

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 13YG vs Penrith Giants

ROUND 6 - 18/05/2025

Rofe Park, Hornsby

Our first rematch for the year, and two 50 gamers! After beating Penrith comprehensively earlier in the year, they came to visit us and we put on perfect footy conditions – an inch of mud across the field ensuring a hardfought game for any team willing to put the effort in. And sure enough, both sets of girls came ready to leave everything out there, in our case inspired by getting Emily and Zahra wins on their 50th game. This time the team even managed to make it through the banner...

The girls established an early lead and maintained it through the first half, before kicking two goals in both the third and fourth quarters to sneak away into a comfortable win. The Giants were definitely not humbled this time around, bringing stellar pressure and willing the ball forward to force our girls to really earn the points.

(Apologies for any brevity or repetition in this week's match report, as I got a bit too caught up in the close game and the quality football to take extensive notes!)

Players

- In our weekly rotation of which midfield player stands up each week, it was Zahra's turn this time. She was in any contest she could find, with handball receives and kicks out of congestion the order of the day. She really kept the engine room ticking over, and earned Player of the Week.
- Vally showed her toughness this week, not only holding several marks and winning the ball in really difficult conditions but also bouncing back from being winded to immediately hit the scoreboard with a goal when we were finding it tough to get on the scoreboard.
- Juliet played forward this week and demonstrated some real commitment to her forward craft. She hovered around the contest, and was deceptively sneaky in her ability to suddenly somehow have the ball and get it on to her boot, including scoring a goal from it.
- Sandy started the game pinging shots from everywhere, including a long goal from quite a way out going straight over umpire head. She even spelled Willow in the ruck in the second half, showing an athletic jump to get first touch on a number of taps.

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- Olivia B played up from the U11s this week and brought her trademark rough, tough, and niggling style to the U13s. She will head straight for the ball every time and put her head over it to win it, but the highlight for all the onlookers was the constant bumping and general annoyance she put a couple of poor Penrith forwards through for an entire quarter.
- Isabelle is getting more confident in her collecting of the loose ball, repeatedly chopping off Penrith attempts to get past the half way line and releasing Maddie, Kira and her other defenders with timely handballs as they worked over to support.
- Nya was a star up forward this week – initially she was putting in the effort but just not scoring the goals, but the effort paid off and she delivered with three goals in the second half. Her ability to either win a contest or, if not, pressure and force a ball up inside the 50 is a big part of the team's success.
- Maia provided a couple of great touches this week, and seeing her burst away from a contest at speed is a sight to behold (I'm pretty sure I've used this before, but it's true every week). She's so close to kicking a bag of goals because once she gets moving no one is catching her.
- Olivia F was a key defensive player as always, sweeping the ball off the last line half a dozen times when everyone stopped and watched expecting a goal and following it up with decent long kicks to get the ball out of any dangerous areas. This week she even spent time getting dirty in the middle and used her kicking to good effect up there too, sending it forward for teammates to pounce upon.
- Hazel got off to a good start across the half forward line, preventing the Giants from rebounding from our forward entries but unfortunately she had to come off early with a blood nose after a knock to the head.
- Sofia again was busy around the feet of the taller Giants players. Like rain on a Sunday, she is inevitable with her ability to win contests, this week combining that with some really good kicks to clear the ball away from the opposition.
- Michaela rotated forward and back, winning the ball a number of times but couldn't quite work herself into space given the conditions to make the Giants pay on the scoreboard like she did in the first matchup.
- Willow rotated between ruck and a kick behind the play and in either position she was a big driver forward – her long kicks were exemplary in sending the ball into our forward line for Nya to pounce upon!
- Maddie again specialised in hard hitting play. She brought continuous defensive effort and pressure across the half back line and anywhere she was moved to, and was focused in on

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the team play with repeated shepherding efforts and winning any contest she was pointed at.

- Kira starred as a half back this week, with her ability to fashion a kick in the middle of half a dozen players with little space a godsend to turn any Giants' forward push back into forcing them into defense.
- Lucy focused on working her way into space in the forward line to give the team an option when we went forward, and was rewarded by collecting the ball several times and immediately bursting away – in a game of inches and mud, every one helped keep the ball up for us to score from.
- Pippa continues to belie her age at this level, not only bursting through to collect the ball but her ability to close space on opponents really helps force errors and turnovers that are key to us locking the ball in our forward half for long periods of time.
- Emily did her best work up forward, earning free kicks and collecting the ball in space to get the ball to Nya and Juliet and Lucy in dangerous positions.

Score

Hornsby-Berowra Eagles 6.7.43 dft Penrith Giants 2.1.13

Goals

Nya Nicolson: 3; Juliet Allan: 1; Sandy Hebblewhite: 1; Vally Taborsky: 1

Report by Donald Shepherd (Photos available on Teams)