

Rugby Union Blurbs:

4th XV:

Rolling out of the sheds for the last time the 4ths were keen to unleash. Jessie Price-Connolly got things going early with a quick short range try in the first few minutes before the outside backs started their havoc. A triple to Jack Lenfant in the first half, and a double to Alex Marshall - both great finishing efforts. As all season the halves managed the progression and shots with good intent, and the team would cross for 11 tries all up.

The final try a great way for the year 12 cohort to finish their school rugby years. Penalty, kick to the corner, and all in for the 11-man Mob lineout. Ollie King ruled the sky again, and a maul (or something that looked similar) builds and drives over the line for Joel Perkins to somehow appear behind the Pats D-line and run it around near the posts. Crowning highlights the conversion by Darcy Eustace to get his first points of the season. Always the talent teaser, proved for all to see that Darcy Eustace is the Invisible Gorilla.

In season wrap; Boys tallied 70 tries all up, and let in only 2 to other schools (we'll ignore the skulduggery of the 3rds internal). Game Plan good, execution even better.

Leading try scorer – Eli Nichols with 10 from 5 games; can only imagine how many he would have scored if he trained and prepared properly.

Leading points scorer – Huge McCann with 61.

Credit to the bedrock boys who played all 9 games – Angus Brown, Hugh McCann, Darcy Eustace, Ryan Watts, Jim McCall, Andreas Roska and Hunter Lewis.

4ths Player of the season: Angus Brown. We always knew what we were going to get, and it was always good. Attended every training session, drove the standards, knew the lineout better than a few forwards, and overall great work in leading our team – with some nice frowny brownly tonality to keep those year 11 players in check; didn't give the coach much – but gave the opposition heaps

5th XV:

A fired up and focussed Fighting Fifts made their way from the Sheds down the stairs onto McMahan Oval knowing what needed to be done.

The 'Giant Killers' had disposed of 3rds teams and even 2nds teams all season, but now faced the 'old foe' Lauries Thirds at home.

James West and 'Stevo' Stephens led the boys out, to finish their season with a win for the 6 Seniors that would don the Blue and Gold for the last time.

It only took 10 minutes for Rory Baker to slice through and put the boys on the board. Baker converted his own try 0-7 ASH.

Laurie's responded quickly 2 minutes later. Little had the known they poked the bear. SLC 5-7 ASH. The arm wrestle continued through until half time.

With a welcome return to the backline Zac Brown crossed after the game oscillated from 22' to 22'. SLC 5-21 ASH.

Lauries rallied and made late runs in the second half scoring three unanswered tries until Tom Stephens again lead from the front as he has all season and scored with minutes to go. Final Score 24-28.

Only the boot of Rory Baker the difference. The fighting fifths sent their 12s off in style, singly loudly on the main oval to a teary and dejected St Laurence's thirds.
Well Done, Lads. It has been my pleasure to share your journey this year. Sincerely, Thank you...

6th XV:

After an enjoyable season getting to know the boys from the 6th XV our last match against Laurie's 4ths was going to always be a huge test. It became even harder after our captain, Hugh Ford, was red carded for a tipping tackle early in the match. It was a tough call on Hugh and made even tougher by the fact it was Hugh's last game of rugby for the College. So with 14 men, the 6th XV fought hard for the remainder of the match but without our captain barking orders it proved difficult. When we play well, it is often a result of Hugh's communication from full-back. We eventually lost 27 – 14. In games against Padua and Iona 5ths throughout the season we showed that we can be a formidable outfit and the improvement shown from the start of the season was incredible. Thanks, all members of the 6th XV for the way you approached the season, as I said after the game, I haven't enjoyed coaching more than in 2021 and that was all because of the boys.

8th XV:

MCA 8th XV 41 v Iona 5th 0

Another dominant display from this impressive group of boys.

The game started with Iona gaining early possession and controlling phase after phase. Full credit to our players for excellent defence, patience and good discipline which was rewarded with a penalty from an excellent "jackal", just when we needed it, deep into our twenty-two.

From that moment, we quickly moved into an attacking blitz shifting the ball wide and stretching the opponent to edges. Heavy raids by our rampaging forwards created space for our quick men who ruthlessly capitalised out wide and thereafter scored.

The next 12 mins passage of play resembled an arm wrestle of sorts with strong running and solid defence from both sides. MCA showing more resolve eventually broke through the stalemate to score under the posts and backed it up 4 minutes later with a 19-0 halftime lead.

The second half started in a similar fashion to the first but again a more determined and committed MCA showed their character and were able to cross for another try which quickly then resulted in one more soon after. This appeared to sting the opposition who unfortunately reacted negatively. A poor display of sportsmanship from our opponents in the next scrum soured the tone of the remainder of the game but to our boy's credit, we continued to play on respectfully and score 2 more excellent tries.

