

HIGH MARKS



MARIST AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CLUB – SEASON 2011

Hi Players and Player Families,

The AFL season was greeted with a perfect autumn day on Saturday, 9 April where players of all age groups kicked off to start the Junior and Senior AFL calendar. Parents all over Canberra were waking up and presented with excited children, eager to get dressed in their colours while mentally preparing themselves for the match ahead.

I went with my family early so we could see another Marist team, playing before my son's team, battling it out to take first honours. Whilst watching, I was reminded of the same feeling I had when I was about to take the field for game one of the season. Intrepidation, excitement and the smell of zinc cream filled my nostrils, or rather was heavily deposited upon my face and nose – aren't mums the best.

As the day wore on, and the siren signalled full time for my son's match, I was happy for the boys to have come away with a win, but more so, the look on the boys faces they made it through and were now looking forward to the next week before the holidays really kick in.

A special thanks to all the parents who have stepped up to perform roles for their teams and help make their boys' AFL experience a successful one, measured by their enthusiasm to be out there playing footy.

On behalf of the MAFC Committee, I would like to thank those parents who participated in the MAFC Survey late last year. Your valued feedback allowed the Committee to gauge the temperament of players and parents, to capture key elements which the Committee can consider and use for further Club enhancement and player development.

Finally, I would like to wish all Marist teams the very best luck and a successful AFL season for Marist College.

Regards,
Peter Moon
High Marks Editor in Chief

UNDER 10 DIV 1 REPORT

DIVISION ONE: Under 10

ROUND: 1

DATE: Saturday 9 April 2011

MATCH: Marist Vs Queanbeyan Tigers

GAME REPORT:

As the fog lifted not only on today's match but on the 2011 Marist AFL season, the U10's took to the field in their first outing together, primed and ready to go for the match up against the Queanbeyan Tigers. Isaac Males led the team onto the field as captain in what was a big day for Brett Murray lining up against his old team.

The 1st quarter flew by quickly with the boys settling in and moving the ball around nicely. Brett Murray took a good mark and finished it off with a goal. The 2nd quarter was our key scoring quarter with Spencer Mooney, Mitchell O'Brien and Callum Lightfoot all threading the pigskin through the big sticks. Sam Dietz showed good skills with a combination of players moving the ball swiftly from the pocket and to Mitchell O'Brien for an easy goal and good display of teamwork. This quarter the boys demonstrated improved calling and began to work well as team.

In the 3rd quarter Marist demonstrated impressive defensive skills. The combinations of Aidan Kelly, Mitchell O'Brien and Corey Reid in the back line moved the ball out of danger on several occasions to Isaac Males in the centre who delivered it nicely to the forwards and the arms of Nick Brito.

The defensive play continued with Aidan Kelly and Ned Hibbert teaming up for another defensive passage that saved a goal. The back line was under constant pressure which was handled with great skill and kept the pressure on the Tigers.

The 4th quarter was a combination defensive/scoring quarter with Spencer Mooney picking up his second goal. Corey Reid and Ewan Wyles teamed up well in the back line with a great spoil from Corey and quick handball to Ned Hibbert saving another goal. Nick Brito and Ioannis Apostolakis worked well together providing strong kicks out of the mid-field and Jude Henderson-Burch stepped up to save another goal on the line.

A solid performance overall by Marist in what was a tight first outing. The various defensive combinations saved many a goal with good handballing skills and kicking into space apparent. It was a great platform to build on and one that shows promise for a cracker season ahead - season 2011 here we come!

UNDER 12 REPORT

TEAM: Marist Under 12

VENUE: Steve Mauger Oval, Queanbeyan

ROUND: 1

DATE: Saturday 9 April 2011

MATCH: Marist Vs Queanbeyan

GAME REPORT:

QUEANBEYAN 8.12 DEF. MARIST 4.6

BEST PLAYERS:

Marist: Clark, Pollock, Crowley **Queanbeyan:** Stevens, Taylor, Hawksworth

GOAL KICKERS MARIST: Wagland, Pollock, Cerni, Clark

SPECIAL MENTIONS:

Congratulations to Nick Koeck who reached a milestone 50 games this week.

