

Hi Everyone,

Well that was fun

Saturday was another wonderful day in Sydney to bring down the curtain on the winter sports program. A very busy day at Hunters Hill with 38 rugby games and 16 football games – predominantly against Riverview. A crowd of around 5,500 rolled into the Park for the afternoon games which created a wonderful atmosphere and experience for the boys. The 14Gs drew the short straw this week and was the only team playing away from home – unfortunately they had an unsuccessful mission to Centennial Park.

The results for the day are attached. Below is what I have gleaned from the statistics and other information that I have come across. Due to the nature of the day, I was based at SJC No 1 for the entire day.

Rugby Summary

- The most successful day of the season with strong results across all age groups. At the end of an arduous campaign, our boys “ran through the finish line rather than just reaching the finish line” – an endorsement of the dedication and care of our coaches and support staff.
- The games were much closer this week with the boys enjoying the challenge. When I asked one boy how his team went, he said “Sir we only won by a few points but it was the most enjoyable game of the season.” Although the going was tougher, the boys certainly rose to the challenge.
- All games (excluding internals): played 36; won 32; drew 1; lost 3.
- Games against Riverview: played 32; won 29; drew 1; lost 2.
- A total of 1,088 points were scored throughout the day at an average of 28.6 points per match. Again, defence set the platform for many victories – only 564 points were conceded at an average of 14.8 points per match.
- First XV closed out the season with a stunning 42-33 victory over Riverview. Down 7-19 at half time and trailing 7-26 with 27 minutes remaining, the boys stormed home with tries in the 44th, 53rd, 65th, 67th and 70th minutes. The victory was memorable and greatly appreciated by all in attendance – I have rarely seen such excitement at a sporting event. The Year 7 boys were cheering extra hard after the 1st XV made a surprise visit to the Year 7 dorm on Friday night. Some happy boys in the photo below.



- Second XV avenged the close 10-11 loss to Riverview in the trial earlier in the season with a strong 28-15 win. The boys thoroughly enjoyed their last game and played some quality rugby.
- The 3rd XV had a scare but eventually prevailed with a 19-13 win over Riverview to secure the GPS 3rd XV premiership. The defibrillator was unpacked as the boys gave the coaches plenty of stress in a sometimes undisciplined performance. Nevertheless, the boys refused to entertain any thoughts of defeat and defended stoutly throughout the second half to confirm themselves as a champion team.
- The Opens and 16s were the most successful age groups – excluding internals, all teams in both age groups were undefeated. The Opens scored 421 points and conceded 140 points while the 16s scored 176 points and only conceded 113 points. Honourable mention to the 15s, 14s and 13s who only lost one match each.
- The most dominant team of the day was again the 5th XV who ran in 12 tries on SJC No 1 to record a 74-0 win against Riverview. They have an obvious liking for SJC No 1 – scoring an 81-0 victory the previous Saturday. There is no truth to the rumour that some of the boys were seen digging up some of the turf to plant in their backyards. Below is a photo of the 5th XV boys following their undefeated season.



- The 13s had their best day of the season securing 6 wins out of the 7 games played – they have worked hard all season and the results are well deserved. This will be a great platform for next year.

- The game of the day was an easy selection this week – the 1st XV win over Riverview as described above. Below is a photo showing the boys arm-in-arm in support of the team as they chased down the Riverview lead.



- The lucky number this week is 19 – it appeared 8 times on the scoresheet. The supplementary number is 17 – it appeared 4 times in the results of the games in the 13s age group.

Football Summary

- The football boys had a tough day against Riverview which is regarded as a strong football college with 24 teams.
- Played 14; won 2; drew 1; lost 9; unavailable 2. The 14A and 14B games were played as friendlies.
- First XI and second XI tried hard but were outclassed by Riverview – 0-5 and 1-4 respectively.
- Third XI were outstanding again with a 2-1 win, as were the 4th XI who won 1-0.
- The 16As secured a 1-1 draw.
- My favourite team, the mighty 13Ds must have been desperately unlucky in their 0-3 loss which brought their 4 game winning streak to an end. I'm still on the bandwagon for next season!!

