

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 14 vs Pennant Hills Demons

ROUND 10 – 22.6.2025

Ern Holmes

Down to ten this week and for the first time in memory we were without all three of our tallest, Jon, Josh and Andrew. Adam set a game plan, but it was clear the Demons held a significant advantage in height and numbers. Our Eagles have heart, skills and speed, would that be enough to hold the benchmark team. It was also a landmark game for the side with the players passing 600 games cumulatively for the Eagles.

It became immediately clear without Josh Ball ups were going to be an issue. Tristan was amazing going up for every ball. The first quarter was a real struggle with the Demons winning all the ball ups and dominating from there. Hard as the Eagles tried, and despite their best efforts they left the field trailing by 48 points at the first break. It was going to take something exceptional to avoid a demolition.

The second quarter was another uphill struggle, but depth of character and amazing defence by Sharpy, Will and Lachy, along with Tristan and Riley kept the demons to eleven points. We also managed to break forward. Ewan was especially busy and keen to run forward. Finn got a bit more ball. Loz was trying hard with crumbs. A demons stand-in scored six for us! 56-8 at half time, but Lachy was struggling with a shoulder injury and Finn was in trouble with stomach cramps.

The demons kicked four unanswered goals along with four behinds in the third. Our Eagles were incredible. Not once did they stop trying or running. The foul count against them was enormous but they kept on. Noah took mark after mark, Robbie grabbed tackles, Riley always available as an outlet, Henry threw himself at opponents, and Will, our last line of defence, was gathering balls, stepping from tackles and clearing with some great kicks. 6-84 at three quarter time.

It looked like a daunting final period, but the Demons gave us some bigs so at least we could compete in the ruck. Finn returned and the captain made his presence felt like kicking a wonderful goal. It was Lozza's turn next. One on one with a defender in the pocket he nudged his opponent away and kicked low and true from an acute angle. The Demons still managed another 32 points but even keeping them to that was amazing. Noah had to contend with a pushing contest the umpires missed, their 28 complaining of a phantom punch. Lachy was running around with his left arm just about immobile and stuck by his side. It didn't stop him punching away enormously with his right though! Will was there to constantly cover his cousin.

All in all, an amazing effort by our eleven. Up against a side greater in height and numbers they battled on, played through pain, and managed to limit the Demons to less than a 100-point win. It wasn't just about the team on the oval, but those off it. Josh turned up to support, Jon was present as runner galvanizing our defence by ordering 'no more goals', and Hammer was back with his team

MATCH REPORT



mates enjoying some sunshine. Now there's a player we're looking forward to see back in the HBE colours!

Best on field: Will Connors. Incredible defence, great kicking from the square and skills to boot, stepping away from tackles and clearing.

Callum Mills: Tristan. He's finding another level this season. Faced a thankless task up against a gigantic midfield but challenged for everything, never taking a backward step.

Coaches' commentary in full: Great morning for footy. Lads were up and about.

Quite a few positional changes today due to injuries and availability.

First quarter was a challenge as the boys needed to adjust to playing a few different positions and having to transition the footy in a different style to normal.

2nd quarter was a great response to the initial onslaught, keeping the quarter to 1 goal each.

Ball movement was great, tackle pressure was elite.

3rd quarter started well, worked hard and ran with the ball well with some great skills and makes.

Last five minutes of the quarter was costly as fatigue kicked in. Until then it was a goal for goal affair with the lads drilling some amazing goals.

Best player was Wilbur Wilde with his run and carry from the backline opening the field up for us.

Callum Mills award went to our debut ruckman Tristan, superb effort against a man child, did his job for the team, competed hard and made sure Penno earned their possession.

Robbie was exceptional in the mids, read the play beautifully, taking some great marks and showed great poise with the pill in hand.

Sharpy was very good at blunting Pennos forward entries. He has taken to playing defence this year like a duck to water. Be sure to ask him about his amazing goal at training last Tuesday.

Young Noah stood up in defence defying his short stature playing on some tall opponents and given them a lesson in attitude winning nearly all his 1 on 1 contests.

Honourable mentions to Riley and Robbie who worked this butts off all game.

We get a breather now for school

Holiday from games.

Training will still be on Tuesdays during the holidays.

Goals: Finn and Loz.

END OF PERIOD	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
 Pennant Hills/Westbrook Demons U14 Div 3	45 7.3	56 8.8	84 12.12	116 17.14
 Hornsby Berowra Eagles U14 Div 3	0 0.0	6 1.0	6 1.0	19 3.1

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