

# MATCH REPORT



HBE Bald v Emu Plains Mountain Men.

DATE 19.4.2026

Rofe Park.

The HBE Masters made opened their season at the Eagles Nest versing the Mountain Men from Emu plains. Last season's games were eventful, the first out West was called off after floodlight failure, the second was played under water after rainstorms around the Hornsby surrounds. The opener also saw the return of Ali 'Knuckle' Bones after suffering concussion in that cancelled match, and debuting players Mark, Tim, Robbie and Jemima.

The game started with Brendan, our lonesome umpire, tossing the ball up. It was a hard fought first quarter but goals from Evan and Andy, plus a few other scores including Eammon's two behinds probably had the Eagles in front.

The Eagles were more dominant in the second stanza kicking three goals and four minors. Evan bagged two to cap a stella half, and Will chipped in with his first of the season. There was some mayhem surrounding Neil breaking rules and tackling Ali (brave man) and Evan fronting up one of the mountain men.

The third quarter saw fresh legs arrive with the U15 duo of Adam and Cathy running on. Where Barts was could be anyone's guess, but Potatoman probably stopped on the way for a spud and a beer. Classic warm up style. Anyway, with the sun setting behind the clubhouse, seeing and distributing was becoming an issue for all but especially for Bullseye, who tackled Cathy in their own goal square! Tackle or protective hug, who can tell in the heat of battle? He was soon in the centre of action again when pushed onto one of their players giving him an accidental thumb in the eye and fist to the nose. Matey was last seen moaning by the canteen expressing he wasn't ok and needed ice! It was a low scoring quarter but although the Eagles hadn't landed a knockout blow they were ahead on points.

Barts showed up for the final quarter with food remnants stuck in his beard. The Eagles kicked two great goals. Eammon finding his range after marking a superb kick by Evan, and then Will jinking away down the left and shooting on the run. Santa Clause in the blue and white then had a moan after collecting a blow from Ben who was also pushed into contact. In the confusion afterwards Brendan gave a 50m penalty against his own team proving himself to be an excellent, impartial umpire who can't be trusted to put his own team first. The Mountain Men finished the game well with two goals, but they weren't enough to get within two goals of the home team. Nobody was scoring of course, well officially anyway, and at the end of the day footy was the winner.

Beers and BBQ followed the match, and all differences were put aside as the teams mingled happily, both looking forward to the return game at Emu Plains. Even matey with the nose was happy on Facebook, claiming to be a chance of finally getting the roman nose he always dreamed of.

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We'll finish by applauding the umpire. Brendan gave up playing and did a fine job with the whistle all on his own. A thankless task but made easier with El Presidente not being in his ear all game!

