

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 15 vs North Shore Swans Gulden
ROUND 14– 3/8/2025
Gore Hill

Our Round 14 match against North Shore Swans Gulden was to be played in horrendous conditions at a new venue for us - Gore Hill Oval. The oval was a synthetic one which saved us from playing in an absolute bog but otherwise it was a miserable day for playing footy. This was to be my third game for the day as a spectator and I was very much over the wet weather AFL experience.

The rain had held off prior to the bounce as the boys from both teams got ready for the game. Soon enough, we were underway and the Swans had the best of the early going. Our backs were under pressure for the first time in a while and North Shore were the first to score with a behind and a goal.

The game stabilised somewhat after that with some good attacking play and teamwork from the Eagles. I noticed Emmett, Jake S, Lucas, Luke and Tyler all putting in. Henry also dazzled with a great run down the left flank but unfortunately it didn't end in any points. Overall, it ended up being a very tough quarter for our boys. A goal from the Swans right on the quarter time siren made things even more difficult. The rain began to hammer down too, adding to the discomfort. Swans 24-0.

Into the 2nd and Mosman hit the scoreboard early with another two majors with our boys struggling in the horrid conditions. Our backs were getting plenty of action with Jack R, Andrew, Emmett and Tom C fighting hard. Henry covered a lot of ground between the backs and mids, giving our team a bit of a pulse. The boys were certainly having a crack but the Swans kept hitting their targets and scoring points.

As we went into the 3rd term, things were becoming very dark with menacing clouds enveloping the sky overhead. It was becoming very hard to see which wasn't necessarily a bad thing. Things took a positive turn however, when we kicked our first goal right in front of where I was watching. Ethan took a sharp mark from a kick from Henry(I think). Ethan scanned the forward third, launching a kick that Lucas was able to mark. Lucas sent an absolute worm-burner Jake S's way and he was good enough to retrieve the ball and kick a huge goal from a distance.

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Following this, the rain made a re-appearance making vision even worse. We were doing a fair job withstanding the Swans' attack but eventually they kicked their first goal of the quarter. Jake G and Emmett were able to put on some tough stuff in the middle to give us an attacking chance but North Shore defused the situation. It was evident that the Eagles were having a lot more forward entries in this quarter but we just couldn't convert our chances into points. Some forward pressure from Jack A and Alistair at least forced the opposition to rush a behind. The 3rd was a better section for our boys but North Shore were still leading by a hefty margin. I thought Henry was our best, getting us out of trouble on countless occasions and showing a tonne of class.

By the time the 4th had come around, our heads had really dropped. The Swans piled on the points despite the brave efforts from our backs. A nice goal from Emmett gave the fans something to smile about, Tyler was unlucky when his good shot smacked into the post. The final siren blew mercifully for us all. It was a tough loss but hopefully it was something we learn an awful lot from. Special thanks to Andrew who turned up to help us from a no doubt ridiculously muddy 14s game at Rofe.

We get a great opportunity to set things right before the finals with an important clash against Manly Bombers at Weldon Oval next week. I'm looking forward to watching our mighty Hornsby Berowra Eagles bounce back in style!

Words - Greg Allan

Player of the match - Tyler

Callum Mills - Emmett

