



Basketball

MARIST COLLEGE – FINALS DAY

Each week we will have brief team reports each with the aim to cover as many teams as possible. Please see Team Reports below:

First V BASKETBALL vs. St Patrick’s College

The Ashgrove boys returned to Lauries for a 5th place playoff against a team they had played in a trial, St Pat’s. In that trial both teams couldn’t be separated on the score board, so this was an eagerly anticipated match up. As was the story for most of the year, the boys got off to a slow start, and faced an uphill battle that only seemed to get steeper. Some good energy from the Year 10/11 players helped inspire a comeback, but ultimately the result did not go our way. Thank you to all players, supporters, parents and referees for the shortened season.

TEAM	TEAM REPORT
2 nd V	The 2nds run of injuries continued with Nick Tucker going down to an ankle injury early in the crossover game. Nathan Harding and Charles Ryan stepped up to play their best games yet and Riley Grace carried the team but could not get the win. Well done to all the boys who trained and persevered in such an unusual season.
3 rd V	With only 5 players in their final game in the blue and gold, 3rds displayed pure class and scintillating proficiency to the craft to score their first win of the season. The boys proved unguardable in the paint and defensive anchors guarding our own basket which ultimately led to the win.
4 th V	At the start of the season, the 4ths agreed that their goal for the season was to have fun playing basketball with their mates whilst learning something about the game along the way. In a team of ten players a number of boys had never played the game but wanted to be involved in their final year at MCA. After winning our first game, three losses followed but the laughter never stopped. The boys again fought hard on Saturday and mounted a comeback late in the second half but by then, St Pats had the game in the bag.
11A	The team that didn’t win a game in year 8 become premiers in year 11! 11A’s led for the whole game although it did get back to within a point midway through the 2 nd half. The team mixed up their defence to keep St Pat’s off kilter for most of the game and stayed composed throughout but particularly down the stretch when it counted the most. Great contributions by everyone in the team and very proud of the group they have become, deserved winners!
11B	The 11B’s tidied up Iona in class. Winning by a crushing 30 points and not allowing Iona to even crack double digits. These boys put in a massive defensive effort to keep Iona low scoring and played for each other to rack up a large lead. Very classy ending to a season. It was a pleasure coaching these fine young gentlemen for the past three years. Thanks boys.



11C	<p>In the last game of the season, Marist faced very stiff competition in what was very wet conditions. These proved difficult early on, with both teams struggling to handle the ball. Iona jumped out to a big lead early on, making 3 of 4 3-pointers in the first 4 minutes of the game, even one from halfway. The boys clawed their way back into the game though and finished the half down 13-9. Iona had a change of heart at halftime and jumped out to a 10-point lead through one-player scoring consecutive baskets in the paint. The boys were stunned, but through some tough rebounding and physical play got the game close again. Well done to Reaghan, who played excellent defence the last 8 minutes of the game against Iona's main scorer, giving us the advantage to go on and win the game by 3. Overall the boys went 2-2 for the season and were starting to play some good basketball after starting the season slowly.</p>
10A	<p>A great finish to a tough season for the mighty 10A's. Unfortunately we fell short of our overall team goal, however I would like to praise all of the boys for their continued commitment. Every training session they were eager to learn and improve their skills, whilst always competing hard to the final buzzer on game day. We travelled out to the Ippy dome for our final game against SPLC. The energy was good and the boys put in an impressive performance coming away with the win. Thanks for the season!</p>
10B	<p>The 10Bs faced off against Villanova in the Grand Final, the game was to be played at a neutral venue, St. Edmund's College. From the outset the team struggled to lift; No parents, no spectators...no atmosphere. A number of the team had already played football trials earlier in the day and were showing signs of fatigue, others had their mind elsewhere, looking towards their rugby trials later that afternoon. Villa were a very strong outfit but were an equal match for the Marist boys. With the referees making very few calls the match descended into a spiteful affair, with a number of un-sportsman like conduct fouls and tech fouls marring the contest. Villa gained ascendancy late in the second half and ran away with the match. The final score was an unfair reflection on how our boys played, with each and every player giving leaving nothing on the court. Although a disappointing end to a fantastic season the 10Bs were a pleasure to coach. Thank you, and all the best.</p>
10D	<p>The game was a lot closer than the score suggested as our boys came out to a very hot start paired with some excellent defence. Unfortunately the game got away from us at the end of the second half as a really strong Villa team really started to show their strengths. The boys should be very proud of their efforts to make it to their grand final and played some excellent basketball this season.</p>
9A	<p>All the Robin William quotes and Triangle defence in the world couldn't get the 9A's out of the Corona Virus Ripple Pickle we found ourselves in on Saturday. 3 of our starting five did the snugglepuss exit stage left at half time so they could make their A Rugby trial (A tough position for the boys to be in)...'Winter is coming I hear you say' ...and yet out of the depths of tragedy new heroes were born as unlimited court time gave the remaining players a chance to prove their metal...and prove their metal they did, best game of the season for a couple of boys. And although the scoresheet will not show the desired W...the remaining lads had a realisation of ability and hopefully a newfound confidence moving forward. Hopefully the boys enjoyed the short season and continue to develop their games in the future.</p>