The boys kicked off their season with a spirited game against the talented Tigers. Early pressure resulted in goals from Nick Wagland and Rhys Pollock as Marist took a 4 point lead into the first change. There was great run from the midfield and the tackling from both sides was excellent. At times both teams dominated possession and territory, and the Tigers did a better job of converting that into scores, leading by 9 points at half-time. A fine tackle and goal by Daniel Cerni brought Marist close, but the Tigers were camped in the Marist half and edged away to lead by 19 points at three-quarter time. The Tigers kicked three quick goals at the start of the last quarter, but Marist showed character to dig deep and dominated the last part of the

game, with Billy Clark kicking a superb goal after magnificent pressure from the forward line – with Charlie Dimoff doing some fine work on the forward flank. Apart from the three best players, James Williams, Ben Hunter and Patrick Woods had commendable games, and every Marist player contributed to a great team effort.

Next Round 2 Marist Vs Gungahlin Jets at Amaroo 102, 9.15am. Players should be at the ground at least 30 minutes before the game.

UNDER 14 DIV 1 REPORT

DIVISION ONE: Under 14

VENUE: Amaroo Oval 101

ROUND: 1

DATE: Saturday 9 April 2011

MATCH: Marist Vs Gungahlin Jets

GAME REPORT:

MARIST	4 - 1	8 - 7	15 - 7	19 - 10	124
GUNGAHLIN JETS	1 - 1	1 - 3	1 - 4	2 - 5	17

GOALS: Sam De Sousa (5), Michael Barlow (4), Nick Anderson (3), Patrick Dunphy (2), Clem McManus, Angus Dryburgh, James McMahon, Chris Kemp and Tom Stuart.

PLAYER AND ENCOURAGEMENT AWARDS: Patrick Dunphy, Sam De Sousa, Clem McManus, Jeremy Manuepillai, Tom Stuart and Michael Barlow.

And so, after a misty drive to Amaroo, the season for the U14 Div 1 team got off to a start in a game that crackled with energy and determination from both sides. First game of the season nerves were soon behind the boys, as the Marist team easily accelerated into a smooth flowing, disciplined display of superior running, kicking, calling and backing up their mates.

The Marist Team stamped their authority early on in the first quarter with a perfectly weighted goal from Chris Kemp. Sam de Sousa quickly added to the tally, and the boys never looked back. In fact, the game never really left the Jets half for most of the first quarter. Some beautiful rucking meant that the Marist team were able to dominate the central corridor, moving the ball through the length of the

field with apparent impunity. Michael Barlow's leads demonstrated a hunger and aggression that left the Jet's defenders bewildered and dejected in his wake. Michael's determination led to some spectacular marks, and the opportunity to set his mates up for more goals. Determination was obviously on James McMahon's priority list after delivering a bone-crushing hip and shoulder to one of the Jet's opponents.

The boys started the second quarter four goals to one. This, together with their coach's 'Make they know you're there!' message during the quarter time break, was all they needed to step it up another gear. The pace suited Tom Stuart's natural running game, a trait Tom was able to exploit beautifully with some great leads and play

UNDER 14 DIV 1 REPORT

making hand balling. Clem McManus pulled off several cheeky intercepts, and Ben McMahon demonstrated his trademark 'cool in a crisis' defensive work, repeatedly winning the ball in several hard fought bouts with the Jets.

The half time break only strengthened the Marist team's resolve to start the season with a cracking display of the modern game. The third quarter opened with a crunching shirt-front from Dom Krajina, stopping one of the Jets opponents in mid-stride: lovely to watch. Great work from the ruck and centres meant the Marist team never lost their momentum. Thomas Highmore continually put his body on the line with some great shepherding, allowing his mates to get on with job of repeatedly striking the Jet's back pocket.

The boys were given the target of five goals in the final quarter. They cruised easily into over-drive, with a degree of confidence and certainty rarely seen in a season opener. Luke Bicket and Patrick Dunphy showed formidable aggression and determination in several exceedingly physical contests with the Jet's opponents. Jack Ellis and Nick Anderson, exploiting an intuition developed over many hard fought seasons together, easily moved the ball up the wing though good hand passing and backing each other up. Jacob Gaynor sealed the opponent's fate with consummate weaving and running and calling for the ball. Overall, a great game to watch and an impressive start to the season. The final score of 124 to 17 doesn't really do justice to the competitive nature of the game. The Jets played with spirit and determination, but at the end of the day, were no match for the confidence and hunger of the Marist team.

Next Round 2 Marist Vs Belconnen Cats at Lindwall Oval Saturday 16 April at 9.15am.

Players are requested to be there at least 30 minutes beforehand.

