



2010 CONFRATERNITY RUGBY LEAGUE CARNIVAL



Hosted by
Clairvaux MacKillop College

Left: Cousins Bert (left) and Ted Whap were Players of the Matches as Abergowrie started the Carnival in style with big wins over Rocky Grammar and St Edmunds I.

ABERGOWRIE, PADUA, IGNATIUS PARK & ST MARYS GRAB MAXIMUM POINTS TO THROW DOWN GAUNTLET

ABERGOWRIE, Padua, Ignatius Park and St Mary's Colleges stood tallest on Day 1 of the 2010 Confraternity Carnival hosted by Clairvaux MacKillop College yesterday, each notching the maximum 12 points from their two matches to emerge as the leading contenders for the Division 1 title.

Abergowrie kicked off with a tough 28-10 victory over Rockhampton Grammar, but they then turned on the power to white-wash St Edmund's I 50-0.

Padua did not concede a point in accounting for St Mary's II and a gallant but outplayed Clairvaux, both by 28-0 scorelines, while Ignatius Park hit the ground running, blitzing St Patrick's Mackay 36-4, before also trouncing St Brendan's II.

St Mary's Toowoomba also put St Brendan's II to the sword 42-0, then outgunned St Patrick's Mackay 28-6.

Abergowrie were the only team to notch a half-century of points in one match, and while livewire backs, centre Javid Bowen and winger Ephraim Claudie each bagged doubles, they were both beaten for the Man of the Match by captain and electrifying halfback Ted Whap, who had been pipped for the award earlier in the day by his cousin and five-eighth Bert Whap.

A delighted Coach Wayne Wood, an "old boy" of the college, said they "stuck to their game plan".

"It was really good. We did not attend Confro last year—we had the year off after 20-odd years because we felt the boys were not ready but they have worked hard and are ready now," Wood said.

"We prepared by playing as a school in the local under-18 club competition and got them accustomed to tough football. We are second on the ladder right up top amongst it and we have carried it on."

Wood said Ted Whap was "unlucky" to be beaten by Bert for the gong in their first match, but he really turned it on against St Edmund's to take control.

"But we have got a great forward pack and a lot of the forwards really stood up -lock Richard Pandia was brilliant too, as was prop Elijah Harro. Also centre Javid Bowen has got a lot of potential and a lot of speed and is really starting to hit form now."

What makes Abergowrie's 50-point haul the more note-worthy is that St Edmund's were coming off a good 20-4 victory over Cathedral College, but try as they may, they simply had no answer to the Ingham school's brilliance.

Abergowrie should finish on top of Pool D because their final round match this morning is against the point-less Cathedral.

Rocky Grammar bounced back in the afternoon, disposing of Cathedral 36-6 with double to second rower Griffin Freeman and interchange player James McLachlan and centre James Royes their Man of the Match.



STARS OF THE SHOW: (Left) Second rower Jake Salomone and Centre Tom Whyte were Players of the Matches for Padua, while (right) front rower Tama Heka and five-eighth Jack Madden played leading hands for St Brendan's I.

ROCK-SOLID DEFENCE TO HOLD PADUA IN GOOD STEAD

PADUA College looms as Brisbane's best hope of clinching the Confraternity Shield after two impressive wins to start the carnival yesterday, not conceding a point along the way in two 28-0 victories, including delivering a potentially fatal blow to the title dreams of hosts Clairvaux MacKillop.

There was nothing flashy about their first-up victory over St Mary's Toowoomba II, while Clairvaux delighted their boisterous home crowd with hooker Mitchell Moore their stand-out in a good 22-16 win against St Augustine's.

But then try as they may, Clairvaux simply could not crack an impenetrable defence of their city cousins who racked up five four-pointers, with captain and centre Tom Whyte putting the icing on a Man of the Match performance with the last try.

Nuggety second rower Jake Salomone had taken out the award against St Mary's but long-time coach Scott Maguire said every player contributed in two robust team performances.

