

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 15 vs North Shore Swans Heeney
ROUND 12 – 20/7/2025
Middle Head Oval, Mosman

After a long lay-off due to Lucas' injury, I'm back at it covering the adventures of the mighty U15s Hornsby Berowra Eagles...

As per normal, when we're not at the 'Home Of Football' - Rofo Park, we journey to all ends of Sydney. This week's trip was out to Middle Head Oval in Mosman to take on North Shore Swans Heeney. Since my last report, our team had been travelling really well. We had strung together a heap of wins with an understaffed loss to Penno Demons the only black mark. The Eagles were looking to add to their impressive tally and continue their march toward semi-final footy.

The drive out to Middle Head Oval was a pretty smooth one. I expertly navigated my bashed up Camry around the Porshes, Audis and Mercedes whilst talking strategy with Lucas. We found the narrow carpark and after about 9 attempts I was able to park the car in the spot. Gloria patiently helped me with the parking machine - another feature of playing AFL in a more affluent suburb. The actual ground was shoved into a small space but it was a good looking oval with of course a spectacular view. A decent kick may see you having to fish the ball out of the Pacific Ocean. The views were actually more spectacular than I first thought as I was told later that there was a nudist beach just down from the ground!

Tim, Nick and Rich put the boys through their paces just next to the carpark, getting them ready for the important clash ahead. I thought the team looked a little sluggish and out of sorts as they warmed up, but I suppose when you only have slightly more than a footpath to work with you're never going to look your best.

I found a spot, notepad ready, getting into amateur journalist mode but I had to move as I was distracted by the conversations of the Mosman locals around me. Two guys were having an intense conversation about their renovations whilst another lady, dressed far too well for a footy match, recounted a tale of how the bird poo on her (no doubt European) car "was like chewing gum". It was all a bit too detailed and strange, a bit like these reports.

Onto the footy and we were underway and instantly the Eagles were making an impact. A free kick from Ethan found Callum who took a tidy mark. His kick was dead straight but fell just short, still, we were on the board with a behind after less than a minute.

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North Shore regained some composure and registered a few nice marks, scoring a behind too. They continued their attack but our backs scrambled well and eventually we found some space. Jake S went for a dash and found Callum with a laser-like kick. Callum made no mistake and slotted the ball through for our first goal! Things remained tight for a while after this but a nice interchange of passes from Emmett, Josh, Ollie and Henry got us out of trouble and on the attack. Jake S broke the short-lived deadlock with his first major! An intercept mark from Ollie and some great lead-up work from Josh made this possible. The first quarter was relatively tight but HBE went to the break with a handy 13-1 lead.

The Swans started the second with some early possession but only scored a behind for all their effort. It wasn't long and we had cleared the ball, Callum found space and kicked to Jake S. He marked sharply and booted a massive goal from a distance. Luke snuck one through almost immediately after, goal umpire Brownie copping a Sherrin in the face in the process... The positive momentum continued - a couple more behinds and another goal from Luke after some solid forward pressure from Callum and Alistair. Following this, Lucas found himself in the clear and kicked to Ollie who did the rest by nailing another 6. Just for fun, he grabbed another soon after as the Eagles piled on the points. The second was a monster quarter for HBE- our boys were relentless and the poor Swans looked stuck in mid-flight.

The positive play continued at the start of the 3rd. Tyler had an early shot which had the distance but just missed the target. North Shore were then able to have a good little period but they still couldn't trouble the scorers. Emmett, Tom and Jake G were very reliable at the back when required and repelled the opposition strongly. One highlight in this impressive defensive display was Tom making a great tackle to win the ball back. Augie was also working hard for us in yet another valuable guest appearance for the 15s. The ball started to move forward again and Zach was starting to have some nice touches in the forwards. Unfortunately, our attack was stifled when Tyler copped an unlucky call after some good tussle. North Shore ended up getting a few goals in the quarter as our boys dropped their intensity a little due to our big lead. 52-22 by my count at the end of the 3rd quarter.

We'd reached the final term and North Shore threw everything at us from the ball-up. Some tough stuff from Henry, Ollie, Tom and Emmett suffocated their attack and soon we were back down our scoring end. Ethan continued his role of midfield hardman, smashing the opposition for fun in attack and defense. Callum reaped the benefit from all this hard work and slotted a precision goal. A string of hand-passes between Jake G and Luke in the midfield gave us the opportunity for a clearing kick which saw Callum soccer it through the posts for another goal! The result was becoming very clear and the contest started to reduce in quality a touch. North Shore scored a couple of consolation goals but Callum was also able to grab another to add to his massive bagful of goals. The final siren blared and the mighty Hornsby-Berowra Eagles ran out big winners 74-30. The road to the semis rolls on.

Player Of The Day - Emmett Salke
Callum Mills Award - Ethan Parish