U14 DIV 2 SKY ROUND 1 REPORT

DIVISION TWO: Under 14

VENUE: Amaroo Oval 101

ROUND: 1

DATE: Saturday 9 April 2011

MATCH: Marist Vs Gungahlin Jets

GAME REPORT:

GUNGAHLIN JETS **6. 3. 39**

MARIST SKY **9. 16. 70**

GOALS: McCormack 6, Crowe 2 and Parnell

BEST PLAYERS: Spyro Kay, James Surtees, Jackson Crowe, Joshua Hackwill, Matthew Parnell and Lachlan Moon.

At last, football is back! Having packed our lunch we headed off on the loooooongest drive to Amaroo (of course we will have Goulbourn later in the season as well), the boys drifted in for the designated 30 minute warm up. A stiff breeze across the ground would ensure there would be a dead pocket, but the day was dry and the track hard and fast.

Early honours out of the centre belonged to Sky. Josh Hackwill impressed all with his excellent spring and then with his follow up attack on the ball, or the poor unfortunate Jets boy who was still holding it. After a quick entry in the forward line Michael McCormack (Mic Mac) popped up for his and the team's first goal of the day/season. Nerves were settled – we were into it. A quick

follow up again by Mic Mac and it was 2 zip and footy seemed easy. But of course there were two teams playing and the Jets countered with some solid attack on the ball of their own, but they could not penetrate much beyond midfield as the Marist midfield runners swept back to cut off those thrusts. The Jets were held scoreless for the quarter; however Sky could not capitalise on their ball advantage and finished the quarter with a string of behinds.

At quarter time the boys were reminded of the need to keep some space in the forward line and to continue that strong attack on the ball. Early flow again favoured Marist but a lack of forward patience and composure showed with more behinds and only one goal for the quarter.

U14 DIV 2 SKY ROUND 1 REPORT

The additional energy expended in the extended warm up was also starting to show as running rates dropped off and the Jets were able to capitalise with two late quick goals to kick-start their game. Half time came and while there was a solid lead of 18 points (1 goal 12 behinds!), we knew that the Jets would have regained some confidence and would come out hard.

The third quarter was, as expected, a tight goal for goal contest with the Jets striving to exert pressure all over the ground, but the Sky midfield led by James Elwin, Jackson Crowe and Spyro Kay seemed to be everywhere. The Jets started missing goals as well, giving the chance for some kick out strategies to be tested. The quarter was a real defensive highlight for Sky and the rebound from full back Dinan McMahon was impressive. A Mic Mac mark and goal with seconds to go in the quarter gave each team 3 for the quarter and retained our half time breathing space.

The final quarter started with a Jets centre clearance, but after a few early minutes in dispute, Sky's aggression at the ball and running power came to the fore. Sky also started taking opportunities in front of goal, and one spectacular 'third effort' run by Crowey ended with a brilliant banana goal against the wind. Other highlights included Lachlan Moon's goal saving mark at one end, and an equally impressive forwards mark 15m out by Matt Parnell which he duly converted. The quarter was dominated by Sky and the final margin of 31 points was a great reward for an all around team effort. Coach Justin highlighted two boys for special mention, Spyro for an impressive 80 minute effort playing in the centre and Beau Martiniello for his drive across the half forward line.

**Next Round 2 Marist Vs Eastlake at Hughes Oval,
Saturday 16 April at 10.45am.**

Players are requested to be there 30 minutes beforehand. End Report

UNDER 14 ROYALS REPORT

DIVISION TWO: Under 14

ROUND: 1

DATE: Saturday 9 April 2011

MATCH: Weston Creek Wildcats v Marist Royals

GAME REPORT:

WESTERN CREEK WILDCATS	13 - 2 - 80
-------------------------------	--------------------

MARIST	3 - 1 - 19
---------------	-------------------

GOALS: S Zeitlhofer, P Carton, X Mooney

BEST PLAYERS: W Campbell, T Morwitch, H McKenzie, A Colmer, J Briggs

Finally after what felt like a long time since last season to the boys, but no doubt a short spell for the parents, the first game of the season was on. Coach Ash had some stirring words before the game: he expected endeavour and intelligence, to look for the open space, suck it up, push through it and to have fun. Assistant coach Luke started off quietly with 'Whatta ya gotta get?' over and over, building to a crescendo (the answer obviously being 'the ball') and 18 enthusiastic boys ran on to the field. The fog cleared to a beautiful, if not warmish, day for footy and the hooter sounded.

