

## AIC RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS V PADUA COLLEGE

21/08/2021

### **1<sup>st</sup> XIII – Pad 26 def MCA 20**

A delayed round 2 of the AIC Rugby League season saw Marist battle with Padua on the hallowed turf of McMahon Oval at MCA. The day was a spectacular one with blue skies and little wind which set up for a good game of footy. It was a fast-paced match with Ashgrove skipping out to a lead in the opening minutes through a try to Ky Rashleigh. Padua struck straight back on the back of mistakes and penalties to level the scores. After a classy play from Dwayne Ludwick, Fergal Apps was able to score in the corner for Ashgrove to go ahead again, but it was short lived as Padua scored down their left-hand side to equal the score. That took the game into half time 10 all. The second half saw a lot of poor discipline with both teams losing players to the sin-bin. With fewer players on the field Padua scored successive tries on the back of mistakes and penalties. Down 20 to 10 the Ashgrove boys kicked into gear and scored 2 tries through Lachlan Dudgeon and Jack Billings to level the score up at 20 all.

But, it wasn't to be Ashgrove's day. With a minute to go the boys in the Blue Chevrons made a mistake in their half and Padua capitalised to score a try and win the game with a minute remaining.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> XIII – MCA 28 def Pad 18**

Our 2nd XIII beat Padua's 2nd XIII; 28 -v- 18 in an outstanding performance in which every player in our squad of 19 did their jobs to the best of their ability, From the start of the game our forwards were strong, steeling Padua's time and space in defence and winning the ruck contest, creating space out wide for our backs to take advantage of to score our first try and setting the platform for the rest of the game. Padua were tough and came back at our boys with vigour but we held our ground and worked hard to win the game. The most satisfying elements of the game from a coaching perspective were a strong adherence to our game plan and low error count which helped deliver a great outcome. A job well done.

### **Year 10 – MCA 10 drew Pad 10**

It was a warm and busy Saturday morning on the main drag of McMahon Oval. Freshly painted lines, green grass and a satisfactory crowd, the boys could not have asked for more as they prepared for their close game ahead. Even though star players Cody O'May and George Wood were ruled out minutes before kick-off, this did not concern the lads one-bit brining Hamish McEachern and Tobias Graham into the run-on team.

The team started with the upper hand after strong carries from the front row forwards Sean Browne, Bailey Caplick and Connor McGuire, along with hard tackles from Outside backs, Jack Barton and Tobias Graham. The boys were looking hard to beat after an early try from edge forward Ollie Clements with Marist leading 6-0. However, after giving away too many penalties along with some unneeded dropped balls, Padua were able to tie up the game leading into halftime. With some important messages from coaches Sean, Ando and Whitey, Marist were ready to dominate the second half. It was a very even game in the second half with the first points being scored by Padua with only minutes to go. This lifted the spirits of the Marist boys, giving them a slim chance of coming back. However, they stayed calmed and motivated and forced an error off the restart. Last played was called and with the help of some nifty halves' movement from Jack Andrews and a lovely seed from Harry Condon, a quick catch and pass from Tobias sent Hamish McEachern to score in the corner to tie up the game.

All-round great effort from the boys to keep their premiership contention alive. Special Mentions go to Sean Browne, Ollie Clements, Tobias Graham and Zane Seeto who were commemorated for their outstanding efforts.

#### **Year 9 – MCA 24 def Pad 4**

Saturday presented a unique challenge for the year 9 league group with the opportunity to take on a strong opponent and fierce rival in Padua. From the warm up there was a steely and determined attitude and this was proven the case from the kick-off with our ever-reliable middles setting the tone up front. Strong defensive efforts created opportunities with the ball and through the direction of both halves we were able to cross over early.

Padua were strong in defence as well, with our physicality constantly being tested. The line speed from the edges allowed for minimal ball movement and was a real focus point in forcing Padua to play through the middle. Our outside backs and our interchange rotation played a really important part in stretching the defence and points flowed from there.

