

MATCH REPORT



HBE U15's v Forrest Lions DATE 26.4.2026

Rofe Park.

Our second game of the season carried special significance for one player above all — and for his family, teammates, coaches, manager, supporters, and the entire Hornsby Berowra Eagles community. It had been 643 days since Hamish last ran out onto Rofe Park wearing the Eagles guernsey — not since Round 12 of 2023. Hammer was back at long last, lining up against the visiting Lions and adding his presence to a squad nearing full strength.

The Lions opened the scoring with an early behind, but that was their only point of the term as our midfield (set up specially by our coaches) brilliantly shut down attacks protecting the backline, and launched long kicks to give our forwards momentum. Andrew kicked to Finn, whose shot from distance would have been a goal but for an unlucky bounce to take the ball away from the goal line. The Eagles quickly went back on the attack. Loz blocked a kick, Andrew pumped it forward, and Robby beat Finn to the ball to slot our first goal.

Tristan and Jon combined well in the next play — onto Finn, then Robby in a smooth passage. Julien, in his first match, was getting to contests and shepherding strongly. Josh then found Jon, who kicked truly from distance for our second goal. Finn added another six points after gathering a kick from Jon, taking a couple of steps and snapping a shot from the side of his boot to open the angle. Loz then burst clear from a pack, soccering forward to Robby. Finn and Ronin were involved before Hayden's kick toward goal was rushed through for a behind. Henry completed the first term with two huge tackles. Quarter-time: Eagles 19–1 and a well-deserved lead built on pressure, structure, and clean ball movement.

Bin Chickens, kookaburras, Eagles and Lions were all on the oval for the second stanza. The defence grouped ready to shut down the Lions. Josh won the ball up again. Andrew to Finn, onto Robby who marked and kicked from in front of the tall posts. Ronin then broke yet another tackle, kicked to Robby who marked and kicked his third! What a half for Robby! Josh was also having an epic game, marking and kicking. Ronin, Jon and Tristan were able lieutenants. Then Riley found Jon who ran, bounced a couple of times before slotting a massive kick for six points. A huge goal reminiscent of Andrew's last week. Riley and Will were then tackling and distributing well. Julian and Jacob were also contributing; Henry too was buzzing around always willing to tackle. Loz then with a step and hand pass from his new role at centre half forward. Hamish and Lachie were marshalling defence when needed and we were only breached once for a Lions goal. 38-7 at half time.

A tight third quarter was called for. It was vital the Eagles restricted the Lions to keep a decent lead. So far the new formation and plan had worked perfectly. A spanner was thrown in the works with Josh corking a calf midway through the period. He limped off tenderly. The Lions now seized

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possession and territory but the Eagles midfield and defence kept their composure, stuck their tackles and cleared well from danger. Hammer, Will and Lachie were called upon plenty as time progressed. Riley, Jon, Tristan and Ronin were an effective wall in front of them. Henry, Julian, Jacob also made life difficult for the Lions. It was a gallant effort to keep them to eight points in the quarter. The game remained on the line, but Josh was set to return with the Eagles in front by 23.

The final term opened with Josh winning the ball up. Ronin turned and kicked long to put the Eagles on the front foot. Jacob found Andrew in the left pocket, and he launched from a narrow angle to score a vital six points! Brilliant goal! Hammer then protected our goal bravely. A behind for the Lions with heir kicker under pressure. The Lions boundary umpire was also under pressure with her boundary throws, but she nailed them towards the end. Josh got away with a push in the back. Riley, having a big quarter, showed great hands with a nice catch and good kick away to Jacob, who then found Josh. Andrew fell back into defence to protect the lead. Hammer took a mark from the old days. He was encouraging the troops to drop back. Lions kicked a goal, so Jon also dropped back a bit further to help defend. 44-22 with four minutes to go. There was time for one more Eagles attack. Loz who picked the ball up quickly and hand passed to Finn. The play moved on until the ball found Finn again. He marked and kicked true for his second. That completed the scoring with the Eagles holding firm to secure victory 50-22.

What a day at the Eagles Nest. There was a wonderful Anzac ceremony in the morning, and then the emotional return of Hamish to his home turf. Julian excelled in his first game and remains undefeated. Ronin celebrated his birthday with a fine display and enjoyed a thrilling home win. Player of the match went to Robby who had a fine all-round performance capped by his three goals.

Coach Brent: We implemented two strategies to bring more structure to our ball movement: more centre clearances and more organised kick-ins and backline clearances. The boys executed the changes well, which led to better control of the ball. An outstanding win from the boys!

Captain's comments: Great game against Forest Lions we came out strong and our team felt very connected and aware of each other. We fell off on communication and physicality in the third quarter but held them down in the fourth quarter with very strong defensive pressure and skills to take our first win of the season. Standout performance from Robby and massive vibes from everyone for Hammer's first game back. It's clear that training is really paying off and that our skills are growing every week. Well done lads, we never lose at home!

Period Scores				
END OF PERIOD	01	02	03	04
 Hornsby Berowra Eagles U15 Div 3	19 3.1	38 6.2	38 6.2	50 8.2
 Forest Lions U15 Div 3	1 0.1	7 1.1	15 2.3	22 3.4

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