

Rugby Union – Around the Grounds Round 5

1st XV

A fast start led to a try in the right corner inside 3 minutes. The side paid a heavy price for the early try with an injury to Tasman Barry that saw him play no further part in the game. Consistent phase play and good field position saw controlled use of the ball, creating plenty of opportunities and testing a willing Iona defence. A solid first half saw Ashgrove go to the half time break with a 17 – 7 lead. Ky Rasleigh figured was threatening on the left edge combining with the elusive Dwayne Ludwick. Tate Cole continued to provide direction in attack and was rewarded with a fine try backing up through the middle. The forwards once again laid a sound platform for our attack with the front row (Harper, Gould & Wilson-Hodge) making good metres with their carriers, supported by accurate breakdown work from Valentine and Jack Condon providing clean service for Harry Condon at 9. Attacking, running rugby has become the hallmark of the side, impressing the 1st XV Old Boys of '61, '71 and '81 who'd gathered in the Cyprian with their style of play. Running out victors 36 – 19 was the fourth week in a row the side has scored more than 30 points in a game.

3rd XV

The undefeated 3rds beat their biggest rival Iona 32 to 0. Most impressively they did it as a team and in a calm and professional way. Best on ground Jessie O'Neil 3 points. Solid performances from Dan Drew and Sam Cheetham. The backs led by Ziggy and Nick were strong across the park. The forwards paved the way and Sam Waters was best and fairest in the victory sea shanty.

4th XV

In perfect game conditions the boys rolled out of the sheds ready to play. Unfortunately a bit of a stop start affair would then unfold, and we could not really get going as we wanted. Finding Iona defenders inches from your face became the norm, no matter how far behind the ad-line you stood. Together with hit and miss wins on the set piece, our opportunities were limited. Scrum attack can expect to see the abacus down at training this week so they can clearly understand the difference between the number 5 and the number 6.

In the point scoring we saw strong finishing from Eli Nichols on opportunities given bagging three tries out wide, two on the end of great lead up play from the mid field. In the forwards our Braden Querido stayed away from the cold tap, and just went all hot tap for his tackle busting two try efforts. Heads up fight from scrum half Angus Brown rounded out the 6 tries.

5th XV

The 9ths, 7ths and 5ths with some help from the 8ths boarders who were on a bye, travelled out to a frosty Banyo playing fields very early Saturday morning. One of the boys commented that they hadn't played as 'dewsweepers' since Under 10s. But nevertheless the lads banded together in the cold, supporting the 9ths to a good win, the 7ths to a nail biter until a very solid bench and loud tunnel cheered on the fighting fifths into battle against Padua's 3rds.

The Fifths were up against it from the start as Padua surprised them with an early try against the run of play in the third minute. The Ashgrove men plotted their response under the posts down 7 Nil.

It wasn't long until Rory Baker dummied successfully fooling the Padua defence and crossing with good support outside in the 8th minute. The fifths backline looked dangerous each time they spread it wide. Rory Baker converted his own try to tie up the game 7-7 in what would end up being a very long first half.

The hungry fifth's piggies worked tirelessly against a disciplined Padua pack who at times gave them cause for frustration. Tom 'Stevo' Stephens, always leading from the front rallied his forwards well. Captain James West fed his backline plenty of ball with Zac Brown again devastating when approaching the advantage line.

The ball finally made it to the wing for Ethan Willman to score from a very strong run from a set play running nearly half the length of the field under chase. The Ashgrove men had their nose in front just before the whistle blew for half time, the score 12-7. Ethan Schnaubelt had another great game playing wherever he was asked, becoming quite a strong member of the fifths attacking force.

This tale ends sadly with a Padua try early in the second half, as the men of the fifths set up camp on the Padua 22 for the remaining 20 minutes. Our lads threw everything at the wall of Brown and Gold but sadly were disallowed two tries in disappointing circumstances. This observer would like to compliment the standard of rugby that comes from this team. The fighting fifths have beaten Seconds Teams, and drawn against third Teams, all the while fighting tooth and nail to the final whistle. Each man did his job well and should walk tall and proud. They continue to play at the standard of a Thirds Team and hold each opponent to account every week. Well done lads!