Congratulations to the boys on an excellent and successful season. As a coach, I thoroughly have enjoyed being part of this team and their progress as players. We say good -bye to our Yr 12's, our captain, Ethan Tallis, vice-captain Alex Elliot, Jordan Russo and Harry Dyer, all who scored tries at least once in this short season. To our Yr 11's, higher honours in MCA Rugby are within their grasp with hard work put in the gym in the months ahead.

Season's stats:

Points scored 169, points conceded 65.

6 wins, 1 narrow loss (Villa 5ths 22-24)

9th XV:

The boys were excited to be given a second chance against the Villanova 5th XV after a hard fight last week. A much more even game this time around, with outstanding efforts from everyone to keep the score within 10 for the entire game. It has been a pleasure to coach the 9ths and we wish them luck for the rest of school.

9A:

The 9A's took to the field on Saturday intent on leaving the rest of the competition in no doubt about their ability. The forwards put on a display of hard running, lead this week by Zek Anderson and Jasper Barry. Adam Burnell & Jacob Harper also dazzled with great broken field running and both scored impressive tries. The backs again played an expansive game, with Tom Howard and Joel Drew both scoring triples. The highlight of the game for me was a beautifully worked "Bulldog" where all the backs played their roles perfectly and Leo Henry threw a perfect pass to Tom Howard who sliced through the anticipated gap. A great display to finish the season.

9C:

The final game of the season did not disappoint for the Marist 9C squad. The team played well from the get go and showed their intentions early with some expansive play to allow Cooper Guise to cross for an early try. Both wingers, Lachlan Berwick and Trenton Hastie, crossed next after some great team play. Jack Casey, Lachlan Coleman and Oscar Pittman all scored tries in the second half. Whilst Berwick got a double and Hastie brought up his third try late in the game. It was good to see the team produce a solid team performance to finish what was a successful season. All members of the squad should be commended for their efforts this season and hopefully they can continue their winning ways next season.

7A:

In what should have been an easy match to finish the season the 7As made it as difficult and hard as they could. Treating the ball, a piece of lava the MCA boys knocked the ball no less than 15 times in the first half. The only silver lining was a try to Will Slatter just before half time.

In the second half, with a change of a ball to one that had grip on it, the boys kicked into action. Well done to Ben Hawley who crossed for 3 tries (7 in two weeks).

Congratulations to all of the players and their parents for a great season.

7B:

"Final round of AIC Rugby for 2021 promised to be a day to remember and the 7Bs certainly delivered. Best performance of the season!"

Game Result: MCA 7Bs 89 defeated St Patrick's College Shorncliffe 7Bs - 0

Standout contributor was **Ben Sinclair** (Left Lock) with 2 tries and 8 from 8 conversions.

Ben has been spotted often on the Flats, alone in the dark, practising his goal kicking.

His commitment and effort in pursuit of improving in his rugby skill set, in particular his kicking, is simply outstanding. Keep it up!

Dean Wright (Right Centre) roared back into form with a dominant display in both offence and defence. Scored a smart try after a one-on-one steal then sprinted some 40 metres to score untouched. **Oliver Searles** (No 8) demonstrated cat like reflexes in catching a sharp a kick-off, charged the opposition only to break the line wide open, then outpaced the opposition to score under the posts. Oli finished the match with 2 tries. His father was spied wearing a big smile post-match.

Award recipients for AIC Rugby 2021

Players' Player: Jude Dearling (Vice Captain and Half-Back)

Viriliter Age: Aidan Kock (Forward)

Commitment to MCA AIC Rugby 2021: Isaac McDonell

Leadership: Max Russo (Captain)

Leadership: Jude Dearling (Vice-Captain)

Forward of the Year: Joe Murphy (Right Prop)

Back of the Year: Jude Dearling (Half-Back)

Breakout Player of the Year: Rhyan Pears (Back)

Thank you to **Ethan Bell, George Haling, Fletcher Murray** for your commitment and effort during the season and **Isaac McDonell** for performing the important role as Team Manager/Scorer. Thank you, James Gissing (illness), for attending the game and supporting the boys; Bring on AIC Rugby Season Year 8 for 2022. **Thank you to the parental group** for your support throughout the season and also for the most generous gifts.

Finally, **thank you to the all the boys** for your commitment, effort, co-operation, and respect. I hope that you enjoyed the season, improved as a player, and will all be back next AIC Rugby season representing the College in Year 8 2022."

7E:

The boys lost to a Iona 7D squad 37-24 today in a great game. The boys had a lot of intensity from the first minute and played aggressive and confrontation rugby the entire game. The structure was followed very well and our running game was excellent. Many tries to our boys were a credit to the work that they have put in throughout the season and a lot of improvement throughout the team. All the boys enjoyed the game a lot despite the loss and it was a great end to the season.