

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 14 Div 2
ROUND 6 – Sunday 24th May 2026
Rofe Park

Under cloudy skies at Rofe Park for the Sir Doug Nicholls round, there was certainly some angst in the air coming up against our local rivals in the Demons. After we recently got beaten by South West Sydney and hearing the Demons then mercied SWS, on paper we knew this was going to be tough.

Like most weeks, lining up before the game, we were once again up against some big boys in the opposition. And although this may phase some of the Eagles initially, once that ball bounced it was clear they were all switched on and ready to rumble. It was great to see Ben get back out there in his first game back from injury and was strong from the onset.

It was clear this was going to be tough battle, and although the Eagles had plenty of possession, it took almost 7 minutes before the first points were scored in favour of the Demons. Within a couple minutes Eagles squared this up with a some great running as always from Jacko and set him up for our first goal. This was quickly followed up soon with a free kick to Louie, and after some poor discipline from the Demons, resulted in a 50m penalty setting Louie up to score his first competition goal straight in front. Further poor discipline from the opposition resulted in another 50m penalty giving Onni his first goal of the match. Perfect kicking from the Eagles in the first quarter, taking the lead 3-0 18 to 1-1 7.

Second quarter also started out being quite physical and was a bit of a 50m penalty fest, with Demons giving away a few more. With the boys getting down low and winning the scrimmages on multiple occasions, resulting in another dominant quarter. August, Malachy, and Ewan continued to chase the ball down and there never stop attitude and great team work set Ryan up for another great goal. Josh was able to provide great support in the forward line, providing the decoy which created space which allowed Onni to come straight through the middle and through grit and determination putting away a great goal right on the hooter. And with more accurate kicking Eagles holding the lead at half time 6-1 37 to 3-3 21.

After a pep talk from the coach and some fruit to bring up the energy levels at half time, Eagles again started the third quarter strong. Luke, Oleg & Lewis were consistent and persistent around the field and allowed the boys to start the same way we finished the second. Noah continued to run hard throughout the match and was rewarded with what looked like a massive 30m kick straight through the big sticks for another 6 pointer. Demons quickly responded with a couple quick goals, first time all match to kick 2 in a row. They say this is the premiership quarter, and despite Onni with another big kick which just caught the post, was this the start of the Demons to turn this lead around.

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Despite the Demons winning this quarter, kicking 3-1 to our 1-2, the Eagles managed to hold on with a 5 point lead coming into the last quarter.

With the scene set for a cracker finish, and tensions both on and off the field rising, it was the Demons turn to come out strong and open up with the first goal of the last quarter and taking the lead for the first time since the opening points. But in true Eagles spirit the boys continued to fight and chase and work together as a team. Daniel was able to provide support in the forward line also, setting up Louie to find some space and take a mark about 20m out close to the sideline. And despite some heckling from the opposition and their spectators on the boundary, Louie blocked out the outside noise, took his time, backed himself and slotted it through beautifully for a goal, his second for the match. This was then followed up with a great display of team work and with the ball passing through several sets of hands set Archie up to come through for another huge goal, his second goal of the match. Demons weren't done yet, and being the strong side they are, continued to fight and were able to grab a couple sneaky goals. But Eagles again with their never die attitude take possession and have another crack only to hit the post. This resulted in some discussions between the goal umpire and the on-field umpire, and with time ticking away it was the on-field umpire who signalled a behind.

It was an immensely intense final minutes, so much so I was unable to both pay attention for the match report and cheer and hold my breath from the sidelines. Like we had all game all the Eagles continued to contest every loose ball and continued to mark every Demons player and fight til the end. With Demons taking possession of the footy in the final moments and our hearts pounding, it was Jake with his player of the match performance again able to find a way to smother that final attempt by the Demons. After holding the lead at the end of each quarter the Eagles were able to hold on with an incredible 1 point victory, finishing up 9-5 59 to 9-4 58.

A huge effort by all the boys today, a true example of grit and determination, and in the words of the coach 'One of the greatest victories I have ever been a part of and you should all be so very proud of yourselves'.

We have to make a special mention and thanks to Aiden O'Connor, Luke Douglas and Ryan Adams for stepping up and helping out. Despite some of their opposing numbers towering over them, they never stepped away from the challenge and also fought hard. Through their help they allowed some of the boys to come off and have a well-earned break and no doubt contributed immensely by giving them the strength and energy levels needed to hold on to this emphatic victory.

Bring on next week....

Score 9-5 59 Eagles to 9-4-58 Demons

Goals: Onni (2), Archie (2), Louie (2), Ryan (1), Jackson (1), Noah (1)

Report by Julie Eccles

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