

ROUND 5 RUGBY LEAGUE MATCH REPORTS V IONA COLLEGE

Year 5 - 20-12 win

The boys travelled out to Iona in what was set to be a very physical game. The middle forwards started exceptionally with Connor O'Rourke and Nick Osborn laying a great platform which allowed for two early tries. Iona held on, however, and managed to answer with two tries of their own, leaving the game tied. Coming out of halftime the boys really switched on in defence and turned it into some silky attacking sets. Defence won the game and allowed the 5As to run away with the win 20 – 12.

YEAR 6 - 14-4 loss

A tightly contested match saw Iona come away with the win over the Year 6 Marist side 14 – 4. The focus of this week at training was defensive attitude, and Marist certainly took that into their game. Some great first-up physical contact from the forwards in the middle was the platform in keeping Iona in their own half for the majority of the match, however errors at unfortunate times allowed the field position needed for them to cross the line at different times through the match. The Year 6 team should certainly hold their heads up high, as although they didn't come away with the win, they were certainly in the contest for the entire 50 minutes. A huge congratulations to Finn McGahan who crossed for his first meat pie in the Marist colours, with, hopefully, many more to come. Player of the match was Harry McAuliffe for his constant effort in trying to create opportunities against a gritty Iona side.

YEAR 7 - 28-10 loss

The "Grand Final" for season 2021. Simple equation: Win the game, Win the premiership. Unfortunately, this season, it was not to be. Iona jumped out of the blocks racing to a 16-point lead in the blink of an eye. It was not looking good!

Most other teams would have pulled down the shutters and succumbed to defeat but not this team. Led by inspirational Captain Jonah Wilde, using his persuasive and articulate language skills, he rallied the boys who in turn responded and hit back with a vengeance by scoring the next two tries.

Half-time Iona College 16 MCA 10

The scene was set for a memorable second half. MCA enjoying an equal share of quality ball in good field position peppered the Iona line only to be denied in scoring by being held up for what could have led to equalisers. With only minutes to go, and against the run of play, Iona were able to score two long range tries which were duly converted extinguishing all chance of a memorable MCA victory.

The final score Iona 28 MCA 10. Result did not reflect the closeness of the game.

Thank you to:

Will Michelmore - Assistant Coach

Ari Higginbotham (Injured): for your attendance at the game and support of your mates. Your playing involvement was missed. Hopefully, back for the final Round v St Patrick's Shorncliffe

Liam Shay Team Manager, Jim Bradford Team Manager, Toby Forbes Water Carrier, Isaac Mc Donnell Scorer, James Milasis Kicking tee, and all Year 7 MCA Boarders for once again giving up your Saturday morning (Game Day) in support of your school mates.

Anna, Mother of Archie Barrett, for the continued supply and delivery of bananas/apples prior to training each and every Thursday afternoon. This has become a highlight of the Thursday training session.

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 games. Your enthusiastic support is greatly appreciated.

YEAR 8 - 36-0 loss

The year 8 boys had a hard day at the office, All the boys tried hard and were not afraid to put their bodies on the line for their Mates. Theo Knight and Jamie Moyes lead the way all day. In the backs Ollie Millard and Harry Graham tried hard at every opportunity. With the bye this week the boys should be firing on all 8 cylinders for the last round against St Pats.

YEAR 9 - 22-0 win

The year nines coming off a comprehensive victory against Padua again impressed in a dominant performance against a tough Iona team. The defence led by the forwards in particular Pat Anderson and Ryan Johnson was a class above and kept Iona scoreless. The attack although clunky at times was helped by the individual brilliance of Isaac Roache who multiple times showed why he is a threat with the ball from any position on the field. Ultimately winning 22 to nil the year nines continue their unbeaten season and look forward to the final game of the season.

YEAR 10 - 20-10 loss

Rd 5 at Iona, the premiership game. There were three undefeated teams in the comp heading into this week, however, this were to narrow down to one after this round. For the Ashgrove boys, they were playing their premiership game against a tough and competitive Iona team. As soon as the ref blew his whistle to begin the game, the boys were fired up and were playing some great footy. An early try in the first 10 minutes through Atticus Armstrong put Ashgrove ahead. The first half was a hard 25 minutes for both teams with only one try being scored. The Marist boys came into half time bloody and bruised, proving to their coaches Whitey and Ando they were determined to win this game. Though, the second half was not to be for the Marist boys with Iona crossing the line 4 times in the second half and Marist only once. The Iona boys were too fast and big to stop.

All round a fantastic effort from the year 10 boys, special mentions to Jack Andrews, George Wood, Bailey Caplick, Tobias Graham and Atticus Armstrong who played outstanding games.

2nd XIII - 10-10 draw

The boys have been building nicely in previous game wins to put a complete performance together V a fancied Iona side. Our philosophy has been kept to the simplest, one-word EFFORT. And effort has been the most pleasing aspect of this team.

Our starting forwards Reggie, Jimmy, Angus, Gilbert and Johnno carted the ball forward strongly and won the ruck giving Rory the chance to catch markers out. Our halves Chastyn and Oscar controlled the game nicely with some good direction and getting to the kick. It wasn't long before our electric backline got some early ball off the back of a tackle bust and we were over under the posts. A conversion saw a 6-0 lead.

We haven't been strong previously in completing our sets after a try but on Saturday saw that habit abolished with the boys finding some good rhythm, again finding their fronts and getting some quick play the balls. Our Captain Clancy, Dan Witt, Jimmy Prince and Brady Collins all took strong carries out of our half and were super safe on kick returns. Jimmy again proved hard to handle making several post contact metres.

It wasn't long before we were over again but unfortunately we missed the conversion, making it 10-0. We definitely have the best bench in the competition with our super subs making an immediate impact when injected into the game.. Frankie, Scott, Jove, Ishy and Jackson were all strong.. Jackson Tallis made one of the best scoots we've seen from him and Frankie "the axe" was cutting boys down at the knees like it was no one's business.

To Iona's credit they kept turning up and responded with a somewhat soft try with a simple case of big body v little body close to the line.

Unfortunately our flashy fullback Munny went down to an ankle injury and Iona took advantage of a lapse in concentration and were next score out wide after they scooted through some fatigued defence but failed to convert which levelled it up at 10 all..

A big portion of the second half saw a real battle and the boys went to war. Iona threw everything they had at the blue wall but failed to find a weakness and the effort in this area was outstanding.

We had a couple of missed opportunities on our line and came painfully close to scoring a match winner but just couldn't put the icing on the cake..

Our Man of The Match went to Dan Witt because he was everywhere and in everything and never shied away from the hard stuff.

The boys really need to be commended on their commitment to development and eagerness to learn. Well done boys!

1st XIII - 24-14 loss

After being defeated by Padua last week every game the Marist 1st XIII played for the rest of the season was effectively a grand-final. This made the game against Iona on Saturday especially important and the boys were ready for a big game.

After a delayed kick-off and disrupted warm up the Marist players put that behind them and made a great start to the game. A dropped bomb gave Connor Lyons a chance to cross for the opening try. This was followed by 2 more tries and a half time lead of 14-0.

The second half started really well for the boys in the gold chevrons as Tasman Barry made a 40m break off the kick-off and it seemed it was going to be a good day for Marist.

Unfortunately, that is where the joy ended for Marist 1st XIII. Poor discipline and a lack of resilience when things did not go their way caused the Marist players to lose their way. Iona turned things around, and with some luck and clever play they toppled the MCA team 24-14.