

Rugby Union Blurb:

3rd XV:

The mighty 3rds continued their unbeaten run in a significant game on Saturday.

With two out injured, three with flu and playing away against Ambrose Tracy College Firsts team it was a daunting game. The first half was a see saw and poor decisions in the ruck saw us give up valuable ground and go to the break trading 3-0. After inspiring words from Captains Ziggy and Johnno and input from parents and coaches the boys went out into the 2nd half determined. It was testimony to our defensive line that they took the penalty kick rather than the tap.

In the second half with the breeze and strong input from the bench the boys sustained attack saw the break through and we won the game 17-3. Best and Fairest points to all. ATC pushed our seconds to a 1-point game so this is a fantastic effort from the young men – many of whom are in Year 11 – and we need to focus now on finishing the job next round at home.

5th XV:

The Men of the Fighting Fifts were prepped and ready for a tough Villanova 3rd this week, spurred on by a disappointing loss by a conversion last week at Padua. The men would not again allow victory to be wrenched from their grasp. Rory Baker stamped his authority on the game in the 3rd minute after the forwards put him in a good position down the Villa end. Rory who has looked menacing with the ball in hand all season, sliced through Villa defence in broken play to score well, and converted his own try.

In the 14th minute after some more aggressive 'pick and go' work by the Fifts piggies, a set backline moves allowed Ethan Willman into open space and crossed after a strong run. It was 12-0. Villa responded in the 18th and 21st minute bringing the scores almost level 12-12 until Rory Baker again found the line just before the whistle that ended the first half. The Boys were up 17-12. The second half proved a torrid battle upfront with pilfers exchanged like punches in the rucks and mauls. Fred Hassan's strong running from the centre was rewarded with a try in the 30th minute, and Villa made the most of an intercept in the 42nd minute. It was 22-19 with 15mins to play.

Ethan Willman again was found speeding down the sideline until he was 'coat hangered' and taken into touch. In what would have surely been a great winger's try, had it not have been for an ill disciplined and illegal tackle.

The referee agreed and it was 29-19. Villa refused to lie down on their home ground and in what was a role reversal from the previous week, the boys were found on their own try line defending wave after wave of Villa attacks. The boys tackled and defended with discipline, turning over ball but couldn't escape their own 22'.

Villa broke through in the last 5 minutes to create a nail-biting finish with the score 29-24. The boys dug in like the Rats of Tobruk and took all the medicine that was dished out to them by the Villa 3rds in those remaining minutes.

The smoke finally cleared and the final whistle blew and the boys triumphantly sang their song in front of the devastated Villa supporters.

What a game. What a finish. What a team! Well done lads. Too many stand out performances to mention. The boys became one and shared the spoils.

7th XV

Solid game of rugby from the 7ths out at Tingalpa on Saturday. The boys played a hard game against Villa, coming up short 24-12. Great performance from the entire team who performed admirably in the second half despite being clearly gassed, with special mention goes to Josh Casey, who kept up the Marist never back down attitude til the end.

8th XV:

McMahon Oval hosted yet another local derby with the boys up against a polished 6th XV Rugby squad. The game started as a classic arm wrestle with both teams testing their toughness through hard hitting plays via the forwards. Heavy defence and strong running characterised much of the punch plays worked on by both forward packs.

The occasional blitz plays through the backline were largely nullified with good tackling by the opposition but good work by our loose forwards at the break down meant that possession was largely maintained.

Eventually our backline burst through to score first through some slick finishing skills from Jackson Tallis.

MCA 6ths were stung into action and poured on great pressure to capitalise and even the scores.

With a change in strategy, we saw more ball shifted wider of the ruck with dump plays attacking the mid field channel. This created some space for Harry Dyer to slice through and then repeat a similar effort later in the game. Solid defence kept our opponent scoreless in the second half.

Tries: Jackson Tallis, Harry Dyer (2) Conversion: Harry Dyer.

