

Rugby Union Match Reports

1st XV

The challenge to regroup after a tough loss the previous week is not to be understated. The team put together some positive and impressive passages of play but will still need to work on consistency and minimizing errors for tough rounds ahead. SEC are an improved outfit and will stretch a few sides this season. There were encouraging signs in attack with Pat Tierney igniting some much needed spark and Dwayne Ludwick looking elusive as ever on the wing. The forward pack continues to dominate opposition scrums without always getting the reward they deserve. The score line of 34-5 was probably a fair reflection that; as a team, we left a number of points scoring chances escape us due to errors and being over eager to capitalize. A bit more grunt in defence was evident in the match with Tate Cole setting the standard early with a solid tackle on a SEC ball runner followed up by Toby Anderson's crunching hit in the second half. Good to escape injury free and with a good bounce back win under our belt. Focus now shifts to Rd 3 v Villa away.

4th XV

In a tough encounter the boys fought to the end, but would ultimately succumb to late tries from the wide speedsters of the 3rds. The fighting spirit to a man was on display, and will hold us in good stead as we head into our premiership games over the next three weeks. Special mention to gritty performances from Joel Perkins, Tom Wright and Oliver King. Asked plenty of questions, caused some damage – unfortunately which we couldn't quite capitalise on. Respect for the ball a bit of a work on in the first half. Good job too from the turnover merchants, and the smaller running forwards with their evasion at the line. Excellent pace and finish from Hunter Lewis for his 60 metre try down the left wing.

Effort player of the day goes to Brady Collins out at fullback. Dangerous again in attack with limited opportunities, but really showed his mettle making three outrageous stops against evasive speedsters in open space. Had to leave the field after being hobbled by an ankle injury. But would show his toughness to return when we had no one else left, and fought where he could even though in obvious distress.

Made of the Right Stuff; and with a burgeoning space industry, maybe should consider becoming an astronaut.

5th XV

A tough battle from the get-go as is often the way with local Derbys. Tom Kelleher led his piggies well from the front and was rewarded with two tries from his strong running from the ruck. The backs saw plenty of ball and looked dangerous each time they crossed the advantage line. Zac Brown was particularly strong with ball in hand.

Special mention to Rory Baker who coordinated his troops well and slotted 6/7 in a fine display of his goalkicking prowess.

Other try scorers for the 5ths included: Tom Gibson; Ethan Willman, James Thompson and Aiden Gibbons.

The Fighting Fifths continued to hone their 'starvation' style of rugby holding the vast majority of the possession during the game.

6th XV

Both teams approached the game in the right spirit and it turned out being a compelling game as teams traded ties right through till the fulltime siren. The 9ths showed they will be able to compete with anyone in the AIC 5ths competition which they will compete in the season. Some excellent performances by Tom Kerr, Miles Kilpatrick and Corey Chapman from the 6ths which was equally matched by the spirit shown from the 9ths who were led by Will Walker. Great to see our Marist open teams doing well against each other. The game finished in a draw which was a fair indication of the game.

8th XV

In an open and exciting game, the 8th XV went down valiantly to Villanova 5ths by 22 points to 24. Ferocious defence and skilful attack resulting in some long-range tries were the highlights of the game. The narrow loss will steel the players for the tough weeks ahead.

9th XV

The first internal match of Saturday's fixtures saw the 9ths take on the 6ths as major underdogs. In what was a friendly yet physical match, both teams fought hard right to the end with a winner unable to be decided. Cooper Mackie was damaging in attack for the 9ths scoring two tries and levelling the scores with a conversion whilst Liam Thomas shone through in defence as one of the smaller bodies on the field.

10A

In what can be described as a game of two halves the boys decided to forget how to play rugby for the first half. Full credit to SEC for turning up with the right attitude and enthusiasm to take a 12-0 lead at half time. After some personal reflection during the break, the team turned things around by posting a quick try to get back in the game. Luckily we scored near the posts to kick both conversions and take out the game 14-12. We still manage to make poor decisions at times and the boys will need to work hard on their individual skills for the team to improve. Some big weeks coming up in our competition and we need to switch on. Bailey Caplick led from the front in the second half with several big runs while Zane Seeto was electric down the right wing. 10A Win 14-12.

10C

The 10C put on another dominating performance in the internal game against the 10D running in nine tries to one on Flat 7. Harry Marshall converted five from eight attempts, and Sova Pogara ran in four tries.

Try scorers were: Sova Pogara x 4, Pat Hooper, Mikey Austin, Jack Haddad, Hamish Mortimer, Jasper Tapara.

9A

The 9A rugby team completely dominated a courageous St Eddies on Saturday. The first try came from the first kick-off where the Ash forwards stole possession and the ball was moved quickly to the short side and eventually forced in the left corner. The rest of the game followed similarly. The try fest was a result of some very powerful work at the breakdown led by Ryan Johnson. This set a clear platform for some wonderful free-flowing support play. It was terrific to see the team stick to a pattern of play that created the opportunity for such unselfish team play. Well done boys!

9C

Winner: MCA 9C, Score: 30-0

A solid second round two win for the 9C squad. Eddies had brought an eager team to the match, with physicality on display from the first whistle. The Marist squad got off to a fantastic start with

Joshua Dempsey scoring early after some strong defence and follow up play. Oscar McVey and Finn McCahon scored later in the first half after some slick backline play. The second half brought about another tough contest with Rueben Downes and Rory O’Keeffe leading the way with strong defensive efforts. Trenten Hastie and Lachlan Berwick showed great speed and footwork to score on both wings, whilst Billy Smith finished off a lovely play set up by Lachlan Coleman. If the squad can look after the ball in future matches it could be a very successful season for the team.