6th XV

The 6th XV had an impressive game for the first game of the of the day on McMahan Oval for Old Boys day. Due to haunting rumours of the opposition (Iona 5ths) being an overpowered well-structured team, the boys had to switch on for the battle straight away at training. With an unreliable coach missing at training the boys had to prepare themselves. With some newly made plays and some new sneaky line out techniques the 6ths were ready for the challenge that awaited them on Saturday. On game day we were ready with the boys looking extremely presentable due to the help of Mr Caplick and Mr McPhee sending boys back to get the right shorts and socks. The walk down to the oval from the tower was the time to switch on. With a quick warm up and a heart-warming speech from coach Caplick and captain Ford, with the pregame psych-up comment from Mikey, the 6ths were ready for action. The magical kick-off by the mighty captain put the opposition under pressure and not so soon after Sam Carroll was over the line for the first try of many for the game. It was an excellent performance from all the boys with an 48-5 result, but a few special mentions go to Michael McClure, Corey Chalmers, Cadell Hendrikse and Hugh Ford for an outstanding game. The 6ths have plenty to work on although so it will be great for the coach to turn his unreliability around and make it to training so we can prepare for the mighty 8ths on Friday arvo. (written by Paddy Manning, spiritual leader of the 6th XV).

7th XV

7ths went down to Padua 10-12 in what was a game dominated by Ashgrove up until the last moments, holding a 10-5 lead. Full credit to the boys for this effort, with particular mention to Angus Bathe and forwards for their efforts pushing hard up the middle.

9ths

The cold and early 8am start was well with it on Saturday morning, after everything clicked into place for the last XV. Conceding an early try looked ominous however any doubts were quickly put to bed as we dominated possession of the footy and field position for the entire match. Highlight of the match was scoring off a 20-meter maul from the line out. Big thanks to boarders from the following games who sat the bench for us and gave our boys a rest when needed.

10C

The game was marred by some un-sportsmen-like play. There was some good strong performance from all over the park. With Pat Ryan scoring a lucky try from broken play and our lineouts were again very strong as we won all but one.

9A

The 9A rugby team started like a house on fire on the weekend. This was the best start that we had seen all year. Ashgrove immediately let Iona know that they would have to play at a different level if they were to match the Ashgrove side. Aggression at the breakdown was the key and this no doubt put doubt in the Iona player's minds.

Lachie McCall was a ball of enthusiasm and presence and appeared everywhere at the right time. Leo Henry's game management was first class and commented on by the Iona coach after the match. Taavi Upchurch was very strong in the middle and really made his presence felt. Joel Drew showed great footwork and dazzled the opposition with his change of direction. Finally, the 25 metre rolling maul was a sight to see.

This was a great team effort given the week camp and no training leading into the match. Well done to all.

9B

Saturday proved to be the 9B's biggest test of the season so far, the boys rocked up to an empty Hayden Oval for the first game of the morning with a positive and determined attitude. From the kick-off the team played tough rugby with the platform once again being established by our powerful forwards. Matt Gibson kicked off the point scoring proceedings with some 'eyes up' footy on the short side. Some strong defensive efforts from the likes of Sean Bright, Will Anderson and Bailey Scarce proved instrumental throughout the game with Bailey unfortunately knocking himself out in the process of making a try saving tackle following a strong attacking push from Iona. Nate Roberts lead by example and this was shown by a fantastic charge down try which continued momentum for the Marist boys. Our outside backs made some barnstorming runs with Jacob Harper an absolute standout with some full-field efforts.

Our loose forwards were destructive at the breakdown and allowed for a multitude of turnovers. The most pleasing thing from the day was the attitude of the boys, they understood the challenge in front of them and respected the opponents, they were unselfish with their play and it showed in the result. Overall a great team performance from the 9B's.

9C

The first real test of the season did not end well for the 9C squad. It was obvious from the get go that the team missed their training sessions this week due to camp and there may have also been some tired legs after what was an eventful week. The team started well with an early try to Rory O'Keefe, but went into the break down 14-7 after what was a spirited fight back from Iona. Iona put on another try early in the second half and although the boys were able to score a late try to make the scores 19-14, time ultimately ran out. Defensive organisation and ball handling were the major disappointments. You cannot expect to win when you make in excess of eight errors per half.

7A

After a fast start to the 7As game the Marist boys struggled to get out of their half and conceded a try early. They turned things around and dominated field position for the remainder of the half before gifting Iona a length of the field try to be down 14-0 at half time.

The MCA boys fought on extremely well and won the second half, but lost the game 19-10.

7C

A hard fought win in the end after a great first half which saw great tries from Ronan Hart(poetry in motion), Henry Waters (2 tries to announce his return) and Archie McCaskill (a blinder today!).

Luke Speedy chimed in with 3 conversions and his service to the backline gets better each game. There was some great defence on both sides but these Ashgroviaan men keep hitting the ball up and shifting it. The work horses of Harry Franklin, George Johnson, Aurelius Ferdinands and Ethan Bell put in another great effort to continually push the Iona team across the gain line.

The Iona team made the boys work hard in the second half but mention must be made of Luke Walker and Braydon Creek for their fantastic defence.

Harry Prole and Oscar Tully are irrepressible around the rucks but the rest of the team must keep with them – let's not make them feel lonely when they make a break!

James Milasis the Laidley import, once again showed his instinct for the game with a great final pass to Archie for an important try.