

## Rugby League Match Reports V St Patrick College

Saturday September 11

### Year 5

#### 12 – 8 win

Match Report #1 - A beautiful Spring morning saw two undefeated Year 5 teams play as the curtain-raiser ahead of the 1st XIII match. A boisterous home crowd were determined to help the St. Pats boys make the most of the home ground advantage over their Ashgrove opponents. Once the whistle blew to start the match, Ashgrove came out determined to win. Strong, direct running from our forward pack, led by the props (Will and Ned), saw Ashgrove on the front foot early, gaining plenty of post-contact metres. Edge forwards (Eddie and Tom), halves (Aidan and Jack, who often took it upon themselves to take down the largest St. Pats forwards), and hookers (Zaidan and Josh) continually drove the opposition back with some hard-hitting defence. However, a number of simple handling errors, forced passes and poor discipline in both attack and defence, meant that Ashgrove were soon on the back foot. Fortunately, the defensive resolve of the team shone through once more, particularly on our own try line, as Ashgrove repelled the continual attacking threat of St. Pats. At halftime, the scores were still locked at 0-0.

The second half saw the Ashgrove boys live out the motto, Viriliter Age - Act Courageously. After breaking the deadlock through some crafty dummy half work from Stirling, St. Pats soon equalised and squared the game up once more. A few minutes later, Stirling had scored his second try of the match, but was forced off with a HIA. Yet again St. Pats squared up the match with an equaliser, as we lost another player, Connor, who was forced off with an ankle injury, leaving Ashgrove with no reserves on the bench for the final 10 minutes of the game. With five minutes to go, Tex produced another strong surge to crash over from close range and Ashgrove were once more in the lead. This time, there would be no equaliser from the opposition and Ashgrove won the fiercely contested, final match of the year. Men of the match - everyone (a real team effort)!

A huge thank you must go to the parents who provided amazing support each and every week. A big thank you also goes to the many staff who attended our matches and supported the boys, and to Old Boy coaches (Caleb and Angus) and staff coaches (Mr. Furminger and Mr. Jones) for all their efforts across the season. Well done everyone on a truly, incredible team effort and congratulations on your successful, undefeated Year 5 Rugby League season.

Match Report #2 - The 5A team travelled out to St Patricks on Saturday for their last game with an undefeated record. It was set to be a tough and physical game from the start with St Patrick's having also not lost a game. The first half saw some exciting but brutal end to end footy which really tested the boy's resilience. However, both teams were able to hold on with some excellent defensive efforts, leaving the halftime score nil all. The Marist boys unfortunately lost their entire bench to injury throughout the second half leaving only enough to field a side. Some brilliant dummy half efforts from Stirling McDonald allowed him to grab two tries and put Marist ahead despite the fatigue setting in. St Pats hit back late in the second half tying the game up with not long to go. Halves pairing Aidan and Jack really stepped up to the challenge late in the game by taking on the line and managing to put together some fantastic attacking sets, allowing us to score the winning try late in the game. The 5As should be thrilled with their efforts in what was a blinder of a game from both sides. The 12-8 win saw the boys wrap their season up undefeated.

## **Year 6**

### **32 – 14 loss**

A strong performance from the Marist boys this week saw them go down in a highly competitive match against a very skilful and organised St Pat's team. Playing 'eyes up' footy and supporting the ball runner were the main points of focus at training this week, and was certainly carried out for the majority of the match through some handy short-side play from the likes of Harry McAuliffe and excellent support play from Sam Russo. Overall, a fantastic season which gave many boys their first opportunity to learn and play Rugby League, it was great to see the team continue to get better and better each week. It will be very exciting to see the development of the team next season.

## **Year 7**

### **54 – 4 win**

The season finale at Sandgate! On arrival there was an air of relaxation.

We were greeted by lush green playing fields coupled with bright blue skies with a slight ocean breeze-perfect!

On arrival at the ground the squad were to a boy brandishing broad smiles-a positive sign for a good result.

St Patrick's won the toss and chose to defend the city end.

From the "get go" MCA were "on."

Team tries were posted at regular intervals allowing to MCA skip out to a handy lead. Will Bagnall again had his kicking boots on with him landing numerous difficult conversions. Outstanding!

Half time chat permitted significant positional changes and the introduction of Year 7 Development Squad Members for 2021- Toby Forbes, Oscar Tully and James Milasas to the playing arena for the first time this AIC season. The boys embraced the challenge demonstrating the striking depth of the age group-great signs moving forward to 2022.

