

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 14 BOYS vs South West Sydney
ROUND 4 – 10th May 2026
VENUE – Rofe Park, Hornsby Heights

Mother's Day Round set the perfect scene, with sunshine overhead and plenty of proud mums lining the boundary after being well looked after earlier in the day. The atmosphere was full of support as the boys ran out, beginning with a special moment celebrating Luke's 50th game — a milestone marked with a banner run-through and plenty of energy.

Despite being hit hard by injuries and illness, the Eagles showed its depth and spirit, with support from U13 players stepping up to help give the side much-needed rotations.

The Eagles started with intent, earning the first scoring opportunity through Lewis, and although it resulted in a behind, it set the tone early. From there, the boys were tested, but their defence stood tall under pressure, working hard to slow the play and deny multiple scoring chances. Louie produced a standout defensive effort to shut down what looked like a certain goal, highlighting the team's determination to compete in every contest.

The second quarter saw a lift in intensity through the midfield, with the Eagles applying strong pressure and locking the ball in their forward half for extended periods. Archie sparked some exciting play on the wing, linking up cleanly with Jacko to create opportunities and keep the ball deep in attack. While the boys couldn't convert on the scoreboard, their effort and structure began to build.

Heading into the main break, the Eagles remained focused on the positives — their passages of play, teamwork and willingness to work hard for one another. Despite the challenge, the group refused to drop their heads, continuing to show resilience and a strong team-first mindset.

That persistence paid off in the third quarter, with the Eagles finally breaking through for their first goal. A piece of excellent team football down the wing ended with Archie slotting it through.

The third quarter was defined by grit, with our Eagles keeping the ball in their forward 50 for long stretches and continuing to apply pressure. While the scoreboard remained a challenge, the team's energy and belief never wavered.

It was the final term where the Eagles truly showcased what they're capable of.

The quarter ignited with Jacko taking a strong mark on the wing and delivering forward to Onni, who finished with a brilliant goal on the run. That moment sparked a surge in confidence and momentum that carried through the remainder of the game.

Ryan soon followed with a goal after clean ball movement through the middle, before adding another, showing composure and finishing ability under pressure. Onni continued to be influential, hitting the scoreboard again, while Luke's forward pressure created another scoring opportunity, setting up Ryan for yet another major.

With only minutes remaining, the Eagles had completely taken control of the play, dominating contests and driving the ball forward with purpose and confidence.

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The final quarter was powerful, five goals built on strong contested marks, clean skills and relentless tackling pressure. It was a display of belief, teamwork and determination that showed exactly what this group is capable of.

While the result didn't fall their way, the way the Eagles finished the game told the real story. The boys never stopped working, never gave in, and showed immense heart right to the final siren. There's plenty to be proud of, and even more to build on.

Well done boys — your families are incredibly proud of the effort, spirit and resilience you showed.

Player of the Match – Onni Badger

