

MATCH REPORT



HBE Bald Eagles Vrs Balmain Tigers

DATE 26.7.2025

Balmain.

The day started overcast and with showers but the footy gods were kind and opened the skies to beautiful sunshine and blue skies. The backdrop, some amazing air vent ducts, the sounds of heavy traffic, the smell of a BBQ and deep heat, the field were all perfect. The hairs on the back on neck get excited as the anticipation for the big match up gets to fever pitch.

The mighty HBE were light on numbers but our healthy players were full of heart, stimulants and pain killers so we entered the field like seasoned warriors. The Tigers surely must've been nervous, although they looked fitter than our previous opponents and with greater numbers lent a couple of their guys to our team.

As is tradition these days, the eagles opened the scoring, this time with set shot point by Adam. Luckily this week his parents weren't there so he missed a sledge from his Dad. The kick back in to play was reminiscent of an early auskicker and the Eagles pounced with Bullseye truly snapping both a goal and a groin to get the first goal of the game. Andrew Cochran, on debut, was on balling and diving all over the place whilst showcasing good hands and kicking. Two Pond Pom was being marked out of the game by 'the ghost'. Toby kicked nicely into the goal square, TPP couldn't grab it and then lost the leg race to the ball, 61 year old Ghost being far too quick. Brendan was next to suffer running into a brick wall, and finding that hard to recover from.

Benny was having a huge game in midfield. Great hands and kicks, and he scored a well deserved goal. Will was also busy around the pockets and managed a nice six pointer. Clare was getting some ball and proving enough of a nuisance to Magic Mike that he caught her in the face, resulting in a damaged lower lip. She then smashed him in another tackle! Our ladies are tough, aren't they? Lip cuts, head knocks and broken bones won't stop them! 20-30 or thereabouts at half time.

Jaime was putting in a big shift all over the oval. Niel was also showing his usual tenacious defence, possibly too courageous as he got a friendly boot to the face giving him a cut cheekbone and probable shiner. Rumour has it that it was Clare's boot. Friend or foe get out of her way! Andy and Toby remained committed to the cause, Toby also kicking a behind.

Pistol Pete ventured forward and was unlucky to kick a behind from a fair way out. He was dissatisfied about that after his terrific maximum at Emu Plains. Byrnesy then kicked a couple of great goals before pulling not one but both calf muscles. By now we had six players carrying injuries, not including two pound who remains too slow to pull anything! He was having a great time taling to the three Tiger Poms about the state of the UK and football.

MATCH REPORT



Richard was getting stuck in around defence and the mids. Andy got plenty of ball and tried hard to set up plays. This became more difficult as the game wore on and the injuries mounted. The Don wasn't happy with his last quarter but his presence was still felt and Marc was brave filling a spot with his hamstring inured and also rising from his sick bed. Poor fellow was also scarred by Toby Green's sledging of Tommy Papley.

Best players, Andy "Chris Langford" in defense and Benny went beast mode in the middle.

Honourable mentions to Uncle Toby, Pistol Pete, Clare the Hollywood enforcer.

Tip of the cap to Marc for being hamstrung and still filling a spot.

Eamon the Demon Byrnsey for a solid first half on defence followed by 2 goals up 2 bung calves (OCD much).

Neil for drawing first blood and not going full Rambo on Balmain.

It was a physical game against a well drilled side. The Tigers proved to be excellent hosts and a good bunch of blokes. Hopefully we can host them at the Eagles Nest in future. With our full squad we'd be sure to give them an even better run for their money.

We rest our bodies for 7 days before we finally get to play a full 4 quarters against the Mountain Lions. Let's make sure the lights are on and elbows don't stray into faces.

As always football was the winner.

