

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 13YG v Manly Bombers

ROUND 13 - 27/07/2025

Rofe Park, Hornsby

Time for our last regular season game against Manly, and Rofe Park put on an especially windy game just for them. Manly made the initial running with the win, taking a two goal to one lead into the first break, with Sandy's squeezing of a kick through the only score for the Eagles - but the team regathered in the break and kicking with the wind put on four goals with the wind.

Cogniscent of the danger the win posed in the third, the coaches challenged the girls to work their way through it and just force the ball forward, and the girls responded by scoring another three in the tough conditions while keeping Manly scoreless despite the advantage.

The fourth was just a formality but the team continued to maintain their focus and held the Bombers to the same two goals they had at the end of the first quarter while scoring another two themselves. It was great to see the girls encouraging each other all game with high fives and cheering regardless whether it was a goal, a great tackle or a difficult mark.

Players

- Sandy started off the game with a superbly kicked goal from a very sharp angle. On top of her usual bursty midfield work, she directed quite a good number of ruck taps down midfielders throats when giving Willow a break.
- Isabelle locked down her side of the field and demonstrated a couple of nice long kicks before venturing further up to gather in an intercept mark followed by a precision targeted kick to right in front of goal in the last quarter. She also was a beneficiary of following Sandy's ruck instructions to receive a clean tap and handball off to Olivia F to clear.
- Sofia came up big in her 50th game. She seemed to be taking it all personally and seeing her sprint down the field to bring down an unsuspecting Bomber was a frequent sight. She topped off her milestone match with a goal after breaking away from a contest with five seconds to go.
- Maia demonstrated some speedy reflexes, being able to drop down, pick up the ball, spring up, and dish off a targeted handball all in one action, including using it to set up Juliet's goal.

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- Juliet help draw us level after Manly got the jump on us with a goal along the ground from out of the pack.
- Kira started off catching the eye with her ability to making her tackles stick and her marking to both intercept and set up forward 50 entries, along with nailing a goal herself.
- Vally put on a showcase - kicking off the game catching a lot of Bomber players holding the ball for free kicks in the first half before working to every contest in the second half and seemingly emerging with the ball from half of them, all the while finding the space to score three goals.
- Pippa brought her usual physicality and team play with some really smart shepherding and quality tackling in the forward 50.
- Emily was hard at the players and the ball this week - she nailed several tackles with players trying to take her on, and getting caught.
- Hazel brought some strong forward pressure with two tackles on her larger Manly defender, some clever bodywork to take her out of play to open Nya up for a goal, and showed her awareness when chasing the ball deep in the pocket and executing a neat kick back to the top of the goal square instead of flying out of bounds.
- Eliza showed the pride she takes in never letting anyone past, nailing several tackles on the bigger girls and several good wins of a contested ball against her player. She came away with Player of the Week for the second week running for her efforts.
- Zahra continued her run of reliable games with another one where whenever someone was needed to win a ball or kill a contest or help wrap up a player, she always seemed to be there ready to impact.
- Olivia F kicked off the game down back acting as the last line before moving into the middle, but she was always willing to sprint back to help her teammates out in defence
- Olivia B started up forward before rotating down back where she sped around in defense to stop Manly escaping over the back when the wind was in their favour.
- Maddie pushed more into the midfield for longer this week. Able to win the ball off the ground in after a ruck contest and snap it out consistently, she's always a threat when on the ball.
- Willow worked really hard through the middle and up forward, her rucking helping neutralise a Manly strength and her ability to pick up the ball and break a tackle provided a launching point for many Eagles' forward forays.

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- Nya hit the scoreboard again along with ushering one of Sandy's goals across the line but can take credit for a few more with her kicks into the forward 50 under pressure helping teammates get on the end of them and locking it in for scoring shots.

Score

Hornsby-Berowra Eagles 10.6.66 dft Manly Bombers 2.0.12

Goals

Valentina Taborsky: 3; Sandy Hebblewhite: 2; Juliet Allan: 1; Kira Breden: 1; Sofia Fierens: 1; Nya Nicolson: 1; Willow Nicolson: 1.

Report by Donald Shepherd (Photos available on Teams)