Final score MCA 54 defeated St Patrick's College Shorncliffe 4

Player Awards for 2021

Players Player-Jonah Wilde

Leadership-Jonah Wilde

Forward of the Year-Benji Blaszczyk

Back of the Year-Will Bagnall

Breakout Player of the Year-Oliver Searles

Team Member of the Year (Forward) Archie Barrett

Team Member of the Year (Back) Will Easter

Thank you to:

Will Michelmore - Assistant Coach

Benjamin Blaszczyk for your attendance at the game and support of your mates. Next year-Benji!

Liam Shay (Team Manager), Jim Bradford (Team Manager), Isaac McDonnell (Scorer), Toby Forbes (Statistician), Oscar Tully (Water carrier) and James Milasas (Kicking Tee) all Year 7 MCA Boarder for once again giving up your Thursday afternoon's (Training) and Saturday morning's (Game Day) in support of your school mates.

Anna, Mother of Archie Barrett, for the season long supply and delivery of bananas/apples prior to training each and every Thursday afternoon.

Mr Greg Bagnall (Father of Will for running the line.

Mr Brett Head, Father of Sam, for his assistance in the transportation of the MCA Boarding support group and the provision of appropriate food/drink rewards.

To our parental group, siblings and extended family members, thanks for your attendance at the game. Your enthusiastic support is greatly appreciated.

### **Year 8**

What a great way to finish a good season with a comprehensive win over the St Pats Team.

It was pleasing to watch all the skills we have practiced come together, Great passing and tackle techniques. The team was led again by their inspirational captain Jamie Moyes, every player on the team contributed to the win in many ways. It was pleasing to watch the year 8 Squad develop over the season. Scott and I wish all the boy's good luck with their future developments.

### **Year 9**

#### **42 – 0 win**

The final game saw the year nines complete an undefeated season coming out on top against a strong St Pats side. The final score was 42 to nil thanks to a double to Ryan Johnson. As has been a regular occurrence throughout the year our middle forwards laid an excellent platform that allowed the backs plenty of scoring opportunities. Man of the Match was awarded to Ryan Johnson whilst Max Cole and Isaac Roach were also very impressive.

### **Year 10**

#### **16 – 16 draw**

The last game of the season was held at St Pats home turf Curlew Park. It was a hot and perfect day for rugby league. With a concussion to key winger Zane Seeto in the game against Iona, brought Jack Haddad into the team to make his debut. The year 10 boys were exhilarated as they ran out with each other for one last time in the 2021 season.

It was a horrific first few minutes with Pats scoring 2 early full field tries to put them ahead 12-0. However, before the halftime siren Marist were able to put together two tries through George Wood and skipper Tom Mitchell. Half Jack Andrews converted both goals with brilliant kicks to tie up the game leading into halftime.

After some words from Coach Anderson, the boys ran out for their last 25 minutes, a tough battle lied ahead. It was a long second half, with no tries scored until 10 minutes left in the half through Bailey Caplick with a set play 5 meters out from the line. Although, this fired up St Pats them crossing for a try of their own to tie up the game. The final siren sounded as the home side had one last crack at the line just 5 meters out. With some outstanding and game saving tackles, were able to hold up pats to leave the game at a draw.

A tough draw for Marist with the second one in 4 games. A hard well fought game for Marist to stay in it and leave it at a draw. All in all, not a terrible way to end the 2021-year 10 rugby league season. Honorable mentions must go to Tom Mitchell, Jack Andrews, Atticus Armstrong, Ollie Clements and Bailey Caplick who played outstanding games.

Congrats on the season Boys!

## **2<sup>nd</sup> XIII**

### **26 – 16 win**

Final match report and season wrap up.

Saturday we took the trip out to the picturesque Sandgate waterfront to take on St Pats in the final game of the season with the intention to finish off on a positive and remain undefeated for the Inaugural AIC Rugby league competition

It was evident from the warm up that the boys had showed up with a belly full of desire to play which transferred straight onto the paddock with strong solid start.

In a fitting moment for one of our most consistently hard workers, Dan Witt put some footwork on his centre and skipped through untouched for the opening try.

Pats were next to score out wide and failed to convert.

It wasn't to long after that our master number 9 Rory caught some lazy markers out and dived over from half, converted his own try and we lead 10-4

The boys were clinical on Saturday and from a coaches perspective we were so impressed with how much of what the boys were working on at training was on display during the game. Our line defence and adjustment was superb and both with and without the ball we dominated the ruck.

For 5 consecutive sets we did not allow Pats to get out of their half, line speed and some season best comms shut down everything that was thrown at us.

We only had 2 boys on the bench therefore fatigue crept in late in the half but the true Ash grit saw the boys keep turning up for each other and heading to half time at 10-8

With some cavalry arriving just before the break we now saw 3 on the bench all of whom made immediate impacts when injected into the game.

