

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 13YG v Forest Lions
ROUND 11 - 29/06/2025
Rofe Park, Hornsby

After beating Forest Lions earlier in the season on their own field in a very narrow game, this week we brought them up to Rofe for the return game and Olivia F's 50th game.

With Willow missing due to a leg injury and Vally only able to play part of a game due to a conflict, the girls knew it would take a big effort from all the team against a team originally in Division 2 and a clear third on the ladder.

The first half was very even - we got the first, then they snuck ahead with the next two. We pulled them back and got a goal in front. But in the second we overran them - putting the foot down and kicking the next few to close out the game as a contest, setting ourselves up for the top of the table blockbuster against the Lightning after the holidays.

Players

- Maia zipped around up forward, including getting it almost all the way up field for a goal herself but still locked it in for a team goal instead. She got moved into the middle in Q4 with an immediate game and physical impact, throwing her body at the Lions.
- Isabelle specialised in a collect and kick game this week - when the ball went near her she'd just win any contest for it and snap off a kick to send it back forward, including one sequence of winning the ball-ball gets knocked out in tackle while kicking, so just win and kick again.
- Nya provided her own version of the Michael Jordan Flu Game - rocking up suffering the after effects of a cold and started hot with a goal in the first quarter. Then another goal from a very sharp angle. Then an air swing in the goal square from a Vally kick from 50m out, but sealed the game with a third anyway.
- Olivia F started in her usual goal square defensive role and wasn't hugely tested by combination of Forest kicking longer for their first few shots on goal and her being so

MATCH REPORT



comfortable there when they did fall short - intercept marks and possessions being rebounded up the other wing were the flavour of the day. She rotated into the middle later in the game and was very solid around the ball in her 50th game.

- Olivia B played well in defence including out of the defensive goal square. Her good reads of the ball and clean hands in Q2 kept holding up Forest attempting to break forward.
- Maddie initially started as an extra mid playing off CHB with Forest pressing forward, using her instinctive reading of the ball to defuse them. She moved into middle in the second half, and showed verve in collecting loose balls while shrugging the first tackler, spinning in front of a second Lion in, and belting it forward.
- Sandy had a tough duty, playing the starting ruck in absence of Willow. She really worked hard, launching herself into winning several taps, but also provided great follow up to pick up the ball with get usual aplomb - including work forward for a snapped goal early and a second later in the contest.
- Pippa brought some serious zoom with a couple of great runs to keep pressure on Forest, including launching herself to set up a shepherd for a teammate to get away with the ball plus some really strong tackling on the bigger girls.
- Zahra worked well under pressure including a nice deliberate kick off the side of her boot to keep the ball in bounds following the boundary.
- Kira had a bit of a surprise, playing as a relief ruck in Q2 and throughout the game and didn't take a step backwards all while working hard to cover ground around the field all game.
- Sofia kept her repeat efforts going, diving over the ball, grabbing it and rebounding to her feet when she could, even against the much larger bodies of the Lions.
- Emily started off in structure but after the coaches identified a particular Lions playmaker was hurting us in space she was moved into a tag and shut them down for the rest of the game. She even showed her value to the team going the other way outmarking and winning the ball when led to it.
- Juliet hovered outside the contest waiting for the ball to spill her way, and when it did her collect of the ball, speed into space, and launch the ball forward was impeccable.
- Eliza is a defensive lock down wonder at this level, with her control and body work allowing her to tap the ball away from her opponent or, if given space, collect and kick back up the field to relieve pressure.

MATCH REPORT



- Hazel worked well with Nya to set up around the forward entries, and then lock it in with her tackles and pressure.
- Lucy used her speed to great effect - the team's kicking into space set her up to use timely reading of the ball's bounce to get the ball in her hand, and set up a goal with the collect and kick in one quarter and score a goal herself in Q3. These repeated efforts saw her earn Player of the Week.
- Vally made a cameo appearance late in the game and helped straighten the team up through the middle by winning the ball herself instead of the team working off defensive rebounding. Her injection helped break the back of the Lions, letting us consolidate a narrow but seemingly solid one kick lead out to a fairly comfortable 14 point win.

Score

Hornsby-Berowra Eagles 6.4.40 dft Forest Lions 4.2.26

Goals

Nya Nicolson: 3; Sandy Hebblewhite: 2; Lucy Herweyer: 1.

Report by Donald Shepherd (Photos available on Teams)