The coaching group were so pleased with the efforts of everyone involved and is a credit to the boys who continued to show up and push themselves through the uncertainty that the COVID outbreak had caused for the competition. Man of the match performances went to Isaac Roach with notable mentions to Nate Roberts, Lachlan McCall, Jai Jarro and Pat Anderson in particular.

A really positive start and we look forward to the upcoming challenges.

#### **Year 8 – Pad 30 def MCA 0**

The year 8 boys had a tough game up against the much more experienced and bigger Padua College Boys.

But in true college spirit the boys never gave up all game playing some tough footy and held their own in the middle and tackled well out wide. After the game the NRL representative said the Marist boys showed good courage and behaviour towards the opposition. Looking Forward to the challenge against Iona

#### **Year 7 – MCA 18 drew Pad 18**

The Round Four (4) clash with arch rivals Padua College promised to be “special” and it certainly delivered! Padua were big, strong and fast. From the opening whistle Padua were dominant.

Blessed with plenty of quality ball Padua quickly kicked out to a twelve (12) nil lead.

The signs were ominous.

Leaders (Captain) Jonah Wilde and Vice-Captain Jude Dearling undeterred went to work. Will Slater (Right Prop) and Archie Searle (Left Prop) lifted and started to open up the middle. With such effort came quality ball in good field position. Marist posted the next two tries to narrow the gap to only two (2) points leading into half-time-Padua 12-MCA 10.

Taking advantage of the depth of the playing squad numerous interchanges were implemented.

Oliver Searles (Right Prop-Interchange) immediately began to terrorise the opposition by consistently making brilliant post contact metres and posting a soul destroying try. His energy was infectious. MCA were on a roll. MCA 16-Padua 12. Padua looked gone!

However, there were to be a few more twists play out before the final hooter. Padua split our defence to score a long range try under the sticks! Conversion was successful-Padua 18-MCA 16.

One (1) minute to play. On the game restart Will Bagnall (Right Centre) using his Rugby League skill set was able to kick to advantage with Jonah Wilde able to regather. Thirty (30) seconds to play.

Turnover to Padua, the game looked lost. Diminutive Jude Dearling using his significant game awareness skills completed a one-on-one strip. MCA ball thirty-five (35) metres out from Padua's line. Fifteen (15) seconds to go. Last play of the game Padua infringe in the ruck and MCA are awarded a penalty. Thirty-five (35) metres out on a difficult angle Will Bagnall, steely eyed, stepped up to attempt a penalty kick that would draw the memorable match and keep the possibility of an AIC Rugby League premiership alive. Crowd hushed, many opinions were overheard-never in doubt-Will put the MCA STEEDEN over the MCA Blue and Gold dot! What a Game and a fitting result.  
Full-Time MCA 18-Padua 18

#### **Year 6 – Pad 42 def MCA 4**

After a couple of weeks away from the game, the Ashgrove boys were keen to get back into some competitive footy. However, a physically dominant performance from Padua in the first half and a large number of missed tackles by the home team meant that Ashgrove would be chasing points. Ashgrove came out and sought to improve their defence in the second half, with the first fifteen minutes seeing a much more committed effort from all players. Unfortunately for Ashgrove, Padua scored a number of late tries to come away with the win 42-4. Harry McAuliffe, Max Caughley, Harry Barden, Lachie Webster, and Phelix Meehan produced powerful attacking runs and strong defence. Man of the Match Harry McAuliffe.

#### **Year 5 – MCA 16 def Pad 12**

The 5As came up against a very strong Padua side on Saturday. Padua came out the gates firing and put the first points on the board within a few sets. The Marist middle led by Ned O'Donoghue and Tex Higginbotham muscled up and gave as good as they got against a strong Padua pack, gaining MCA the much-needed momentum. Some crafty shape and ball playing by Jack Davis allowed our outside backs to put on points throughout the game. However, it came down to the wire, and in a scintillating finish, after the siren, Tex Higginbotham pulled off a 1-on-1 strip, ran the length of the field and scored to win the game for Marist 16-12.