The half time address was simple, keep it simple.

The next 30min of footy was like putting together a compilation of highlights from all the lead up to this final match. It all come together, everything clicked. From late comers to the 2021 AIC Rugby

League competition that started the season as a group of individuals to now, a cohesive unit working together for each other to succeed.

In the back end of the second half there was one final message to the circle, "its not about footy for these last few minutes, we need you to show us what's in your chest" and with that the boys kicked away to a 26-16 finish.

Our 2nd XIII in 2021 epitomised everything it is to be Marist.

We could not have asked for a more respectful, coachable and diligent group of young men.

Please now enjoy our Player Profile Notes

Joseph (Jimmy the Prince) Kumung - Strong ball runner with great agility who threaten the opposition with every run. Jimmy would have the highest post contact metres in the comp as he always carries at least 2 tacklers with him

Daniel Drew - Withdrew to focus on athletics – played first game. In the short period of time with us Dan proved a valuable member of the team scoring a try in our first game against St Laurence's.

Patrick Gavin - Played one game for us and had a great impact, running hard and making lots of yards for us.

Jackson Tallis - Did some good work for us on the wing and owns the best scoot of the season

Clancy Clemson - Captain Clancy Clem Boy Clemson leads by example with incisive running and has displayed some exceptional try saving defence. Outstanding communication. A natural leader.

Dan Witt - Dan's sniper defence against Iona kept us in the game. His straight hard running was rewarded with a great try against St Pats. An all-round team player who leaves it all out on the field

Jove Smith - There is not much of Jove but he puts his body on the line for his mates. Jove is a talented half with an innate ability to read the play.

Harry Gould - Harry was only with us for one game but left an indelible mark on the season with a barnstorming 40 run out of our red zone in our game against St Laurence's

James (Jono) O'Connor - Jono took us forward all season, winning the ruck 90% of the time and his work in defense was exceptional. Without doubt the most improved player in our side.

Rory Baker - A talented ball playing hooker who can also kick in general play. Rory managed and read the ruck well and took advantage of his opportunities, scoring some important tries with his darts from dummy half.

Oscar Berg - Oscar possesses the calm that every coach wants of their No 6. With composure he managed the team around the field and display a controlled kicking game to finish our sets in good position. With a great read of the game and a nice pass he delivered superbly to both his forwards and outside backs.

Angus Brown - The most all-round talent in the team. An exceptional defensive technic together with a superb running and passing game will make him a valuable player in any team he plays with. It was great to see Gus finish his season in the 1st XIII where he made a solid appearance.

Gilbert Donaldson - Mr Enduro. Gilbert played every minute of every competition game. Finishing each game with the same intensity as he started. That endurance coupled with good defence and hard running made him invaluable to the team.

Reggie McMillan - Reggie's barn storming runs were his trademark and they were impressive, delivering him the prize for most meters gained in the season. Off the back of those barnstorming runs, his quick play the ball gave the team time and space to attack.

Jimmy Boland - Another player who was the backbone of the team, Jimmy ran hard, making good yards and winning more than his fair share of the ruck. Another invaluable contributor.

Frankie Keaveney-Jones - Every time Frankie took the field, he had an immediate and positive impact with a high work rate and some great work at dummy half.

Chastyn Creek - Chastyn ran the left side with great skill, reading the play well and choosing options that put the team in a better position.

Brady Collins - Reliable in defense and attack Brady was an integral part of our back three. Brady's utility allowed us to play him at fullback as well as the wing, which was a great help to the team.

Jackson Munn - The team knows they are in safe hands with Jackson at fullback. He uses his speed to chime into the backline seamlessly. Not only does Jackson know how to find the try line himself he also demonstrated an ability to look for and link up with his support to deliver valuable try assists

Scott Cobb - A hard worker, Scott's solid defense and excellent line running was a great attribute to the team. It was great seeing him play his best game for his Dad.

Archie Forbes - Wiry, tough and fit, Archie plays above his weight. Archie joined the team in the last week of the season to play St Pats. He played the full game and was everywhere in in defence and attack, demonstrating an ability to ball play.

Ishy Bond - When Ishi first came to training he told us he could play anywhere. (That is anywhere but wing.) He was right. He played in the forwards and backs with his most valuable contribution at fullback in our last game, when Jackson Munn was called up to the 1st XIII. His contribution was exceptional with strong kick returns and try saving defence.

Charlie Gribble - Charlie joined us for 1 game against Padua. A big strong enforcer, who will be remembered for his first tackle of the game where he almost sent his opponent back to Padua with a Sam Burgess like shot

**1<sup>st</sup> XIII**

**16 – 16 draw**