9E

9Es had a tough loss against Villa 32-20. The boys fought hard to shorten the deficit to 2 points but injuries late helped Villa run in a few late tries. Special shout out Hugo Tully who ran and tackled hard throughout the whole game.

8A

The boys travelled to Tivoli for a second-round clash against Eddies, the boys got off to a slow start with Eddies putting first points on the board. Elliot Aldridge was rewarded with a strong run from the base of the scrum to earn him a 5 pointer. Eddies hit back with another try and conversion to make it 14-5. The boys kicked into gear from there showing some slick catch pass in the backline, dominance in the set piece and some opportunity to counter ruck the oppositions ball. Some notable highlights from the game was our Prop Hamish McAlonan showing a clean pair of heals to beat a number of defenders down the touch line to score under the posts.

Tries to Xavier Howard, Sean Green with two, Elliot Aldridge and Hamish McAlonan also with two. Sean Green also kicked four conversions to take his tally to eighteen points for the day.

The boys are looking forward to next weeks clash against Padua. This week we will be looking to find some attacking shape with more width and depth to allow our finishers more time and space. We will also look to improve our defense with better line speed, defensive shape both sides of the ruck and improving our spacing as a defensive line so we are not chasing the ball.

8D

The boys had a solid win against Iona scoring an epic 79-0. Their defensive effort showed excellent progression in their skills. The boys have also demonstrated clear response to feedback and are now effectively passing the ball out to the wings which undoubtedly helped us to score the significant margin.

7A

The 7As had the privilege of playing at the St Edmund’s grounds in Tivoli. Played in front of a hostile crowd the boys quickly quietened them by scoring in the first minute of play. Building on a positive start the Marist men dominated field position and only let St Eddies into the game by throwing an intercept late the first half.

Marist kept Eddies scoreless in the second half to run out eventual winners 29-5.

7B

Cracking atmosphere this morning at St Edmund’s College Ipswich playing fields.

Generally, given the conditions, expectations for 7Bs performance were high.

A few personal and positional changes were necessary after last week’s game with **Finn Manahan**, **Benji Blaszczyk** and **James Gissing** being promoted to the 7As. **Tim Henderson** (7Cs Left Wing) seized the opportunity given to him last week by gaining selection in this week’s starting side. On lining up and awaiting the toss, it was apparent that St Edmund’s were significantly bigger thus presenting the boys with a challenge that would test our resolve.

From the kick-off, Captain **Max Russo** (Left Prop) was outstanding. He was physical and enthusiastic. His actions were contagious with the tight and loose forwards combining in gaining the ascendancy to dominate the breakdown. Max scored a memorable long range try which drew prolonged applause from the large parental support group. Vice-Captain **Jude Dearling** (Half-Back) demonstrated “Smart Rugby” by putting on display his range of skills from pinpoint passing to tactical awareness and explosive running. Overall a satisfying **team** effort.

Special mention-1- to **Oilver Schmidt (Injured)**-thank you for attending the game and running the line, **Isaac Mc Donnell (Injured)** and **Dean Wright (Illness)**. We look forward to your respective return next week.

Special mention-2-To **Mr Pat Manahan** (MCA Parent)-thank you for running the line for the 7Bs and 7As.

Full-time: MCA-7Bs 27 defeated St Edmund’s College-Ipswich 7Bs-10

Next Week Villanova College. Three in a row? It is up to you!

7C

Match report 7C 55 vs St Edmonds 0

Tries: Lincoln Stockwell 2, George Johnson, Harry Franklin, James Milasis, Albi Betteridge, Henry Waters 2, Aurelius Ferdinands

Conversions: Luke Speedy 3, James Milasis 1, Albie Betteridge 1

Another convincing win for the boys in Blue and Gold. The game started slowly with some boys still adjusting to the early starts but it was pleasing to hear some opposition coaches remarking on the boys’ skill at the breakdown. Well done.

Harry Franklin continues to make his presence felt in both attack and defence and Albie Betteridge and George Haling are tireless terriers keeping the ball in Ashgrove hands.

Great to see Lincoln Stockwell bag two tries before going off to do battle with a hockey stick!

Owen Barker’s movement with the ball also deserves a big tick of approval.

Henry Waters (support this man!!) and Oscar Tully never fail to provide excellent leadership on the field. Luke Walker provides a very mature and safe presence at fullback and continually provides the extra hands in the attack.

I so appreciate the efforts made by the boys who come on as substitutes throughout the game and the way they make the most of their opportunities.

Things to improve on:

- Be awake at all times to support the ball carrier.
- We will practise this week better organisation around the rucks both in attack and defence.
- When given a penalty – reaction and organisation must be immediate – spread it wide rather than the old fashioned hit up.

Thanks also to the ongoing positive and friendly support provided by the parents of these wonderful young men.

7E

A tough day out for the 7E's playing against Villanova's 7D team with a 65-5 loss on the weekend. The boys played well without any reserves on the bench and a few niggling injuries. After a slow start the team gave the Villanova team a more competitive second half and will look forward to working hard again this week at training.