9B	Unfortunately, the 9B basketball team went down by two points in another close one against St Peters College on the weekend. Ashgrove went up by double digits in the first half but switched off as St Peters came home strong in the fourth quarter. Three close losses on the season and injuries to some players have hindered this team's success. However, the team showed up to every game and training session eager to improve themselves and they must be commended for their efforts. It was a true pleasure to coach these fine young men and I wish them all the best in their future endeavours.
9C	The 9C's had a hard-fought last game against Iona College. Marist had some exceptional off ball movement which kept Iona on their toes however it was the opponents full court press which proved difficult to beat. As a result, Iona won the game 37-28.
9D	The final game saw the boys up against St Pats in a battle for 3rd place. Marist took an early lead and never looked back, with good defence leading to easy fast break buckets. Final score 29-14.
8A	The 8As had a good win against Villa. The boys started well defensively but struggled to score in the first half. The second half started with some consistent scoring and some great defence. In the end the boys ran out comfortable winners which was a good reward for some hard work during the season. Jack Riley had his best game of the season. Adam Burnell and Jasper Barry were great on the boards against some taller boys.
8B	Although losing to them in the trial match at the start of the season, the 8Bs have succeeded in beating St. Pats to win the premiership. With their closest game, all the boys played their best matches of the season, displaying masterful passing and providing dominant defence. The boys are very happy to end with their peak performance of the season.
8C	The boys saved their best game for the grand final, valiantly going down to a strong Villanova team by just 2 points. We got off to a strong start and took a lead into the break. The early parts of the second half belonged to Villa and they were able to get out to a lead, however a courageous effort by our boys meant that we were able to close the gap to 2 points with one minute to go. It was a frantic last minutes and the boys didn't stop trying to the final buzzer. I was incredibly proud of them and they were able to hold their heads high at the end, knowing they gave it all they had.
8D	A disappointing end to the season today for the 8D young men. A game we should have won, but let go with some ordinary passes and too many missed shots. A game where our strong defences managed to keep us in the game all the way through. A game where you did so well to keep your composure and play in the right spirit. Jack Shay had a great game today, especially in defence where he got a lot of intercepts and kept troubling the opposition players causing them to turn the ball over. Matt Nisbett, playing in his first season of Marist basketball was excellent in both offence and defence with a lot of steals and scoring shots. And the always dependable Tom Small finished off another great season of basketball with strong intensity in defence and great attacking play. I was proud of you today Team 8D. Thank you gentlemen for a wonderful season. I hope to see you all back next year.



7A	<p>Our goal was to be competitive and we certainly achieved that going down by 15 to a team that crushed us at the start of the season. In the first minute of the game we perfectly executed an offensive play securing our first basket of the game. At that point no matter what happened during the rest of the game my cup was full! So incredibly proud of these boys for how far they have come in just a few weeks. They asked me if we could keep training even though the season had ended! Bless them! If I have inspired them just a little to keep practicing then my job is done! Thanks for the season boys!</p>
7B	<p>Great win to finish the season for the 7B. The boys played well and finish the season on a high note. Very enthusiastic group of boys, it was a lot of fun to coach them.</p>
7C	<p>We could not have had a closer match for our final game of the season on the weekend! In an easy first half, we were up by a comfortable margin of over 10 points; however, in the second half, Iona out classed us for 17 minutes and came back to be leading by 4 points. In what was a masterclass in patience, resilience and spirit, our boys regrouped and managed to put consecutive baskets into the hoop and on the buzzer we managed to claw our way ahead to a 26/25 victory. Thanks to all 10 boys for a fun season. It was short, but it was memorable for all the right reasons!</p>
7D	<p>The mighty 7Ds! What a game they played on Saturday, defeating Iona on their home court in an exciting match. We took the lead early on, but Iona wasn't going to let us get away easily. By half-time we were one basket up. Within 2 minutes of the second half, Iona had scored 6 points and looked very confident in maintaining their lead. However, the 7Ds kept a cool head, and went back to basics to recover lost points, and came home 26-22. It was a match in which every boy in the team played their PB. The passing, again, was a highlight, but the ultimate reason for this win was the awesome teamwork. Congratulations boys! Undefeated all season.</p>