

# Memo

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**To:** SPC Rugby Club  
**DATE:** 6/8/2014  
**RE:** Arrangements this week  
**From:** Mr Leigh McKee. Director of Rugby

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## **Under 13 Match Report – Fr James Kerr SPC 21 def MC19 August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

In last week's match report I deliberately didn't name any best players or single out any outstanding individuals, not because there were none to name but because I didn't want our boys to lose sight of the fundamental importance of their own performances: Rugby is a team game and therefore only a team can win a game of rugby. We have seen throughout the season that outstanding individual efforts can keep the team in the game. Because of the efforts of a few we have been competitive all season. We only managed to win however when the whole team stood up and every individual player became accountable.

Our first half on Saturday was a perfect demonstration of this. We were hoping to carry through the really positive development in focus and attitude from the week before when we came to see the brilliant rugby this team is capable of. Unfortunately this was far from the case. Our forwards were really very poor in their work at the break down. A team cannot maintain possession without controlling the rucks. Our forwards continually let Marcellin have first hands on the ball and so we lost the ball again and again putting massive pressure on our defence. We were really very lucky to come into half time only two points down, largely down to the outstanding efforts of Sean Antrobus who managed to make several try saving tackles as well as scoring two tries himself.

Thankfully though, after a clear rebuke from myself, and an even clearer rebuke from Mr Porter, the forwards began to assert their presence in the game and we began to see some of the great rugby this team is capable of. Marcellin were able to score another try on us out wide to take a nine point lead but our boys responded well and took back control of the game. Special mention must go to our front rowers. I was really impressed with how Rhys Elliot lifted his performance after being pulled off in the first half. On returning to the pitch he played a key role in the rucks which I can see will be a strong part of his game going forward into next year. Mitch Hammond and Jacob Dalton began to barge their way into the opposition defensive line, drawing in several tacklers and putting Marcellin on the back foot. Some more brilliant running from Sean saw him score another try, which Kiel did well to convert, and then some really smart thinking from Tarquin Schreenan saw us score another try off the back of a scrum. Suddenly, the whistle was blown and our boys had escaped with a win. **Final score 19-21.** A great way to finish the season.

Our two try scorers both had outstanding games. I was very impressed again with the efforts of Ambrose Haddon in the backs and was really pleased with the development of Colby Veal playing at scrumhalf. His reliable ball delivery to the first receiver helped us move the ball much more freely in attack. Cooper Craig-Peters and Nick Sprattling were very courageous. Both were playing with illness but were still able to assert themselves into the game. Hugh McDonald continues to grow as a player, Riley Williams continued to labour at the break down. What really made me happy though was seeing Zac put his shoulder into some rucks!

This team at its best is capable of beating any other school boy rugby team in the state. Our final two wins were against teams we had lost to earlier this season. It is not

unrealistic therefore to aim to win every game next season and to carry that winning record through right up to the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. We have the numbers. We have the ability and the heart. We just need the focus and the discipline.

### **U/16 Match report (Mr McKee)**

#### **St Patrick's College 26 lost to Carey Baptist Grammar School 38**

Carey were only able to field 12 players for this game and no front row so we went into the game with uncontested scrums and 8 players on the bench.

This makes coaching difficult because you are trying to win a game but having to take players off, who are doing well, so that everyone can get a run. It messes with the players rhythm, team structure and the balance of the side as players are often playing out of position.

Our intensity and effort for the first was brilliant, probably the best I have seen in 2014. We were running at the opposition with pace, controlling the breakdown and coming off the defensive line with speed and aggression, however any frailties with one on one defence will be exposed as the amount of space will limit support arriving to the initial tackle. While we have improved in this area of our game it is very apparent that players will need to work hard on this area of their game if they want to be a member of the first XV next year. Carey made numerous line breaks, leading to tries due to missed tackles.