The first quarter was filled with 6 goals and a couple of behinds to Weston Creek but our boys were starting to get a feel for the game. Highlights for the quarter were Daniel and Stephen bumping like the professionals, goal saves by Jezza, Toby

popping up everywhere, a running gather and an attempt at goal by Hugh, Nathan getting the ball out and hitting the dust, fantastic gathering by Lachlan and Bomber who got a big knock that didn't look good from the sideline, but he was up and playing again after High Vis vest Luke powered out to check on him, brilliant collects and kicks from Ollie and Michael K and some smooth handballs by Paul. Suddenly the first quarter was over and we were down 38-0.

Matt filled this scribe in on the halftime chat with Coach Ash having some tough words for the boys letting them know every man on the field is accountable and has a responsibility. The second quarter started with the boys starting to work into the game. There were some great plays on the ball and beautiful flowing teamwork. Hugh gathered

UNDER 14 ROYALS REPORT

the ball, kicked on to Toby, who kicked on to Michel K who unfortunately got tackled but X Factor was on the spot to salvage the ball. We came so close once, with a beautiful mark by Hugh, kicking on to Bomber, then Michael K who kicked to Stephen who gathered the ball smoothly. Toby got a free kick and Marist was on the board at last with a behind. Lachlan was brilliant at shepherding the ball for our boys to get the ball and after some excellent teamwork by Bomber, X Factor and Toby we had our first goal of the season. Well done Stephen. Tom was in tackling whenever he had a chance and Ollie was once again working hard in this quarter. Weston Creek collected another 4 goals and a number of behinds (which kept Dr Phil busy waving his flags) and our boys kept working hard. Reserves arrived at last and our boys could come off for a quick breather and a splash of water. Jezza worked hard in defence and Richard finished the quarter with a spectacular leaping mark.

Coach Ash got the boys into some much needed shade and told the boys they had played a much better quarter. Stevie was praised as the leading goal scorer in the team which brought a smile on. The instructions were simple: we needed to get numbers to the ball, get the ball further away from their goal, keep it on the boundary then centre it. If nothing else this year the boys needed to learn second and third effort, the ability to get the ball and dispose of it and continue on with the job and the boys needed to tighten up as they were playing too loose. Luke wanted all eyes on him, he wanted the boys to get a bit of jumper, mark up, get a bit of leg in front and to make the first 3 steps count. Very stirring words.

This quarter had our reserve Rhys playing like a star with one highlight being a throw over his shoulder and Toby catching it. Marist put on some great pressure and teamwork which resulted in

our second goal to Paul. Brilliant, just what we needed. Toby collected a 50m penalty and after some great play the X Factor kicked a goal after a quick spin and kick off the boot. Boy was his dad proud. Michael R worked hard to get the ball out and Kyle and Nathan didn't care how big the other team were, they wanted the ball. The boys were playing better as each quarter progressed. At quarter time the main aim was for each boy to stay on their man and try and pull the deficit in. It was up to the boys, they were wearing the Marist jumper, with only 20 minutes more to play. It wasn't long till Kyle was into it again and swaggering proudly after each effort. Toby never gave up in this quarter, Richard saved a certain goal to Weston Creek and Ollie kicking huge. Toby ran over to the interchange with High Vis vest Luke asking him 'What are you doing?' Toby's response- he needed a rest for a few minutes. Gee your tough Luke!!! This quarter we got the ball down to our end more but it would swing back the other way before you could blink. Michael R produced a big kick up the sideline just as is coach requested. Will saved a goal, Richard gathered beautifully, Rhys, Billy, Tom, and Jack worked hard in this quarter and the whole team never gave up. The final hooter went and the boys were exhausted.

For the first game of the season it was a great effort from the boys for a team that hasn't played together before. Coach Ash and Luke had many positive words for the boys as they chomped on their snakes. Really, when it all comes down to it, the only way is up and footy is back. A big thanks to Billy and Rhys for saving the day and all who supported the team.

Next Round 2 Marist Vs Belconnen Cats at Lindwall Oval at 11.05am. Players are to be at the ground at least 30 minutes beforehand.

