

RUGBY UNION: AROUND THE GROUNDS

1st XV: MCA 26 - 5 PAD

A sold hit out for the 1st XV squad. With a number of players unavailable or on restricted playing time the opportunity to impress early in the season was provided to a number of players across all positions. The team was focused on beating Padua in the physical contest; tackle, attack and scrum. This would be a test of our early season fitness and the team dominated these areas in the first half to lead 19-5 at the break. A dominant scrum and a number of opportunities in attack on the back of multiple phases, lead to a steady scoring rate and scoreboard pressure that took the heat out of the Padua side. Strong individual performances from Tate Cole, Jack Condon, Will Andreas and Pat Tierney helped the side control the game throughout a hot and draining 70 minutes of play.

4th XV:

In hot and humid conditions, the boys dominated Padua with a huge field advantage, denying them any time in our red zone for the whole fifty minutes. Big ad-line hit-ups from our tight-5 set the base – none better than Andreas and the Darcy boys (Eustace and Knight).

Halves Tom Wright, Angus Brown and Hugh McCann combined strongly despite limited preparation. Together with everywhere man Joe MacQueen they engineered a high number of double touches, asking too many questions for the Padua defence to handle. Allowing outside guys like Brady Collins and Alex Marshall to do their thing with a bit of speed and finishing flair.

Our strong team effort is highlighted in our 24 (!) sub-movements and ten different point scorers – topped by Matt Donaldson's try-scoring double efforts. Apparent try of the day however goes to crowd favourite Hunter Lewis, cleverly engineered by the halves in the final minutes to ensure the supporters are back next game.

As a takeaway we look at a few too many handling errors and lineout hiccups as smart work by the boys, giving us that nice opportunity for a bit of growth.

5th XV: MCA 65 - 0 PAD

On the back of no training, the 5th XV gathered on Saturday morning keen to implement a style of play that suited the personnel within the team. The focus was largely on maintaining width across the field with our attacking structure which allowed wingers to score our first 3 tries, some nice square passing by Fly-half Paul Strachotta and our centres Sam Chetham and Zac Brown created space on the outside for wingers Brady Collins, Josh Barnes and Cooper Hafiz. Our forwards worked hard in pressing heat to provide these opportunities for our backs. Particularly Tom Gibson, Ethan Chapman, Charlie Gardiner, Tim Forster and Tom Kelleher. The highlight of the match was the bone-crunching defence from our forwards, in particular Oliver King who ironed out a few Padua boys with his perfect front on tackling technique. We look forward to building on this throughout the season.

10A: MCA 22 - 0 PAD

After just one-afternoon training session the day before, this was a solid start from the team with plenty to work on in terms of skill execution. For their first game back together and with a few positional changes there were some good signs of team cohesion and decision-making. We just let ourselves down with some basic skill errors and should have scored 3-4 more tries to put the match away. The boys should feel positive about the upcoming season and if they work hard they will have some great results.

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10C: MCA 37 - 0 PAD

The 10C's had a win over Padua 37-0. Outstanding players were Tom Mitchell, Hunter James, the forwards and Jack Haddad. Tries were scored by:

- Jack Haddad x 3
- Mikey Austin x 1
- George Wood x 2
- Sova Pogara

The highlight was the chip kick by Tom Mitchell that allowed George Wood and Liam McEachern to run through and for George to score.

9A:MCA 52 - 0 PAD

The 9A rugby team hit the ground running, both figuratively and actually. The first half of our trial against Padua was a feast of running rugby highlighted by a willingness to spread the ball wide and to support the ball carrier. The second half was a far tighter affair with Padua camped on our line for extended periods of time. The resolve of our defence was first class however and our try line was kept intact.

The level of skill on display for this time of the season was very high. The most obvious issue to work on, for some, has nothing to do with skills, though these can always be improved, but rather, individual discipline and the ability to focus on the task at hand. We can't allow individual distractions and a lack of personal discipline to upset the team direction and set goals.

9D: MCA 17 - 0 PAD

A dominant performance by the 9D playing against a 9C team from Padua. With only getting to play half a game due to the combined D/E trail there were some promising signs for the upcoming season.

8B:

The afternoon started quick for Padua College as they got off to a flying start scoring 7 points in the opening 10 minutes of the game. Ball retention was a key focus for the Marist boys as we were rushing our breakdowns in attack and often leaving ourselves isolated from the support, Padua was quick to the breakdown capitalizing on this by juggling the ball a few times. As the game went on Tommy Barron (9), organising our tight five and retaining it led the boys 60 meters down the field into Padua's 30 and a quick shift through George Philp (10), the boys crossed the try line down the left wing to make it 5-7 going into half time. Half time chat we reiterated slowing down the rucks and how important it was to retain the ball not trying to do anything fancy but getting the basics right and expanding the defence around the ruck. Some strong carries by Matthew Lions (17), got us onto the front foot early into the second half and before long the boys crossed over for their second try of the game. Our defence was a lot tighter in the second half and some good organizing at the back by Ben Player (15), Marist began playing with a lot more confidence in attack spreading the ball easier and easier. Some strong carries out wide followed up by some "pick and goes" in the middle our boys crossed over again converting the try 15 in from the sideline. Marist taking the win 17-7 in a solid first hit out by the boys.