

# MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 14 vs Manly Bombers

ROUND 5 – DATE 25.5.2025

Weldon

Bombers away is never an easy game and an 8.30am start meant an early morning rise for everyone. We welcomed back Ewan from illness, but Jon was out watching his GWS team win in Melbourne. Loz had a pregame knee issue, but had it strapped and swallowed a couple of Panadol to get him though. Vice-Captain Josh had his birthday to celebrate! The Oval was boggy in the middle and the game plan was to stay positive, hand pass fast then kick long.

That was easier said than done. Lachy, Tristan, Andrew and Finn were linking play early, but the Bombers went 6-0 up with a flukey soccered goal from the pocket. Henry and Josh were fighting hard for the ball. Riley was soccering around the ruck and Sharpy was good in defence with Lachy. The Bombers kept adding to the scoreboard, being just a little stronger in this quarter. Josh and Tristan couldn't stem the tide. We were missing Jon's inspirational tackling. Will was busy and got it to Andrew who broke tackles running through midfield. After that we were struggling to clear, only managing one good attack with Finn, Loz, Ewan and Tristan linking. Henry was putting his body on the line with numerous tackles, but it was 0-21 at the buzzer.

The Eagles attacked into their fifty to begin the second period. We were much more competitive now and tackles were sticking. Jake passed to Josh, who kicked long to Finn who fought hard to win the ball. It broke to Loz in the pocket, and he quickly kicked low between the big posts for a remarkable Finn-like goal. Robbie then tackled three opponents to get our supporters cheering. The Bombers continued to score regularly though. Henry and Riley were contesting well for the ball, but overall, there was a bit too much soccering. Josh continued to put in massive tackles. Jake was having a massive game running and kicking away. Will, Lachy and Sharpy were all defending for their lives. Jake and Henry then began an attack. Ewan got the ball, ran away then was caught high but carried on running when the umpires let it go. We just couldn't get Finn onto the ball enough. 6-36 at half time. Play positive and play hard was the coaches' advice at half time. Stick the tackles and kick long.

Ewan was straight onto the ball and running to begin the third. Better play now with less soccering. A huge tackle by Finn, helping in the mids now. A mark and kick by Lachy but the Bombers took control with a run of quick behinds and a goal. Finn was on the ball more now, playing deeper. A proper captain sacrificing his usual attacking instincts. A falcon by Sharpy! The Eagles were struggling to get through the boggy centre and then we were under heavy pressure but showed some great goal line defence. Our best move followed. We had a break up the right with Will kicking, Finn gathered and kicked to Loz who marked, took his time and kicked back to Finn. Finn to Henry, back

# MATCH REPORT



to Finn who stepped and kicked for Jake to mark in front of the posts. Jake slotted the shot home to complete a fine team goal. 12-47 with a quarter to play.

Jake was on the ball a lot to begin the fourth. Josh as usual was dominating ball ups. Not sure if the Bombers knew it was his birthday as they gifted him a few punches off the ball that the umpires missed. The Bombers kicked four goals in the last quarter compared to a single goal for the Eagles when Finn took a great mark over his shoulder and kicked into their fifty. The ball bounced forward and Ewan was there to divert it in for six points. A great chase and touch! Andrew continued to drive us forward, often with Bombers clinging onto him. Riley blocked to save a goal. Josh, Will and Lachy continued their resolute defence. The U13's were battling hard. The Umpires hardly gave any decisions, and when they did, they were open to question. In the end they were struggling even throwing the ball up! To finish we saw great hand skills by Finn, Jake and Tristan tackling, Lachy pushed but not given again, Josh picking the ball up, stepping and kicking. Andrew finished with yet another gut busting run forward, passed to Tristan, to Henry onto Loz who was fouled but not given. Lachy great hands and kick to Finn. The ending buzzer proved to be a relief, as it stopped the Bombers adding another six points.

So, another hard-fought game for our Eagles. Brent was happy with the effort and a lot of the play and remains confident more wins are coming. He made his feelings known to the ground manager regarding the umpiring, or lack of. Everyone stepped up, none more so than our U13's who contributed massively again.

Captains Comments: Playing early in the morning isn't for us and that's something we need to work on but each quarter we played, we played better, Shout out to Loz's GOTC (goal of the career) and Josh's one against four battle in midfield.

Man of the Match: Loz picked this up for playing with a painful knee and scoring the kind of goal Finn normally kicks! He also worked hard for the team and played an important role in Jake's goal.

Courage award: Henry won the bravery award. He saw a lot of ball and was running and tackling all over the oval. In a word; fearless.

| END OF PERIOD                                                                                                        | Q1        | Q2        | Q3         | Q4          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|
|  Manly Bombers U14 Div 3          | 21<br>3.3 | 36<br>5.6 | 47<br>6.11 | 72<br>10.12 |
|  Hornsby Berowra Eagles U14 Div 3 | 0<br>0.0  | 6<br>1.0  | 12<br>2.0  | 18<br>3.0   |

# MATCH REPORT