10D:

The Marist 10D team went hard today as a malicious Iona team attempted to rattle them. Iona led at half time and the boys were depleted but a gutsy last 15 minutes saw the boys get on top with Chris Thompson tapping the ball through the posts to gain a two-point lead til the end. Another gutsy performance for the undefeated* 10D's and one they won't forget.

9A:

The Ashgrove 9A's took to the St Peters main oval, that was devoid of any form of atmosphere and immediately set about creating their own atmosphere. From the kick off the Ashgrove pack looked to dominate. The first try of the game, scored by Jonah miles off the back of another impressive driving maul, let SPLC know that they would have to work hard to contain the Ashgrove pack, which they weren't able to do and Jai Jarro's running in open play was instrumental in this. The backline played an expansive style and through some great backing up the backs scored 7 tries. Tom Millard's triple on the back of some Tom Howard brilliance was outstanding. The try of the day for me though was the individual effort by the observant and ever-present Lachie McCall who slid through a half metre gap to catch the opposition napping and score under the posts. A very good team effort and terrific to watch.

7A:

In what was perfect weather for Rugby the 7As produced a perfect game of rugby. With the team's left winger, Ben Hawley, crossing for 4 tries it was obvious the players were keen to let the ball sing to the wing. The MCA try line was not challenged and the boys were very dominant through the middle.

Well done MCA 7As rugby on a great performance.

7B:

The penultimate match of the season with our opponent being St Peter's Lutheran College. Both teams are congratulated on the spirit in which the game was played. At fulltime, the sportsmanship displayed by both teams was excellent. Comments to me from St Peter's players were that they enjoyed the contest against Marist and the 7Bs are a very good team. A pleasing take away.

Result-MCA 7B's 43 defeated St Peter's Lutheran College-0

- **Max Russo** (Captain and Left Prop) and **Jude Dearling**(Vice-Captain and Half-Back) are to be commended on their leadership. Maturity beyond their years.
- **Joe Murphy** (Right Prop) was a standout. His leg speed in both offence and defence was impressive. Scored a determined try under the sticks!
- **Aidan Kock** (Right Flanker) is the team workhorse. Game after game watching his speed and energy in the breakdown is a game highlight. One to watch for 2022.
- **Finn Manahan** (Fly-Half) took the "Leap of Faith" running the ball and taking on the line. On occasions he kicked astutely. More of the same next week?
- **Rhyan Pears** (Right wing), new to the College this year and a "Rugby Rookie", was outstanding in scoring two intercept tries and narrowly missing scoring another. Speed to burn-would like to see a match race with **Ben Hawley** (7As Left wing)??

Thank you to **Ethan Bell**, **George Haling**, and **Oscar Tully** for benching from the Cs and **Isaac McDonell** for once again acting as Team Manager/Scorer.

Good to see **Tim Henderson** (Injured) and **Oliver Searles**(Injured) attending the game in full school uniform assisting and supporting the team. Thank you boys. Your attendance reflects the 7Bs team culture. Wishing **James Gissing** a speedy recovery and hope to see you at training on Thursday.

7C:

This was a gutsy win by the boys from the 7C's – they had to defend a lot of the time due to good recycling by Ambrose Treacy but the defensive structure held up around the rucks and in the backline.

It was great to see the backs in full flight at times, particularly the silky and smooth running of Owen Barker who makes it look easy at times.

Ronan Hart continues on his rampaging path to the try line and how wonderful to see Braydon Creek score a five pointer – so deserved for this wonderful team man.

The forwards played strongly well again and as mentioned earlier, their hard defence in close put the opposition on the back foot.

It was sad to see Albie Betteridge injured again and the sight of relief when Albie rose to his feet was palpable from much of the crowd and the boys. This boy knows only to give 100%!!

Another great game from Harry Franklin to hit the ball up like a centre and also it was great to see Ollie Schmidt hit his straps this game.

Thanks again boys