

ROUND 1 AIC RUGBY LEAGUE V ST LAURENCE'S COLLEGE

Year 5 - 24-4 win

From the opening kick-off, the Marist boys set the tone for what was a convincing first round victory against SLC. Strong defence from our forwards, who continued to drive SLC backwards at every opportunity, meant that we were able to dominate the ruck contest for most of the match. On the back of this, Marist were able to score a number of tries to establish a decisive lead. Stirling McDonald was awarded Man of the Match for his damaging ball running and hard-hitting in defence.

Year 6 - 20-8 win

A strong performance from the 6's saw a comprehensive 20 – 8 win over St Laurence's College. The boys got away to an early two try lead from the back of committed defence, led by Harrison Barden and Declan Blundell which allowed our outside backs to find space and score out wide. This was the case for most of the match with four of the five tries being scored by Phelix Meehan, Eli Miles, and Riley Hansel collectively. A very positive season opener for a team still learning the nuances of Rugby League. Clancy Barrett was awarded Man of the Match for his excellent effort in defence and work-rate running the ball.

Year 7 - 16-8 win

Under a dense cover of fog, a picture perfect setting presented for today's game v St Laurence's College. Given the significant challenges surrounding this season's preparation, round 1 of the AIC Rugby Season finally had arrived. In the pre-game it was clear that the boys were up for the challenge against a marginally bigger opposition. A fast start from the boys ensued narrowly missing scoring a try in the first minute of the game. Positive signs existed. Forwards led by Hooker and Vice-Captain Jude Dearing with Props Archie Searle and Archie Barrett more than matching St Laurence's in the middle. Second rowers Thomas Collins and Benji Blaszczyk gradually took control of the edges allowing for the right and left sides to attack with purpose. Ewan Wood (Left Wing) crossed for his customary try with Will Bagnall (Right Centre) 2/3 confidently adding the extras. MCA skipped out to a comfortable 16-point lead and looked set to power home to a convincing first win of the season. Captain Jonah Wilde demonstrated once again, his unfailing desire to play at his best in every game and always leading by example. Deep into the second half the boys put the cue in the rack and went to sleep. This action gave St Laurence's a sniff who staged a late fightback, but due to game time constraints thankfully fell short of victory. A few lessons were learnt from today's game and they will be addressed at training this week.

Thank you to: Oscar Tully--Year 7 MCA Boarder for stepping in at the last minute to perform the important role of Team Manager. Two weeks in a row and we didn't lose any gear. Outstanding!

Will Easter-Year 7 MCA AIC Year 7 squad member - unavailable due to injury. Will's commitment to the team, and attendance at the game performing the important role of scorer, is to be commended. The squad hopes to have you back at training this week and playing next Saturday.

Mr Brett Head, father of Sam, for pre-game, Mr Peter Collins, father of Thomas, for running the line. Your continued involvement and assistance is very much appreciated by the boys, parents and myself.

To Archie Barrett's mother, Anna, for the supply and delivery of bananas prior to training again last Thursday. The boys look forward to their distribution each Thursday afternoon. I have identified the one boy who does not eat bananas but hopefully that may change by the end of this season!

Year 8 - 30-22 win

Coach report - A tough game first up for the year 8 Boys with a tight win 30-20 against our old Nemesis St Laurie's. The score changed hands on many occasions with the mighty Blue and Gold boys getting the upper hand late in the second half led by their skipper James Moyes and the flashy Xavier Howard, also playing well around the ruck was Seb Gardner. I know the boys will be excited to play again this week and keep the momentum going.

Sean Green player report - Last weekend we versed Laurie's. Although we won 22-30 through our tough middle forwards pushing our way down the field lead by our skipper Jaime Moyes, this team was hardworking and diligent. Despite our 8-point lead, it was clear that we can improve on many aspects as a team. Even though Laurie's were using their kicks to work their way up the field our backs gained many meters lead by Xavier Howard who managed to help get our team into perfect field position to get over the line. We were showing great determination holding their big forwards back amongst the loud cheers of our first thirteen to the end of our game, giving us the energy and motivation to push through.

Year 9 - 70-0 win

With a host of players out due to representative commitments the year nines were forced to field a relatively inexperienced team. The boy's effort was sensational which was reflected on the score board. Special mentions to our man of the match Jai Jarro who worked tirelessly in the middle earning himself two tries and Joel Drew who on his birthday scored a hattrick at fullback. The boys have taken great confidence out of the win and are looking forward to building on it as the season continues.

Year 10 - 50-4 win

After strong trial games against Iona and Padua, along with three exhausting but enthusiastic training sessions during the week, the boys were confident heading into round 1 against St Laurence's.

It didn't take long for Marist to secure an early lead with front row Sean Browne placing the first points on the board. It was only a short period of time for Laurie's to bounce back and gain some revenge triumphing across the line for a try of their own. However, this didn't startle the boys one bit, scoring consecutive tries through a subsequent left side. The boys had a comfortable lead at halftime but for coach Mr. Anderson there was more to be done. After a short break the team came out stronger than ever with strong carries up the middle through Nic Gullo and Oliver Clements and outstanding playmaking by halves pair Jack Andrews and Harry Condon, the boys were able to cross the St Laurence's try line numerous times.

All round a fantastic effort from the side to give themselves a strong start to their bright season ahead. Special mentions go to Cody O'May who scored himself a double. But also, Jack Andrews and Zane Seeto who were rewarded for their compelling efforts with men of the match.

2nd XIII - 54-14 win

After a couple of scrappy trial games and only 2 training sessions, the 2nd XIII turned in a strong team performance in game 1, with every player making a positive contribution. Joseph (Jimmy) Kumung set the bar in attack with a handful of incisive attacking runs rewarding him and the team with early points. Our forwards dominated the ruck in attack, putting St Laurence's on the back foot,

creating space and allowing our backs to play some enjoyable attacking rugby league. A great start to the season.

1st XIII - 52-4 win

The 1st XIII opened their season by playing St Laurence's College in round one. The players didn't have to look too far in the past to find motivation for this game, after the rugby season.

The team started slowly and it took 10 minutes for them to find some rhythm in attack. After opening the scoring the Marist boys were pinned down in their own half having to repel waves of attack, which they did. The failure to score pressured the Laurie's players and Marist started to dominate in all parts of the game.

A 22-4 half time lead was well earned; however, Marist were far more dominant in the second half. The final 30 minutes of the game saw some spectacular rugby league and wonderful passages of attack. This allowed the 1st XIII to run out convincing winners: 52-4.

Notable players: Nick Harper, Tate Cole, Dwayne Ludwick, Henry Thomasson and Ky Rashleigh.