

# MATCH REPORT



## HBE UNDER 14 vs Pittwater Tigers

ROUND 4 – DATE 3.5.2025

Rofe Park

On Umpires Appreciation Day we welcomed the Pittwater Tigers to Rofe Park. It's a team we've had a little bit of history with over past seasons, and it's usually a close and hard-fought game. Could we return to winning ways on an oval still soggy from a week of rain?

We certainly looked favourites to win during the first quarter. Lachy, Will and Jon were controlling the Tigers attacks with some great tackles and nice breaks, Lachy and Will breaking tackles and kicking away. Josh and Andrew were formidable in and around the ruck. Riley and Robbie were kicking well to the forwards. Loz took a nice mark above his head. Henry and Ewan were quick to the ball and sprinted away from markers. Will made a break and kicked to Jesse, a run and kick to Finn, and then some interplay with Ryan before Andrew marked and kicked a wonderful goal straight down the middle. We were on the board again soon after. Ewan broke and kicked to Finn who made no mistake for another six points. The Tigers were kept to two behinds, so our Eagles led by ten at quarter time.

The second stanza was a close-run thing with the Tigers utilizing some late arrivals. They scored the first goal, but we replied when Josh kicked to Andrew, who found Finn who kicked a trademark goal for his second of the game. Nick then chimed in with a huge tackle, Andrew did the same and kicked to Jon, onto Luke then to Jess. Nick took a mark, Finn soccered it to Robby who snapped a behind. Then it was all Tigers. They dominated possession and territory and scored with the last kick to lead by one at half time.

Finn almost opened the scoring to begin the third quarter, but the ball stopped before the line. The eagles applied more pressure to add a point. Loz got in a good tackle before a big head clash between Josh and Jon. They're both tough as teak so were soon back up and running. Luke then suffered a sling tackle and sent his free kick to Andrew who found Finn in the right pocket. He slotted his third of the game with a trademark kick. Lachy, Josh, Andrew and Jon were making some desperate tackles to keep the Tigers at bay. The teams swapped behinds with Loz sidestepping and kicking forward, before Finn forced a rushed behind. Will made a great save on our goal line. The Tigers led at the break 38-29 with another late goal. This was a nerve-wracking game!

'All to play for' said our goal umpire to theirs. 'It's happening' was the reply, and it certainly was, as the Tigers belatedly handed in their team sheet.

The Eagles continued to work hard in the fourth. Jon, Josh and Andrew were tackling themselves to a standstill. Jesse, Finn and Loz were linking play. Ewan, Ryan, Henry and Milo were breaking the

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shackles trying to get us forward. The Tigers were managing spaces better and breaking down our attacks and scored first this quarter. The Eagles refused to back down. Andrew had a one two with Loz before finding Finn and the Whizz was accurate again in scoring his fourth! The Tigers then finished the game strongly. Lachy and Jon saved certain goals with brilliant defence, Henry lent a hand with a huge tackle, but it was the Tigers who kicked the last goal after the final buzzer.

What an effort by the Eagles. Depleted but with brave efforts by our U13's they fell just short to a Tigers team who were a little stronger after some Div 2 players bolstered their numbers.

Coaches awards went to Jon and Josh. Total commitment from both as always with big tackles and kicks to inspire the team and get the supporters cheering.

Coaches Comments: Despite not securing the win, the boys put in a fantastic performance with every player making valuable contributions. Once again, we were short on numbers, relying on our U13's to step up – and they did an outstanding job. Huge thanks to Luke, Jess, Ryan and Milo for their efforts, all performing brilliantly. Adam and I remain confident of our game plan and with a full team we'll be in a much stronger position to hold off our opponents. Special shoutouts to Lachy, Robbie, Henry and Riley for consistently stepping up and showing improvement each week.

Goals: Finn 4. An epic goalscoring season continues for 'the Whizz.'

| END OF PERIOD                                                                                                               | Q1               | Q2               |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
|  <b>Hornsby Berowra Eagles U14 Div 3</b> | <b>12</b><br>2.0 | <b>21</b><br>3.3 |  |
|  <b>Pittwater Tigers U14 Rioli Div 3</b> | <b>2</b><br>0.2  | <b>22</b><br>3.4 |  |

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