Positives were not hard to find this week, our forwards led by Mitch Fowler, Sean Howard and Duncan Spedding were brilliant in their intensity and ferocity and they looked incredibly dangerous every time we had the ball in hand. Their lineout also functioned really.

The backs have been steadily improving week in week out and their ball handling and run was much better. Harry Bogers and Lachie Dewar played great games and Liam McIntosh was almost unstoppable at fullback, he made some great covering tackles and gained valuable metres every time he ran.

So with forwards and backs both working well how did we lose this game? The individual accountability at the tackle has already been mentioned but the communication, or lack of it, between the pack and the backline often meant that we had great structure set but failed to capitalise because players failed to communicate this or failed to honour the call coming from the halfback or number 10.

A disappointing way to finish the season but I hope that all of the boys enjoyed their year and that we will see them all back on the track in February.

### **1<sup>st</sup> XV Match report (Mr Mike Silcock)**

#### **St Patrick's College 1stXV vs. Carey Baptist Grammar School (02/08)**

#### **Fulltime – 95-0 (HT 45-0)**

Try Scorer/s: Nicholas Donghi (5), Dyvontae Tippett (2), Kobe Travers (3), Jackson Hillier (2), Daniel Briggs (2), Nathan Stevens, Billy Sullivan (2), Tom Plover, Alex Kerr

First of all it must be acknowledged how grateful we were for Carey playing this fixture. Some would argue that this would surely be a given but with three forfeits

already this season, two at home, we were not hopeful that the game would go ahead. Carey showed resolve and put up a resilient defence for the entirety of the game.

Even leading into this game our attention has been on next Saturday's Grand Final rematch with Marcellin. As a coach it is rare to shift the focus from what is in front of you but given the dynamics of this year's 1stXV Division II competition that is simply the case. The question of how to beat Marcellin is fixed in our minds and today's performance certainly provided more answers than questions. Training this past week was not as committed as we would have liked but, to a certain degree, this is a result of the lack of game time and the strength of the opposition. However the time for making excuses is over and this coming week we need to be fully focussed on the job in hand.

A pre-match decision to not take conversions was deliberate and simply a desire for more game time. The scoreline reflects a dominant performance in all aspects of our game. Our defence was not tested and this shall certainly need to be a focus going into training but, at times, the running rugby in attack was breathtaking to watch. Close interplay between forwards and backs, strong ball running, dominating breakdown play all underpinned the overall game.

It would be difficult to comment on each try scored and although the individual tries of many would wow the crowd it was the team efforts that were most pleasing from a coach's perspective.

Congratulations must go to Jackson Hillier, Tom Plover and Alex Kerr for scoring their first tries in a 1stXV jersey and mention must also go to the captaincy of Daniel Briggs who kept the team focussed throughout. At halftime I stressed the need for "ruthless efficiency" – we got very close to this.

### **Grand Final.**

Good luck to the 1<sup>st</sup> XV who take on Marcellin this weekend.

### **Bus**

A bus will take players and coaches to the game, family of the 1<sup>st</sup> XV will have first access on a first come first served basis, any spare seats will then be offered to other SPC students or supporters again on a first come first served basis.

### **Parking**

A message from TIC at Geelong Grammar

*Buses*

*Please instruct Coach Drivers to park in the School Bus Bay at the entrance to the School rather than at the Handbury Wellbeing Centre. Same applies to parents and spectators.*

<b>TEAM:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> XV</b>	<b>U/16</b>	<b>U/14</b>	<b>U/13</b>
<b>OPPONENT:</b>	Marcellin College			
<b>VENUE:</b>	Geelong Grammar School. Biddlecombe Ave Corio			
<b>MELWAYS REF:</b>	224 K5			
<b>BUS DEPARTS:</b>	8:30			
<b>RETURNS SPC:</b>	4:30 approx			
<b>KICK OFF:</b>	11:30			
<b>COACH/TEACHER:</b>	Mr Mike Silcock Mr Jamie Graham Mr Ross Wise Mr Leigh McKee			