

MATCH REPORT



HBE U15's v Forrest Lions DATE 17.5.2026

Memorial Park, Ingleburn.

Game five, another proper away day at Ingleburn to face and unknown quantity in the Southwest Sydney (SWS) side. Could our Eagles carry on their winning streak? Both teams seemed up for it judging by their pregame chants. We were on a smallish oval, on a muggy day with thirteen players up against a full-strength squad.

Winning our third game on the trot was made difficult by a first quarter in which SWS dominated every area of play. In seasons past we've been guilty of producing the occasional poor quarter, and this was a return to those days. We barely laid a glove on them, allowing their passing, kicking and finishing to look far too efficient.

It quickly became clear that SWS were a tough and intense outfit, and we couldn't match them early. We managed just a solitary behind, kicked by Robby. Riley, Lachy, Hammer and Andrew began to find more of the ball as the quarter wore on, but the only real highlight was Ronin gathering cleanly on the wing, taking three bounces up the right side and delivering a long kick to Jon. By the first hooter, SWS were five goals ahead.

It's fair to say Brent gave the boys a proper gee-up at the first break. Everything needed to lift or we were staring down the barrel of a shellacking. SWS came out strongly again, but our Eagles were far more competitive, with Andrew and Hammer setting the tone through their tackling.

SWS started stronger in the second term, but the Eagles were upping their game now. Will won a free kick and from there we began to push into attacking territory. Finn took a mark up front and kicked a behind. For the first time this season our goal kicking went astray. We just couldn't thread the Sherrin between the tall posts, with Robby and Ronin adding single points. Then Robby took a superb mark and hit Jon with a perfect pass; Jon spun and slammed it straight down the middle from thirty out. He's scoring crackers this season. Lachy was heavily involved again, tackling hard and linking with Henry. Hammer kept clutching marks and nailing tackles, but SWS continued to keep their scoreboard moving.

Henry rounded out our scoring for the quarter after Finn found him on the right, and he converted calmly from close range. With a few more six-pointers instead of behinds, we'd have given ourselves a real glimmer of hope heading into the second half. 18-52.

That glimmer faded quickly with Ronin going down injured. Robbie was clattered almost immediately after the second half began, and SWS followed up by taking Ronin to ground, jarring his neck and shoulder resulting in him leaving the field of play. Tristan kicked long to Jon, who took a terrific and brave over-the-shoulder mark, but his kick just shaved the outside of the tall post. We

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then spent a spell locked inside the SWS 50, with Jon, Tristan and Loz exchanging quick handpasses under pressure. Lachy and Riley laid huge tackles to keep us in the contest.

Goals were traded. Andrew produced a pearler from the right pocket, while SWS continued to benefit from having an extra player. The Eagles were getting stuck in now, and SWS didn't like the physicality. Jon and Andrew in particular were fronting up to their main men. Riley too was throwing himself into everything — possibly his best quarter of the season so far — getting hands on the ball, kicking, tackling and spoiling.

Sharpey battled on through pain, his big toenail hanging by a thread, but still contributing.

Finn was the next Eagle in the wars. We had a kick heading towards goal that he had covered and was shepherding through, only for an SWS defender to deliberately shove him into the post, leaving him momentarily laid out. Fortunately, he was back on his feet quickly. No foul was given, much to the surprise of everyone on ground.

A little later, Finn responded by kicking his first of the game with a composed finish to close out the quarter.

The last term was played at a frantic pace. Ronin returned, and massive tackle from Jon sparked retaliation that earned us a fifty-metre penalty. Jon's kick fell just short, but Finn was there to notch his second. The cousins, Will and Lachy, then rushed behinds, saving us ten points.

Ronin and Loz combined with a neat exchange before sending the ball to Finn, who marked strongly above his head and slotted his third. Will, Loz, Riley and Jon linked up again, but we could only manage another behind. Sharpey was then taken without the ball, and his forward kick set up a move that ended with Jon, who kicked his second on the run.

Our goal kicking improved late, but the final tally of 7.11 told the story. That goal completed the scoring — and brought an end to a brutal, bruising contest.

After the game we found out Henry had played on with an arm injury that needed hospital attention, and Robby, after having another superlative game, also ended up in A&E with a heavy concussion. None of our players retaliated outside the laws of the game, none were marched for complaining to the umpires and they had battled through whilst keeping their composure. A supreme testament to all of them and our coaches

We wish our injured players a swift recovery, and we congratulate all the team for one of our bravest performances.



Coach's comments: We improved each quarter, but our slow start left us well behind from the outset. With no bench available, it really limited our hardest-running players and ball-getters. Riley nailed the 1%'s, while Jon and Andrew did their jobs through the middle—bringing real physicality when it was needed. When the game got rough, they stood up and made sure the instigators felt it in the last quarter. Robby was again a standout, contributing both up forward and down back. Lachie played well down back with Hammer, and Hammer was solid against a physical opposition. Loz and Tristan are both improving. Loz is finding the right spots and was unlucky with a

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few odd bounces, while Tristan showed more consistency and got into the contest more. He also delivered a great kick into the forward line, setting up a Jon goal.

Captain's comments: With a rough first quarter getting jumped over by the opposition, we managed to apply more pressure with Riley clearing the ball with many disposals alongside Jon and Andrew dominating with physicality, making SWS fumble and clearing the ball up to the forwards. Even with a loss we grew stronger every quarter. Unlucky loss but brilliant effort lads.

Period Scores				
END OF PERIOD	01	02	03	04
 South West Sydney U15 Div 3	32 5.2	52 8.4	83 13.5	109 17.7
 Hornsby Berowra Eagles U15 Div 3	1 0.1	18 2.6	34 4.10	53 7.11