

# MATCH REPORT



## HBE UNDER 14 vs North Shore Swans

ROUND 12 – DATE 20.7.2025

Tunks Park Oval

This Sunday was a milestone match with our pocket rocket, Ewan Heathers, playing his 50<sup>th</sup> for the Eagles. He's been great to watch exciting us with his speed, skills and courage. We'd need all of that for this game, away to a rapidly improving North sure team bolstered by players from their stronger sides.

It was soon apparent that the Swans division one and two players were going to prove a handful. They could kick long and found their players unerringly. All their skills were sharp, and the Eagles battled valiantly to stay in touch. Will and Lachie put a massive effort to stop goals. Tristan, Jake, Josh, Ewan and Jesse were also doing their best to shield the defence, but North Shore were too good and kicked 5 goals and 4 behinds that were unanswered. Our forwards barely touched the ball in this quarter.

The second quarter was a massive improvement, and the Eagles managed to kick two goals. Finn, of course, got on the board with a wonderful, snapped goal. A difficult shot made to look easy by our captain. Noah added a second. He gathered a kick from our mids under pressure from Jackson, who could also have claimed the mark! It was Noah who took the set shot and he rarely misses from there. Our twelve points were only just bettered by North Shore's fourteen. Josh was now struggling with a back injury after receiving an elbow during his work in the ruck.

North Shore won the third quarter by kicking four goals to our none. Our team's effort was being backed up by some great link play from defence to the mids, but again we struggled for territory and North Shore attacked assuredly. Will was clearing well, and Lachy made an amazing double tackle to prevent another six points. Tristan and Andrew put in extra hard shifts to cover for Josh, who returned before the end of the quarter,

The fourth quarter was close again. North Shore claiming it 21-19 but Josh had recovered well enough to fist the ball strongly in the rucks, and Andrew, Tristan, Jake and Ewan could build from there. Suddenly Jesse, Riley, Loz and Finn were getting the ball. Finn kicked across goal for Jackson to mark, and he made no mistake from in front of the posts. Soon after Finn kicked into the middle again for Jackson to mark just beyond the far tall post. It was a narrow angle, but Jackson curled it in for another six more. It wasn't over yet for him either! Loz took a mark on the North Shore fifty. He had options out wide but drilled a pinpoint accurate kick into Jackson's arms and sure enough he kicked another goal! Runner Ryan burst onto the scene to get the boys around each other to congratulate themselves on the great plays! The game ended with Maxim, playing his first game, drawing a foul and trying to start another Eagles attack.

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A fantastic effort by our Eagles, with two excellent quarters and three goals in the last putting the cherry on the cake. Congratulations to Ewan to getting to fifty games, and we look forward to many more to come. Next week we'll see Tristan cross that line too.

Coaches' comments:

- We were up against a side mixed with kids from div1,2 and 3 so it was always going to be a challenge for us boys.
- They had plenty of reserves as well compared to us not having any.
- Our linking play was fantastic in the second half
- U13's stepped up really well as per usual.
- Backline worked hard all day
- Standouts for me were Finn, Lachy, Andrew, Jake, Jackson and Loz.

Player of the match: Finn with a proper captain's performance. Kicked a goal, assisted two goals, and made an impact in midfield.

Courage award: Lachy Wall. Amazing defensive display. The double tackle to prevent a goal was outstanding. Great clearances from the goal square. Never gives in.

Goals: Finn, Noah, Jackson (3).

North Shore: 34   48   89   110

Eagles:            0   12   12   31



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