

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 13's vs Manly Bombers
ROUND 3 – DATE 27/04/25
VENUE – Frank Grey Oval, Curl Curl

HBE v Manly Bombers: A Slippery Spectacle of Sheer Brilliance

In the immortal words of the coach before the game, “Unless they call it, they shall play.” And play they did—through rain, mud, and maybe even a few accidental slip-and-slides across the field.

First Quarter: The Art of the Scrappy Start

Despite the wet conditions, the boys wasted no time making their mark. A beautiful passage of plays led to an off-the-ground goal—because who needs a firm footing when you have pure grit? Ryan continued to be everywhere he was needed scoring early points. Phoenix had hands on the ball several times and finally backed himself with confidence and slotted a cracking goal, followed by Onni weaving through defenders like he was dodging traffic, all thanks to Malaky's stellar shepherding in the goal end. Meanwhile, Luke was everywhere in the middle, a force to be reckoned with in both defence and attack. This led to a brilliant tackle that saw him emerge absolutely caked in mud, looking more like a battlefield warrior than a footballer.

Second Quarter: Goals Galore and a Heavenly Downpour

Straight off the mark, the boys put up the first points again—because that's how momentum works, right? Then, as if the skies were celebrating their dominance, the heavens opened, and so did the floodgates of goals. Jesse took a cracking mark and wasted no time converting it into points. Liam marked right in front of the post and calmly slotted another. Meanwhile, Oleg put on a defensive masterclass, stopping what seemed like a surefire goal from the opposition before the team swiftly moved it downfield to pile on another. Auggie was relentless, breaking up plays, setting up attacks, and putting his body on the line.

Half-Time: A Speech for the Ages

The coach, sensing his team's hunger for greatness, delivered a speech so powerful that even the rain seemed to hold its breath in reverence. Whatever was said worked—because the boys entered the third quarter like a team possessed.

Third Quarter: A Goal Avalanche

Lewis took a mark and added another to the tally. Malaky found the scoreboard after a dazzling attacking play, and Otto stepped into the ruck to create chaos for the opposition, opening up chance after chance. Josh threw himself into defensive efforts, unlucky not to mark, but Malakai cleaned up the scraps and sent the ball flying. The third quarter produced the most goals of the match—a

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veritable avalanche of points. Daniel kept things steady through the middle, reading the play like a seasoned pro and finding the right option every time. Archie proved his mettle in the contest, showing poise under pressure and delivering precision kicks that set up scoring chances. And Jake? His footy IQ was on full display, making smart, tactical decisions that kept the team's momentum rolling forward.

Fourth Quarter: Magpie Mayhem and The Finishing Touch

The heavens opened yet again, as if to challenge the boys once more. Bristol handled pest control duties, clearing magpies from the grounds (presumably the birds, not the opposition players). With renewed focus, Jake sent a smart kick into the middle, setting Louis up for another goal. Otto almost had one of his own, only for the dreaded behind call to intervene. Oleg, playing like a man on a mission, delivered a breathtaking clearing kick to Jack—though the play was called back. Finally, after a game full of selfless ball movement, Oleg secured a goal for himself, an exclamation point on a sensational team effort.

Despite the difficult conditions, the boys displayed stunning teamwork, with unselfish passages of handballing setting up one another for the best scoring chances. They had each other's backs through thick and thin—and in the end, that spirit turned the game into something truly special.

As always, it was a joy to watch them play. Rain or shine, they put on a show! A shout out to our volunteer boundary umpire (Otto's big brother) and to our goal umpire who should be signed up to the professional league for his flag waving prowess (and ability to inform the crowd of the kicking outcome)

Score 106 to 23

Goals

Report by Suzie

