

Rugby Highlights & Results for GPS Round 3 v the Scots College

● Top 5 Riverview Rugby Highlights of the Round – Sat 31 May

1. Outstanding Overall Performance Against Scots

Across all grades playing The Scots College in their designated divisions, we recorded an excellent day of results. We only lost 3 games to teams in the same division, and 2 others were against Scots teams from higher divisions than SIC. This is a substantial improvement from previous years, where we often dropped more than 10 games against Scots across a round. The result speaks to the continued rugby development and resilience of our boys, and to the outstanding preparation by our coaches. The program is in good shape.

2. Last-Minute Thrillers from Our 13A and 13B Teams

The 13A and 13B teams gave everything to secure wins in the dying minutes of their games! Down on Field 1C in the middle of the day, solid crowds saw two clutch performances that thrilled the sideline parents and demonstrated great maturity for our Year 7 boys. After just three rounds this year, our 13A and 13B teams have already accumulated more stirring wins than the U13 age group did across the previous season. That is an enormous testament to their coaches and a strong work ethic and enjoyment that's clear to see. It's always a challenging age-group for us as they come out of primary school, but this year's crop of Year 7's are travelling nicely.

3. 2nd XV Remains Undefeated and Top of the Ladder

The 2nd XV had a tough 17-17 draw but seemed to be consistently chasing the scoreboard from behind in a thrilling 2pm encounter on First Field. Mr Koen and Mr Rorke's young men showed great resilience to stay in the contest and as a result, still sit equal on the 2nd XV GPS competition leaderboard! The 2nds are playing consistent, controlled, and confident rugby under the leadership of Year 10 student Tom Symons. Tom embodies the Latin "Facta Verba". He leads and plays his rugby with deeds not words. He is gaining admiration across the Opens age-group. The 2nd XV have become a key team to watch each Saturday, with some very gutsy displays.

4. Acknowledging the Quiet Contributor – James Bairamian

Much of what makes a rugby program successful happens behind the scenes, and one standout in Open's area is Year 12 student James Bairamian. James turned up early to coordinate the 3rd XV for their away fixture at Centennial Park versus the Sydney Boys 1st XV, and didn't stop working until the final pack-up well into the long-shadows of the early evening. Whether it's assisting with gear, supporting other staff, or quietly getting things done, James embodies our core Jesuit value of being a *man for others*. We thank him sincerely for his contribution to the culture of our Riverview Rugby Program.

5. The Tireless Work of Our Coaching Staff

Across every age group and grade, our coaches continue to go above and beyond. Team preparation, tactical planning, individual feedback, 'doing the extras' and weekly communication with students and families require significant effort. And this is done in the face of high expectations from the boys and parents alike. Sometimes, external pressure can become unfair when it assumes that results reflect coaching alone, rather than acknowledging the strength of the opposition or the natural ups and downs of each boy's development. We

thank every single coach in our program for their enthusiasm, their effort, and their care in helping our young men improve, not just as players, but as good Riverview men.

A Note on Conduct – Under 16's Age Group

While the tone of the day on Saturday was overwhelmingly positive, there were some behavioural concerns in the Under 16's cohort and the matches we took part in, that need addressing. Rugby at Riverview is the heartbeat of the winter program and so important for the boys to express themselves, to compete, learn team spirit, and face the challenges they'll no doubt face outside of the Saint Ignatius' gates. Rugby at Riverview is **not** just about winning. It is about the way we carry ourselves in the blue and white, the *way* we play, how we respond under pressure, and the character we demonstrate regardless of the result at the final whistle. No-one ever remembers the score, but the way we behave leaves a lasting impression. This moment serves as an important reminder to every player in the program that our standards matter. Whether we win, lose or - like the poor old 2nds, draw a tight match, what matters most is the respect we show to our opponents, to the referees, to the coaches, to our wonderful parents, and to our teammates. This bedrock of respect and maturity – the eye on the greater good, must never waiver, while we're in Riverview colours.

Final Thoughts

This round showed us that we are moving in the right direction as Riverview Rugby Program; physically, technically, and culturally. We are attending training in greater numbers, we are becoming more competitive across grades, more resilient in pressure moments, and more connected in our approach to the game. Thank you to all staff, players, families who make each round of rugby possible. And a special final thanks to the supporters who have created such a great atmosphere on opposition campuses and down at First Field come the later games on Saturday afternoon. It's inspirational and long may it continue!

Sincerely
Nick Bousie, Rugby Program Head

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(Results table on next page)

| Team | Opposition | Riverview | Opposition | Result |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------|--------|
| 1st XV | Scots 1 st XV | 27 | 10 | WIN |
| 2nd XV | Scots 2 nd XV | 17 | 17 | DRAW |
| 3rd XV | Sydney Boys 1 st XV | 31 | 0 | WIN |
| 4th XV | Scots 4 th XV | 17 | 22 | LOSS |
| 5th XV | Scots 5 th XV | 32 | 12 | WIN |
| 6th XV | Sydney Boys 2 nd XV | 33 | 5 | WIN |
| 7th XV | Scots 6 th XV | 22 | 5 | WIN |
| 8th XV | Sydney Boys 3 rd XV | 70 | 5 | WIN |
| 9th XV | Scots 7 th XV | 22 | 5 | WIN |
| 10th XV | Scots 8 th XV | 24 | 19 | WIN |
| 11th XV | Scots 9 th XV | 24 | 15 | WIN |
| 16A XV | Scots 16A | 31 | 7 | WIN |
| 16B XV | Sydney Boys 16A | 80 | 0 | WIN |
| 16C XV | Scots 16C | 42 | 7 | WIN |
| 16D XV | Scots 16D | 71 | 7 | WIN |
| 16E XV | Scots 16E | 66 | 0 | WIN |
| 16F XV | Waverley 16D | 7 | 26 | LOSS |
| 16G XV | St Patrick's 16C | 48 | 7 | WIN |
| 16H XV | Sydney Boys 16B | 20 | 55 | LOSS |
| 15A XV | Scots 15A | 17 | 10 | WIN |
| 15B XV | Newington 15A | 64 | 5 | WIN |
| 15C XV | Kings 15C | 48 | 15 | WIN |
| 15D XV | Sydney Boys 15A | 5 | 15 | LOSS |
| 15E XV | Scots 15B | 12 | 17 | LOSS |
| 15F XV | St Augustine's 15E | 21 | 10 | WIN |
| 15G XV | Sydney Boys 15B | 50 | 5 | WIN |
| 14A XV | Scots 14A | 0 | 52 | LOSS |
| 14B XV | Scots 14B | 10 | 17 | LOSS |
| 14C XV | Scots 14C | 29 | 10 | WIN |
| 14D XV | Sydney Boys 14A | 22 | 10 | WIN |
| 14E XV | BYE | BYE | BYE | BYE |
| 14F XV | Scots 14E | 25 | 5 | WIN |
| 13A XV | Scots 13A | 26 | 19 | WIN |
| 13B XV | Scots 13B | 26 | 19 | WIN |
| 13C XV | Scots 13C | 20 | 12 | WIN |
| 13D XV | Sydney Boys 13A | 81 | 0 | WIN |
| 13E XV | Scots 13D | 0 | 77 | LOSS |