

## SPX Prep Tour to Tamworth 2019

Once again St Pius X took a squad of 15 players to Tamworth for the annual National Primary Games. After arriving at our accommodation at Farrer Memorial Agricultural College, we had a light training run and some skills competitions to stretch out the legs and prepare for the tournament. Dinner was served in The Refectory before we headed back to our rooms for the night.

We arrived at The Dome for the opening ceremony at 8am on a cold winter's morning. The games were opened by the local member Kevin Anderson MP and we also got the chance to listen to and meet some Australian Olympians. At the conclusion of the Ceremony, we travelled to the Gipps st Playing Fields for our first game against South United FC. The boys got the campaign off to a great start with a promising 5 – 0 victory, even if it wasn't our best football.

The boys certainly improved on their initial performance and recorded wins over Inverell Aces, Central Coast Sports Tamworth FC, OVA Spartans, and Gunnedah on Day 1 of the competition. It was a great effort by the whole squad who interchanged throughout each game. We scored 20 goals without conceding and sat at the top of the division. Some of the individual highlights included Lachie J's 7 goals and our goalkeeper, Ryan H scoring his first ever goal with a calmly slotted penalty. Sid R and tour manager, Mr Carroll were also featured on the local FM radio station in a three minute radio interview that went live to air.

After an exhausting 7 games, we joined the parents for a well-earned dinner. It's fair to say that once back at Farrer, the boys slept solidly... until having to be woken at 6:20am for breakfast.

On Sunday, there were two more games left to play and we set ourselves the goal of not having any goals scored against us for the whole tournament. Our first game against Kootingal FC proved our toughest test of the weekend in all senses of the word. The Kootingal boys and girls were second on the ladder and played with a point to prove. The SPX boys were up for the challenge and withstood a bruising, physical game that ended in a nil all draw. There was much talk after the game about the physical tactics of the Kootingal players (boys and girls) however our players were pleased that they had kept a clean sheet with one game to go.

Our final game was against North Companions who were third on the ladder and also looking to knock off the leaders. At half time there was nothing in it, as we went to the break leading 1 – 0. The SPX boys were determined to finish the weekend undefeated and pressed on to score two more goals and win the game 3 – 0.

The final game was a fantastic way to finish the tournament and cap off a great weekend. It was again a fantastic opportunity for some of our prep Footballers to represent their College and the school can be very proud not only of their excellent results, but their sportsmanship and behaviour both on and off the field.

Paul Cummins

Junior Football Convenor

