

# MATCH REPORT



HBE UNDER 14 vs Forest Lions  
ROUND 7 – DATE 11.4.2025  
Lional Watts Oval

For round seven we had a trip to French's Forest to face the Lions — a side we beat at Rofe Park earlier in the season, but one that has since climbed to second on the ladder. Our Eagles have good memories on this plastic oval after winning here last year, yet there was no room for complacency. This was a different Lions outfit, playing at home, with a tricky wind that was easily worth three goals each quarter. Added to that we still had Robby and Henry injured, Tristan out through injury and Lachie with a dodgy back.

Josh again dominated the bounce and linked well with Andrew, Ted, Ronin and Lachie, who was moved forward. Noah took a strong mark and sent the ball back into the corridor. Archie was involved early, Loz added a hand pass, and the ball remained locked in the Eagles' attacking 50.

The Eagles registered an early behind — was it Noah who got the scoring underway? Riley produced a good spoil, Will followed up with a strong tackle, and Josh sent a long kick down the middle, only for the Lions to mark cleanly.

Noah then found Finn, got the return hand pass, and added another behind with some clever work. Archie took a nice mark, while Andrew showed strength to win the ball against two defenders. Ronin and Sharpey combined well to keep the ball in the Eagles' forward half.

Luke then found Noah, who delivered a highlight with an outstanding check side goal off his right. Momentum continued as Ronin moved it to Jon, then to Noah and back to Jon, who collected cleanly and kicked truly — once again showing how dangerous he is in front of goal.

Lachy linked with Ted before finding Archie, whose skills were again on display. Josh then delivered to Andrew, who looked set for a goal before a defender got a touch through for a point.

At the first break, the Eagles led 2.3 (15) to the Lions' scoreless quarter. Despite the lead, there was a sense more could have been done with the wind advantage. The coach agreed, calling for greater effort and instructing the midfield to play deeper and build a defensive wall against the breeze.

The Lions had the advantage of the wind in the second term and opened with a behind from their first attack. Hammer's kick-out found Josh, who again drove the ball long down the middle. Jon halted the next forward movement with an excellent tackle, stopping a dangerous passage of play in its tracks.

# MATCH REPORT



The Lions responded by hitting the tall post, while the Eagles managed a rare forward entry to the left pocket but couldn't capitalise. Riley laid a strong tackle, and Josh continued to dominate around the contest.

With the wind at their backs, the Lions began to apply sustained pressure. Another shot drifted just over and wide off the left upright — called a behind in a somewhat controversial decision, but it stood. That moment seemed to lift the Lions, who attacked with greater intensity.

Despite Will's efforts in defence, the Lions broke through for a goal, quickly followed by another as momentum swung their way. It became clear that every forward entry would be crucial, as would making full use of the breeze.

The Eagles struggled to maintain possession or gain territory but managed two late behinds through Andrew and Noah (touched), keeping themselves within reach.

At the main break, the Lions had made better use of both the wind and the conditions to take the lead, 3.4 (22) to 2.6 (18). The game remained well and truly alive, but coach Brent called for greater intensity and effort, emphasising the need for a lift in the second half if the Eagles were to regain control.

The Eagles opened the third term inaccurately, misjudging the bounce and kicking out on the full. Josh soon steadied things, finding Finn, who combined in a quick handball exchange with Loz before being taken without the ball. Unfortunately, that passage again ended with a kick out on the full.

Will continued to lead from the backs, attacking the ball strongly and distributing well. Lachy delivered an accurate kick into the corridor, Noah marked cleanly and converted for his second goal of the match.

The Eagles persisted with long kicks down the middle, but the Lions were intercepting far too easily. There was a noticeable drop-off, with marks being missed and disposal errors creeping in. Finn tried hard to break free, but for once couldn't elude his opposing full back.

Andrew, under heavy pressure, managed to add a behind and followed it up with a huge tackle, sparking some much-needed urgency. A Lions player left the ground after a fair contest, with the clock continuing to tick.

Loz and Andrew combined nicely but couldn't find Finn, resulting in another behind. Julian and Sharpey worked hard around the contest, Julian laying a tackle and finding Josh. The ball spilled to Loz, who beat a defender but saw the shot rushed through by the Lions' full-back.

The Lions pushed forward again, but Will stood tall with a strong mark on the goal line to save a certain score.

Goals were needed in the term, but the Eagles managed just one major alongside three behinds. Heading into the final break, they clung to a narrow 27–24 lead. With the wind against them in the last quarter, a huge collective effort would be required to hold on.

# MATCH REPORT



Brent made his expectations clear — maximum effort and clean execution were essential in the final term. With the breeze in their favour and a deeper bench, the Lions loomed as strong favourites, setting up a tense finish.

The Lions opened the final term by kicking long, making full use of the breeze. Hamish worked hard to organise the defence, ensuring players matched up under pressure. Will produced a strong double tackle before clearing the ball wide, while Ronin threw himself at a ground contest but couldn't quite take clean possession. The Lions capitalised, kicking the opening goal of the quarter.

Will again worked tirelessly to win the ball and move it through to Josh. Andrew laid another big tackle, but the Eagles continued to drive the ball down the centre into a strengthening wind, making clean entries difficult. Riley added a smother, while Luke, Sharpey and Ted all contributed with strong tackling efforts. Will was relentless, almost tackling himself to a standstill, and Josh continued to give everything in the contest — but the Lions struck again.

At 27–36 with nine minutes remaining, the challenge was clear, we needed at least two goals to have a chance.

Hammer applied pressure with a strong tackle, Ronin surged forward, and both Will and Sharpey moved the ball on, but the Lions intercepted once more and, with just two quick kicks, found another goal to extend the lead to fifteen points.

Desperation lifted the Eagles. Andrew drove forward with intent, linking with Sharpey and Julian, who combined well. Andrew then delivered a kick inside 50 to Noah, who was awarded a free kick. Noah made no mistake, kicking truly for his third goal — bringing the margin back to 33–42.

Momentum swung. Andrew followed up with a brilliant individual effort, bursting forward and slotting a superb goal to cut the margin to just three points. Suddenly, the Eagles surged again, driving the ball straight back into their forward 50.

Time was against them. With under three minutes remaining, the Lions won a free kick, which the Eagles managed to spoil for a behind. However, moments later, the Lions took a terrific mark and converted, effectively sealing the result. Another long-range goal soon followed.



The Eagles had fought bravely in mounting a late charge against the wind, but it proved to be too little too late, with the Lions finishing strongly to secure a 55–39 victory.

Coach's comment: Disappointing to see our team be second best to the ball and lacking in their usual intensity in too many aspects of play. Laziness kicked in during the first quarter after taking the lead and we just didn't dig deep enough when it counted. The Umpires did their job and were consistent across both teams so any blame on them was unwarranted. Will had a super game throughout. Andrew played better in the second half. Ronin played well at CHB. Josh was consistently good along with Jon. Congratulations to Noah on scoring three fine goals.

Goals: Noah (3), Jon, Andrew.

# MATCH REPORT



END OF PERIOD	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
 Forest Lions U15 Div 3	0 0.0	22 3.4	24 3.6	55 8.7
 Hornsby Berowra Eagles U15 Div 3	15 2.3	18 2.6	27 3.9	39 5.9

The post-game debrief...



# MATCH REPORT

