

MATCH REPORT



HBE U15's v Cronulla Sharks DATE 24.5.2026

Rofe Park

It was Sir Doug Nicholls round to acknowledge the contribution and involvement of Indigenous peoples to our game. Both teams lined up to listen to Lachy read out the Acknowledgement to Country. A mild, cloudy afternoon at Rofe Park had already been lit up by our U14s edging out Westbrook 59–58 in a thriller. The question was whether our U15s could follow suit against a high-flying Sharks side that had made the long trip up from Cronulla. Our season motto has been simple — we don't lose at home — and a win here would push us firmly into finals contention.

Josh was back and won the first bounce, with Riley and then Andrew working the ball forward. The Sharks opened with two quick behinds before Ted — playing on debut — threw himself straight into the contest with a smother, a tackle and a clearing kick.

Hornsby hit the front when Jon kicked a goal after he caught Finn's kick over his shoulder. Will and Riley linked up well, and Hamish was calm and composed at full back. Andrew was getting through a mountain of work, playing off Ronin and Josh and driving the ball long to our forwards.

Then came a remarkable goal from Lachie. He doesn't often venture that far forward, but he gathered the ball, bounced once, bounced again, chased the Sherrin, swung a boot and missed... then swung again and connected perfectly, sending it through the tall posts from 25 out. "A bit lucky," he said afterwards — we'll stick with sensation soccer strike for six.

Ted, Riley and Will were combining well, and Tristan was adding strong tackles and shepherds. Lachy added a behind after good build-up play from Loz and Josh. Moments later, Josh kicked long for Finn to mark, and from twenty-five out in front he was never missing.

Quarter time: Eagles 19–1.

Josh and Andrew continued to combine well, feeding the ball to Archie, who was getting involved repeatedly. Luke was also finding plenty of the footy, and Noah was working hard in both defence and attack. The Sharks soccered their first goal, but the Eagles hit straight back: Finn marked and sent his set shot high and straight from 30 out. Then goal Sharks — 25–13.

Ted fed Jon with a handball, who pushed it on to Finn, but this time their full back was too strong and forced it out on the full — an enthralling match-up between these two all game. Luke added a behind, and Noah followed with another near miss.

Back in our defensive 50, Will produced a crucial smother, and Hammer's pressure on their forwards saved a certain five points. Hornsby were now moving the ball beautifully with accurate kicks and clean handpasses, but the Sharks held firm. It was end-to-end footy: Will and Ronin clearing, Hornsby blocking, Tristan tackling with real intent. Loz copped a knock to the head but was

MATCH REPORT



sportingly checked on by their number eleven. Hammer then won another two-on-one contest, but the Sharks parked themselves in our 50 for the final minute and eventually jagged a goal to narrow the gap to six.

Half-time: **Eagles 26–20.**

Scoring was favouring the Western Canteen end, so the Eagles needed goals to build a decent buffer heading into the last quarter. We managed 2.4 to their 2.0, edging another tight period. Andrew absolutely cannoned one into the right upright. Then Josh to Ronin to Jon created another chance, before Finn snapped a behind. Tristan and Ronin pushed the Sherrin forward again for another minor score. Loz found Ronin, who hit Finn, who kicked across to Will — his shot fell short, the ball spilled to Loz, and his side-footed effort again clipped the post.

Cronulla finally mounted an attack. Tristan tackled, Will tackled, Tristan again, Will away, Riley with a block — superb defensive pressure. Hammer then launched a massive fist clear. But a smothered kick on Riley allowed the Sharks to soccer through another six-pointer. Moments later, a high straight-arm tackle on Riley drew a foul. He kicked away accurately but still looked sore from the contact.

We needed a steadier, and it went to the man in form: Finn slotted truly. The move began when Riley pushed the ball to Luke, Luke found Finn, and he added the vital six points. Luke was everywhere this quarter, winning contests all over the ground.

The Sharks replied with yet another soccered goal — Hammer almost prevented it, but a cruel bounce saw him overrun the ball. Luke hit Ronin, who copped another head knock in the contest. Riley found Noah, Noah kicked to Jon, and with seconds left Jon marked and finished calmly just before the buzzer for another valuable six points. Three-quarter time: Eagles 42–33.

Would it be enough?

Sharks straight on the attack to begin the fourth, and they quickly got a rushed behind. Then another behind and a goal. A one-point game and Sharks smelling blood. Hammer found himself again as one against two. He tapped it high and between the two attackers, stepped between them, regathered and kicked out to Noah in the play of the game. Haydo then with a massive tackle on their defensive 50 and suddenly numbers up front for the Eagles. Loz marked and distributed. Finn hustling their full back again. Will to Andrew, to Loz who snapped just wide! Every play vital now. Jacob was popping up in our attacking half to contribute a pass, kick or tackle. Jon landed huge tackle given as a foul, the shark being helped off with a knee injury. Time was ticking, some cries of stop the clock! The sharks got the ball into our fifty, but Will rushed it behind. More pressure, another behind. 3pts difference with a minute left. Josh then with a vital mark and kick down the wing. The Sharks then back into our 50 but we cleared and the buzzer ended the game! 45-42. Another thrilling HBE win on the day and a huge lift for our run to the finals.

What a difference a week makes. Last week will linger long in the memory especially with Sharpy, Julian, Robby and Henry still on the injury list. Yet again this team showed their skills and resilience



MATCH REPORT



to beat a decent Cronulla side and in doing so sent a statement to the rest of the league – WE DON'T LOSE AT ROFE!

We'll have to paraphrase Coach's comments this week owing to him being in Hobart and still celebrating the win: I love to see the team play and win like that, especially dominating a team that was above us in the ladder. Go the Eagles! No one will beat us on our own turf!

Captain's comments: With a good start we managed to hang onto the lead for throughout a good majority of the game. Hammers clearances from the backline to the wing gave us a good amount of opportunities towards goal and the strength of our midfield backed that up. Good game today lads, we never lose at home.

Period Scores				
END OF PERIOD	01	02	03	04
 Hornsby Berowra Eagles U15 Div 3	19 3.1	26 4.2	42 6.6	45 6.9
 Cronulla Sharks U15 Div 3	1 0.1	21 3.3	33 5.3	43 6.7



MATCH REPORT



MATCH REPORT

