm up. On hearing Non bibs were in control he whipped off his bib to join the fray. This slowed the NB's down making it more of an even contest. Danielle was played through and kicked her first Masters goal. Steve Wall was winning plenty of ball and kicked a cracker from distance. Quite an effort having spent all day at the Eagles Nest. Glenn won a set shot after a strong tackle in the forward fifty, kicked true for six points, and celebrated properly. The game had evened up, possibly due to lack of bibbed players. The match reporter went back to being bibbed to level things up again.

Half time saw a tactical switch. Neil had worked feverishly at full back and put his hand up for a switch to full forward. It wasn't going to be easy up there because Pete Robson was having a massive game in defence. He stopped at least five goals, two being from the Club President, and in doing so may have sealed the full back slot in upcoming matches.

It was all on in the third. There were some shuddering tackles in the mids. Fitzy took a tough challenge and lay motionless face down on the ground, not ideal on a now puddling park. He's tough and was soon sitting up recovering from being winded. Passions roared loud now; Glenn marched twice for arguing with the Umpire. Danielle got another break and was expertly shepherded to allow her to kick another goal (her second). The play of the day ensued with Evan gathering the ball from the ruck, sprinting forward and kicking a goal from way out. It had to be further than fifty, post-game some said 75, let's just say he kicked the goal from another post code. Remarkable. Neil wasn't to be outdone either with his cameo up front working wonders. After taking a high tackle right in front of goal he kicked his first Masters goal from a set shot.

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Things almost settled down in the fourth. Long kicks was the name of the game. The wind and rain were increasing so anything too fancy got bogged down. Fitzzy completed his recovery with an amazing shot from distance that just made it inside the tall upright. Marc took some great catches above his head. Brody, Toby and Benny were all busy. Eamonn was still running, tackling and getting some kicks away. Brody kicked at least one goal from distance. Neil wobbled in his second goal after spilling what he considered a routine chest mark. Nothing was routine in this weather! Then it was up to Cathy and Clare to face off in the rucks. It was awesome to see them compete and fist the ball away to their teammates. The game was now a midfield battle, with Pete continuing to excel in defence when the ball went down the NB's end. The game ended in strengthening rain with nobody knowing the score. All players were filthy dirty, exhausted, happy, and in Cathy's case injured.

On reflection it was an epic match in trying conditions, and it's awesome to see players kicking their first goals for the team. As a team we don't want indiscipline to be costing us 50 meters in the proper games. They're friendly games and more than mate V mate; it's mates playing with mates making new mates!

Injury updates; Brent umpired whilst still a few weeks away from full fitness, Fitzzy played on after getting winded to kick a great goal, and Cathy set the bar even higher by playing with a radius fractured whilst fisting (or rucking as it used to be called) with Clare at the restarts. An incredible effort.

Glenn, Ryan and Collin are still a few weeks away from being 100%.