What's Trending on Twitter?

JoeysRugby twitter went into meltdown on Saturday afternoon with great interest in the progress of the boys:

- Activity peaked during 1st XV where regular update scores were being viewed by over 2,000 people.
- The most popular tweet was the 1st XV final score which was viewed by 2,845 people, was “liked” 54 times and “retweeted” 8 times.
- The comments were favourable with the following online support:
 - “Bring it home boys”
 - “Well done JoeysRugby!! I am not an old boy but that was one of the best examples of never giving up I have seen on a sporting field - #tenacity”
 - “Boys that is called resilience! So proud! So happy!”
- Second XV weren't forgotten with their final score being viewed 2,430 times.
- The 14B team was also popular with 2,399 people viewing a photo of the team following their 19-10 victory to remain undefeated for the season.

End of Season Wrap

Below is a brief summary of the season for each sport.

1. Rugby

✓ Total Teams:	41
✓ Total Games:	425
✓ Number of Colleges Played:	23
✓ Points For (all games):	13,215
✓ Points Against (all games):	6,414
✓ GPS Competition Rounds Win Ratio:	81.7%
✓ Most Successful Age Group (GPS Win%):	Opens – 89.2% 15s – 83.8%
✓ Best Attacking Team:	15D – 538 points (11 matches) 5 th XV – 537 points (11 matches)
✓ Best Defensive Team:	5 th XV – 45 points (11 matches) 15C – 48 points (10 matches)
✓ Biggest Win:	11 th XV vs Kings 8 th XV – won 101-0 15D vs Shore – won 102-7
✓ Most Tries:	Ben Muirhead (Year 12) 22 tries (11 th XV: 18 tries; 9 th XV: 4 tries)
✓ Undefeated (All Games):	4 th XV, 5 th XV, 6 th XV 16D 15C 14B



The undefeated 14Bs after their 19-10 win.

- ✓ Undefeated (GPS Rounds): 3rd XV, 4th XV, 5th XV, 6th XV, 7th XV, 9th XV, 11th XV, 12th XV
16A, 16B, 16D
15B, 15C, 15D, 15G
14B, 14E
13D



The 15Ds after their 14-5 win against Reddam House. Undefeated in GPS competition rounds.



The 15Gs after their 25-10 win against St Patrick's 15C. Undefeated in GPS competition rounds.

- ✓ Team of the Year: 5th XV (Coaches: Pat O'Shea and Chris Hanon)
 - Played: 11
 - Won: 11
 - Points For: 537 (second best attacking team in the College – 1 point behind the 15Ds)
 - Points Against: 45 (best defensive team in the College)
 - Current winning streak: 49 games
 - Undefeated since 3 May 2014 when they were defeated by St Pius 1st XV (12-19)
- ✓ GPS Competition:
 - 1st XV finished in third position with 3 wins and 2 narrow losses. Scots were undefeated premiers
 - 2nd XV finished in second position with 3 wins. Scots were undefeated premiers.
 - 3rd XV were undefeated premiers with 7 wins. Armidale ran second.
- ✓ Pennant Winning Teams (22):
 - Opens: 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th and 12th XV
 - 16s: A, B, C, D, F
 - 15s: B, C, D, F, G
 - 14s: B, E
 - 13s: D
- ✓ Followers on Joeys Rugby Twitter: 1,445

2. Football

- ✓ Total Teams: 16
- ✓ Total Games: 154
- ✓ Goals For (all games): 215
- ✓ Goals Against (all games): 380
- ✓ All Games Win Ratio: 42.5%
- ✓ Biggest Win: 13C vs High – won 10-0
13D vs Scots – won 10-1
- ✓ Most Goals: Paddy Walsh (Year 7) 18 goals
(13D: 13 goals 13C: 5 goals)
- ✓ GPS Competition:
 - 1st XI finished in equal fourth position with Kings. They recorded 3 wins and 1 draw. Riverview and Newington were joint premiers.
 - 2nd XI finished in sixth position with 1 win and 3 draws. Riverview were premiers.
- ✓ Pennant Winning Teams (2):
 - 3rd XI, 4th XI

