



## **AIC Rugby League – Round 2 Match Reports**

### **Year 5**

The year 5 team had a bye this week but were lucky enough to have a friendly game versus Villanova who also had a bye. The year 5 boys started well, running, passing and defending but as last week fell into the trap of going away from their structures and game plan.

A strong Villanova took advantage and ran in some easy tries to take control of the game. This Saturday the year 5s have the opportunity to play Villanova again, come together as a team, complete their sets, play to their strengths and implemented structure in attack and defence.

### **Year 6**

A dominant performance from the year 6 team saw them run over St Edmund's College 32 - 4 in a huge team effort - finishing with only one player on the bench for most of the game. The focus for the week was defensive structures and sliding defence, which the boys were brilliant in, keeping Eddie's to a nil score until about five to go in the match. Attack came naturally with a hat-trick going to Shea Caminiti, as tries were shared equally across the squad. Tex Higginbotham was the player of the match for his efforts in attack when in the back row as well as organisation when in the halves.

### **Year 7**

Our year 7s welcomed back our borders from their Yamba tour, which meant a minor reshuffle to further trial our good depth in this age group. As a group we've trained really well, focusing on line defence and attacking options utilising out size and skill. Our first half saw great control and dominance through the middle finished off with a try from a set move and another try from an opposition loose ball and a length of the field run away try. We took a 14 to 4 lead into half time and the boys were feeling great about how we were going. We started a little slow in the second half conceding a try early. Midway through the second half the game was prematurely stopped while we were on the attack close to their line, One of the St Edmond's boys suffered a serious injury and the game was declared over. It was disappointing to finish this way for both sides, but we finished ahead 14 points to 8 and we look forward to round 3 and further growth within the squad.



### Year 8

With a delayed to the start of the game due to an injury in the previous game, the concentration level of the team didn't appear to quite the same as the game the week before. With the occasional drop ball, the odd penalty, and a missed tackle here and there meant things wasn't going quite as planned.

Although things weren't going as planned, the players continued working hard for each other and didn't show any signs of giving up until an opportunity to score might present itself. It became quite clear we needed to improve our ball control, defence, depth in attack and direction from our key players to execute the game plan.

The opposition demonstrated a determined defensive attitude against us which meant we need to stick to the game plan to have any chance of breaking the opposition defensive line. At one stage in the first half, Oliver McGawley intercepted a bad pass by the opposition and ran forty metres to put the team in a great position to score but unfortunately, we lost control of the ball in the next play.

You couldn't knock the commitment and determination shown by the players throughout the game. Although the mistakes made the game extremely difficult for everyone involved, two players Oliver Searles and Tom Collins decided they would take control during a tackle of an opposition player close to their own try line by dragging him back into his own in goal area. This gave the team the perfect opportunity to "WIN" the game, which they did when Will Bagnall scooted out of dummy half to score with only minutes to go before full time.

**FINAL SCORE: MARIST COLLEGE ASHGROVE 6 – ST EDMUNDS 4**

To win a game when everything isn't going as planned, is character-building for everyone involved and will remain a moment they will remember for a long time to come. When you reflect on the game, the year 8 team demonstrated enormous character to defend and repel the opposition over and over to eventually win. Unfortunately, we did suffer some acute pain injuries because of the game, but nothing a little ice and heat won't fix.

The "PLAYER OF THE MATCH" award went to Archie Searles for his defence and attack, when the team needed the most.

### Year 9

A gritty 22 – 16 win by the Year 9 boys against St Edmund's College. We struggled to control the ball and complete sets early on in the windy conditions, but the boys stayed in the match and our halves gradually started to take control. It was great to see all the boys defend strongly and build pressure in the second half. All boys played well, but special mentions to Lachlan Harney, Seb Gardiner, Xavier Howard and Ollie Millard who had strong games.



### Year 10

Saturday's fixture saw the Year 10 side come up against a strong St Edmund's College at Shorncliffe. Eddie's came out strong and matched us physically, it took time for the boys to get into the game and realise that we were being too passive at the point of contact. Marist improved as the game progressed, special mentions to Pat Anderson who put in a really strong shift in the middle, Tom Howard who ran and ball played really well and the two dummy halves; Max Cole and Jake Benson who both performed well, the physical inclusion of Ben Caughley was pivotal in turning the momentum of the game as well. Saturday was important for the side to realise where we need to be and how much improvement we still have left in us. Onwards and upwards.

### 2nd XIII

The seconds played extremely well in their 2nd round match against SEC, controlling the ruck in defence and winning it in attack to win game 26 – 0. Our player of the match, Jude Knapp, led by example scoring two tries and kicking three conversions. Our remaining three tries were scored by Cruz Day, Keli Law and Jackson Tallis. From the kick-off by SEC in the first half, the boys found themselves under pressure having to defend against an attack by SEC on their try line. They did a stellar job repelling the Eddies attack. The team built off that first solid defensive set to dominate the ruck for the rest of the game. There were great efforts by the whole team taking the ball forward with Charlie Gardner shining with good running metres and quick play the balls and Nick Gullo finding space and offloading to support. Crus Day and Tom Mitchell shared the hooking role, and both played extremely well, with some incisive running from the dummy half position and great support play. Cooper Price put in a fine performance chiming into the back line seamlessly and supported his forwards to be rewarded with a great midfield line break in the second half. Overall, a great effort from each player. Thankyou Harry Marshall, for running the line.