"They were two good wins on the back of a very good defence, two duck-eggs (0 points) - our goal was to concentrate on defence - I knew we had enough in us to score points and defence was our number one goal and we obviously achieved that," said Maguire, an uncompromising defender himself during his distinguished playing career.

"Tom (Whyte) and vice-captain (and lock) Adam Genninges led the way for us - Tom defended very strongly, especially in the second game, and Adam was also very strong - they didn't make any mistakes and did the job as leaders of the team.

"Hooker Ben Nielsen was also really good, and so was halfback Jacob Byrnes, but every player did their jobs—even the bench players got a lot of time today and were really good."

After being beaten by St Brendan's in last year's semi-finals, Maguire "would like to do at least one better this year and play in the final", but firstly they will take on St Augustine's in their last Pool game.

But the stakes will be higher in the 10.40am clash between Ignatius Park and St Mary's I, who are currently jointly at the top of Pool B, both with very good attacking and defensive records.

Fullback Josh Johnson was Ignatius Par's Best in their 36-4 demolition of St Patrick's Mackay, while rampaging front rower Lloyd McIvor snared a hat-trick of tries but halfback Sam Foster, who orchestrated the performance, picked up the Match award as they demolished St Brendan's II 44-0.

St Mary's also showed no mercy with halfback and captain Ben Cook outstanding as they shut out St Brendan's II 42-0, while Cook crossed for two tries in his second Man of the Match performance as they also accounted for St Patrick's Mackay 28-6.

Defending champions St Brendan's are the other Division 1 team with two wins so far, but they struggled to beat Emmaus 14-10, before coming from 16-6 down to defeat St Peter Claver 18-16.

Winger Brady Williams was a two-try hero against Emmaus, although young front rower Tama Heka was selected as Player of the Match, while Williams also finished off a superb team try for the equaliser with four minutes to go against St Peter Claver before Jake McManus converted, but five-eighth Jack Madden was a deserved winner of the Man of the Match.

Master coach Terry Hansen said with 10 year 11's, they took a while to develop self-belief, but he was full of praise for their character, and also lauded their two survivors from last year's championship team, fullback and captain Kurt Mann and workaholic second rower Alex Choyce, whom he said without whom they "would not have been in the contest".

St Peter Claver could feel unlucky after scoring four tries to three, but they were unable to kick a goal.

Earlier, they blew St Patrick's Shorncliffe off the park 40-8 with centre Brendan O'Reilly grabbing three tries and interchange player Denman Ah-You collecting a double but front rower Paul Timaloa was Man of the Match.

Despite their winning start, Hansen has "got no great expectations this year" other than to be "very competitive in every game".

SHALOM & SIENA TO SHOOT OUT FOR TOP GUN HONOURS

A BATTLE royale looms this morning between defending Confraternity Carnival Plate champions Shalom College and Siena Catholic College with the winner to finish on top of Pool A with both team currently sitting on the maximum 12 points after yesterday's first two rounds.

Shalom, of Bundaberg, kicked off with a 22-10 victory over Emmaus College II with halfback Matt Gavin taking the Man of the Match award but no-frills front rower Tyson Knight and fullback and captain Matt Craven also outstanding. But they were forced to come from 10-6 down in the second half against Southern Cross Catholic College before getting home 18-10, with blockbusting forward Morgan Ortt coming off the bench to claim the Man of the Match award, but Craven again shining, along with five-eighth Ben Lanskey and powerhouse second rower Patrick Kaufusi, whose eldest brother Antonio is a former Queensland State of Origin and Test representative, and who scored a game-breaking 60m try on the next set after an also superb long-range individual try from Craven to level the scores midway through the second half.

Halfback Brad Kent was Man of the Match as Siena edged out Southern Cross 10-4 in their first match, but they then cut loose to defeat Emmaus II 48-4 with centre Luke Blumke picking up two tries in a Man of the Match display and second rower Ryan Pearson also recording a double.

Siena also chalked up most points in Division 2, 58, together with St Michael's of Carrara, and Blackheath and Thornburgh College, of Charters Towers.

