

MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 9s vs PENNANT HILLS
ROUND 2 – 1st May 2026
VENUE: Ern Holmes, Pennant Hills

What a great experience for our mighty Eagles playing their first night game of the season. Unfortunately we couldn't pick up the W against a well-drilled and talented Pennant Hills side, but our boys played with strength and determination and showed real character throughout the entire game.

We almost had a man down before the game even started, with Julian hitting himself in the head with his water bottle. But a bit of ice soothed the injury and he was ready to join his mates on the field and played a great game through the 4 quarters. Penno were down a player so a few of our boys showed great sportsmanship and filled in for the opposition. Full credit to Jack, Asher, Xandy and Ted for filling in to make sure the game could be played to its full potential.

We had a number of scoring opportunities throughout the game, but it was only Alfie and Simon that were able to get it through the middle pegs. Both players had great games and are showing real potential for the future. Jack copped a pretty savage ball right to his ribs. It knocked the wind right out of him, but he stood up to soldier on, a feat that earned him Player of the Match. Nick also copped a nasty eye gouge late in the game, but he also powered through the pain to finish the match. Great bravery showed by these two.

Josh and Leo had excellent games in defence, pouncing on the ball in the contest, or moving to space once we had won it back. It was also great to see William and Lev find some hunger for the ball, and we encourage to them to nurture that hunger as the season progresses. Jude was unlucky not to bag a goal in the 2nd quarter, but had some great runs with the ball in hand.

Jordy was like a wrecking ball whenever he got close to the ball, barrelling through Penno's defence on many occasions. Ollie dominated the game with his long kicks and excellent ruck work, expecting great things from him as the season rolls on. And full credit to Saathvik for hightailing it straight from a chess competition to make the game and help his team mates on the field.

The two main takeaways from the game is that we can improve a bit in our tackling, and developing a sense of urgency to get the ball down the field as quickly as possible. But Steve and I are so impressed with how the team is developing week to week, and we are proud of all the efforts the boys are putting in. A huge thank you to the large contingent of Eagles supporters that showed up and thank you to all our parent helpers on the night.

Goals: Alfie (3), Simon (1)

Report by Pete Robson

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