3. AFL

The AFL had a presentation BBQ on Saturday morning where Mr Tarlinton presented the season awards. Statistics and awards were as follows:

- ✓ Total Games: 9
- ✓ Won: 6
- ✓ Lost: 3
- ✓ Finished the season equal 3rd out of 11 teams
- ✓ Points For: 613
- ✓ Points Against: 441
- ✓ Ratio: 139.0 %
- ✓ Awards
 - Best and Fairest Player Nicholas Lees (Year 11)
 - Most Improved Player Benjamin Clark (Year 12)
 - Most Consistent Player William Burton (Year 11)
 - Coaches Award William Gibbs (Year 9)
 - Players Player Nicholas Lees (Year 11)
 - Most Goals 19 – Jack Dillon
 - Best Player (Coach/Player votes) Nicholas Lees

With 17 players returning next year, the AFL team is looking to further improve their standing in the competition.

4. Student Helpers

I would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by the following students.

Match Day Assistants

Angus McDonald (Year 11) and William Coffey (Year 9) would play their games each Saturday and rush back to SJC No 1 for a 4 to 6 hour shift involving operation of the scoreboard, time keeping, collection/collation of scores for all rugby and football games, and other tasks requiring completion throughout the day. Danny Stucci (Year 7) was unable to play any sport following knee surgery. Danny was keen to make a contribution and happily came along and provided his services as a match day assistant for each home game. The boys were often exhausted at the end of the day and I thank them for their efforts during the season. A photo of the boys appears below. Left to right: Angus McDonald, William Coffey, Danny Stucci.



Year 7 Angels

Each home game, a group of Year 7 students would be patiently waiting in the grandstand on SJC No 1 for my 7.00am arrival. They would then spend the next 45 minutes helping to set up the grounds, scoreboard, seating area and video box for the upcoming day. They would then disappear to play their respective matches. A huge effort to get out of bed early on a winter morning and I thank them for their dedication and happy disposition. Nothing was ever a problem and they always wanted to know if there was anything else they could do. Following are some photos of the boys from Saturday morning.



Ground Maintenance Crew: Tom Arthur, Henry Kennedy and Sam McMahon



Putting out signs, flags and corner posts: Sam Armstrong



Video Box Ready to Go: Tom Arthur, Sam McMahon and Henry Kennedy

From The Vault – The Reveal

The winner of the Freddo frog from last week was Mr Tarlinton who correctly identified yours truly in the top left hand corner. Apologies to Jeremy Ticehurst who was “identified” in the photo by one respondent.

A little bit of history about the Marist Brothers in Grafton:

- The Marist Brothers established St Aloysius College in 1965 – a year 6 to 10 boys’ college. The Sisters of Mercy ran a year 7 to 10 girls college on a separate campus
- Holy Spirit College – a year 11 and 12 coeducational college – was opened in 1973. The College was in the joint care of the Marist Brothers and Sisters of Mercy. Students from St Aloysius College and St Mary’s College moved to Holy Spirit College for year 11 and 12.
- The Marist Brothers celebrated 25 years in Grafton in 1989.
- The three Catholic colleges amalgamated into one single college in 1990. The college was named Catherine McCauley College and became a diocesan college. I understand the Marist Brothers departed Grafton at this time.

Well that is all. I hope you have enjoyed the weekly updates and found them of interest and use, whether it be for your own personal reading or for communication to the parents and/or boys.

I hope to see you around the cricket fields during the summer where things move at a much more leisurely pace. I hope to be back next winter.

Many thanks.

David.