There are clear-cut leaders in the other five Division 2 Pools with St Michael's, Gilroy Santa Maria, Marist College Emerald, Chanel College Gladstone, who finished ahead of Blackheath and Thornburgh despite scoring less points than them, and Xavier College, of Hervey Bay on top in B, C, D, E and F respectively.

St Michael's, last year's Plate runners-up, started in the best possible way, racing to a 30-0 half-time lead against Mt Maria College, before getting home 44-0 with halfback and captain Brad Jones wreaking havoc with 26 points from four tries and six goals but rugged front rower Luke Poulsen taking the Man of the Match award.

They were then tested against Columba Catholic College, of Charters Towers, but still prevailed 14-4.

Gilroy Santa Maria launched their campaign with a 24-10 dispatch of Padua College II, and they also had too many guns for St Thomas More College, of Brisbane, winning 32-14, with lock Jonathon Castorina featuring prominently, amassing 12 points with one try and four goals.

Marist Emerald, who are hoping to improve on their Bowl Runners-up finish 12 months ago, edged out Ryan Catholic College, of Townsville, 20-16, with exciting fullback Brandon Kadel the difference between the two sides with two tries in a Man of the Match effort.

Kadel picked up his second Match award for the day after wreaking havoc with three tries as they outplayed St Joseph's College, of Toowoomba, 28-0.

Chanel, who took out the Cup in their return to the Confraternity fold in Bundaberg in 2009, picked up the tabs with a 30-6 triumph over the composite St Joseph's Stanthorpe/Assumption College Warwick outfit, before outgunning St Peter Claver Riverview II 22-6.

Xavier, who were unlucky to miss the semi-finals in their Confraternity debut last year, edged out All Souls/St Gabriel's School, Charters Towers 20-16, and they also had to pull out all stops to down Aquinas College, of Southport, 22-12, with interchange player Michael Hyndman coming to the fore with two tries to also clinch the Man of the Match trophy.

Marymount College, of Burleigh Heads, made a perfect start to the week with a 32-4 drubbing of St Joseph's College, of Toowoomba, with centre Jackson Pease and interchange player Jordan Flint each posting doubles and centre Jim Dick receiving the Man of the Match prize, but they were then pipped by Ryan Catholic College 16-14.

Aquinas had also started with a win, outclassing St James College Brisbane 28-0 with second rower Curtis Jack contributing a significant 12 points with two tries and two goals, but they could not repeat the effort against Xavier.

Blackheath and Thornburgh went down fighting to St Peter Claver 20-16, but they fought back to have a field day at St Joseph's/Assumption's expense 42-0, but they will have to beat Chanel this morning if they are to finish on top in Pool E and challenge for a place in the Plate quarter-finals this afternoon.

All Souls/St Gabriel's also had a mixed day, putting the disappointment of their defeat at the hands of Xavier behind them to also keep a clean slate against St James 38-0, with halfback Kaine Karkadoo turning on two tries in a Man of the Match showing and interchange dynamo Steven Davidson also crossing twice, but with only 6.5 points to their credit so far, they will need to produce something special in their last Pool F outing against Aquinas, as well as rely on a number of other results going their way if they are to sneak into the Plate play-offs.

St Columban's, of Caboolture, may also need a miracle to make the Plate despite hitting their straps yesterday afternoon to run away from Mt Maria College, of Brisbane, 30-6 with fullback James Hook notching three tries.

They are on six points in Pool B, adrift of St Michael's (11) and Columba (7) after starting slowly with a 20-0 defeat at the hands of Columba College.

Points - Pool A: Shalom 12, Siena 12, Southern Cross 0, Emmaus II 0; B: St Michael's 11, Columba 7, St Columban's 6, Mt Maria 0; C: Gilroy Santa Maria 11.5, St Edmund's II 6.5, Padua II 6, St Thomas More 0; D: Marist Emerald 11, Marymount 7, Ryan 6, St Joseph's 0; E: Chanel 10.5, Blackheath & Thornburgh 7, St Peter Claver 5.5, St Joseph's/Assumption 0; F: Xavier 11.5, All Souls 6.5, Aquinas 6, St James 0.