

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 14 vs North Shore Swans

ROUND 5 – DATE 18.5.2025

Rofe Park

Steve Wall's 7.05am pitch report went something like 'I'm not going to lie it's wet! There's a nice sheen of water under the grass so it's nice and long and we can play!' It was a good call because though it remained soggy, it was definitely playable at the first ruck, won by Josh as usual, at 4.45pm. Would the water favour the visiting Swans, or would our Eagles soar to win for the third time this season? Sharpy at full back, already cold, said this was going to be a hard game.

The Eagles began well and were soon into the Swan's 50, they escaped but Jon took an overhead mark to kick it back in. Robbie, Andrew and Ryan combined, then Finn gathered the ball to kick a goal and put the Eagles in front. Henry kicked for Noah to mark and the Eagles were attacking again. Jon took another mark, Will soccered back into the 50, Nick found Finn who gathered but this kick was wind affected and hit the tall upright. The Swans finally broke their shackles despite tackles by Sharpy and Lachy, but Will was there to kick it behind. Lachy was then adjudged a foul and the Swans leveled the score with a decent kick from their left pocket. It was then a struggle to move the ball forward and North Shore led 13-7 at the first buzzer.

Josh, Andrew and Robby were soon into the action at the restart, but the Swans were finding their players easier than us, especially down the wings, and soon went six points further ahead. Josh smothered a kick, and kicked to five, into Finn but the Swans cleared. Finn then kicked to Loz, who marked and shot quickly as the defender stepped out of the way, but the shot hit the post again! The Eagles were getting some control Josh, Jon and Tristan broke the Swans play, Henry and Noah were making runs, Will too was jinking away from tackles. All this led to another point for HBE, a rushed behind. Andrew then burst forward, and almost found Loz, Ryan collected the clearance to kick another point. Ryan then got possession in their 50 again, skillfully keeping the ball in play. He kicked across goal for Noah to mark and kick a major. It was all Eagles now. Andrew breaking tackles, then almost found Finn, who tackled for ball before the half time hooter. 17-19 to the Swans, but momentum with the Eagles and all to play for in deteriorating conditions. The wind was picking up.

Lachy began the quarter taking a low mark in defence. Jon then joined the rain dance with a customary huge tackle. Will and Jon then kick away. Robby chased and gathered and was pushed over twice before winning a free kick. Then good link play with Otto involved, Will winning a leg chase, finding Jon, back to Will onto Josh who hand passed to himself and kicks to Loz. He kicked to the middle, but we had no numbers there. We won the ball back and then kicked a behind from way out deep in the pocket (possibly Andrew?). Otto then involved again, Jon and Andrew combining to

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get us back in the Swans 50. Josh smothered yet another kick, painfully this time as mud splattered in his eyes, but he was soon up to join the action. A spell in the Swans 50 finally ended as they break away. Tristan held them up with another block. Riley was also breaking up Swans play. Josh ended the period with another spoil. The Eagles dominated the quarter but were still adrift by a single point.

The Swans were worried as their coach pointed out they were playing into the wind for the last quarter. Just as they ran out the wind shifted, the Easterly swept around from the North and blew rain sideways across the oval. The Eagles began well with Tristan, Robbie, Josh and Will involved. Henry put in some big tackles too. We just couldn't get the ball away! Our attacks became more and more sporadic as the game turned into a midfield slog before the Swans camped in our 50. Josh saved one with his face in a foal mouth scramble, Andrew continued to bust tackles, but it was the Swans who got the only point of the quarter to shade the game 20-18. A huge effort by both teams, and indeed umpires and fans alike, all enduring the bleak English Summer like weather.

Coach Brent: Super proud of the team and the U13's who played up. A tough game in the conditions. Everyone stepped up. We're not to dwell too much on defeat, and it's a different result in dry conditions without the wind.

Captain's comments: Whether we won or not it was a good game, low scoring but both teams did well playing in a dark, wet and cold night. Josh saved a goal or two with his face, and Andrew became Patrick Cripps charging like a bull through five opponents at once! A tight game with the margin only two points.

Man of the match: Loz. Always doing what's asked of him and using his body to great effect.

Courage award: Robby, who is becoming a champion of consistency and playing to a high level. Good skills and brave too.

Well played, everyone. Thanks to all our volunteers. Brilliant boundary support facing into the rain. It all comes across on the match recording too!

END OF PERIOD	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
 Hornsby Berowra Eagles U14 Div 3	7 1.1	17 2.5	18 2.6	18 2.6
 North Shore Swans U14 Div 3	13 2.1	19 3.1	19 3.1	20 3.2

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