UNDER 16 DIV 1 REPORT

DIVISION ONE: Under 16

VENUE: Hughes Oval

ROUND: 1

DATE: Saturday 9 April 2011

MATCH: Marist Vs St Endmunds

GAME REPORT:

MARIST	1.1	8.5	9.6	12.6	78
ST EDMUNDS	3.3	5.8	9.11	11.15	81

GOAL KICKERS: P. Badalassi 2, M.Carney 2, M. Clark 2, J. Colmer 2, H. Jackson 2, L Harman 1, T Varlow 1

BEST PLAYERS: M. Carney, S. Short, P. Badalassi, L Harman, Shaun Mills, J.Colmer

A gallant Marist U16 Div 1 lost its first match of the season by just 3 points in an exciting see-sawing match that could have easily gone either way. The match saw many good performances but none better than the debut of Mitch Carney for Marist. His uncompromising approach to getting the ball forward can probably be best described as football's answer to Pamplona's 'Running of the Bulls.' His side-kick, Sam Short, didn't quite run through brick walls but he was a fitting and inspirational support act nonetheless. For a big man, Pietro Badalassi, displayed a good knack of getting himself involved and winning at contests while Lewis Harman and James Colmer were always lively contributors across the centre. Shaun Mills meanwhile used his polished silky skills to great effect in all roles that were asked of him. All in all, a tremendous effort by the team against an opponent expected to play

a big part in this year's finals. The upside is the team showed that it can be competitive but best of all there is still has a lot of room for improvement which augurs well for a good season.

St Edmunds, kicking to the Woden end, posted the first goal of the match after just 20 seconds. James Colmer pulled one back for Marist almost immediately when put in the clear by a clever Shaun Mills hand pass. St Edmunds then mounted a series of purposeful incursions inside their attacking 50 aided by a strong breeze. Their domination was soon rewarded with two further goals including one resulting from an unfortunate Marist defensive mix up. Major contributors for the quarter included Mitch Carney with 7 disposals and Lewis Harman with 6.

UNDER 16 DIV 1 REPORT

James Colmer opened the scoring for Marist in the 2nd quarter slotting home his 2nd goal for the match. His early goal was just the tonic Marist needed. Playing now with greater intensity Marist began to dominate stoppages and contests. The hardball gets of Mitch Carney and Sam Short in particular paid dividends as Marist went onto add 4 further unanswered goals (1 each to Pietro Badalassi, Trent Varlow, Matthew Clark and Lewis Haman). Meanwhile at the other end the Marist defence was getting on top of the opposition forwards through committed man-on-man marking. St Edmunds, to their credit, managed to strike back with 2 late goals in the quarter but these were quickly cancelled out by 2 more Marist goals. Matthew Clark snapped home an opportunistic angled shot after a 'centimetre perfect" pass from Mitch Carney and then the latter rifled through a goal of his own with seconds to spare in the quarter. This allowed Marist to take a handy 15 point lead into the main break. Good team work underlined this quarter and this was reflected statistically by an even contribution of effort across the team.

You didn't have to be a student of Isaac Newton's laws of motion to predict that St Edmunds after its less than stellar 2nd quarter performance would come back breathing fire in the 3rd quarter. As if to script Marist found itself on the back foot from the opening bounce as the opposition mounted attack after attack. Under this sustained pressure our reinvigorated opponents were able to add 3 further goals before Marist pulled one back when Mitch Carney, taking a spectacular 'intercept" mark over a taller opponent, struck truly to find the middle of the big posts. But then a late goal to St Edmunds meant Marist now still trailed by a 5 points going into the final break. In a quarter where the ball was camped mainly in the Marist defensive half there were few highlights from the Marist perspective. However in the face of a rampaging St Edmunds the repelling efforts of Gus McManus and Will Lane

were noteworthy and Marco D'Amico was kept very busy with kick-ins that usually found targets. With the outcome of the game still in the balance, spectator appetites were whetted for an intriguing final quarter.

Old heads reckoned there was 2 to 3 goal advantage to Marist in having the wind in the last quarter. Sadly the old heads were premature in their reckoning because the wind, which up till then appeared to play a significant factor in the game, suddenly dropped to a gentle breeze - a breeze that would struggle to move a feather let alone a leather Sherrin. Marist struck first when Pietro Badalassi fired home his 2nd goal for the match giving Marist a 1 point lead. St Edmunds regained the lead shortly after when one of their forwards converted truly from 20 metres directly in front. This was followed by a 5 minute period of St Edmunds domination which was halted when the always dangerous Hayden Jackson threaded an angled set shot chalking up his first of the day. St Edmunds continued to test the Marist defence with long range shots and their persistence eventually was rewarded with another timely goal. Sensing the game was to be still to be won Marist rallied late and manufactured a 2nd goal from Hayden Jackson following some industrious work by Mitch Carney. Sadly for Marist the siren sounded before the umpire could bounce the ball for the resumption of play. Marist had won the quarter on the scoreboard but found itself still 3 points adrift. Mitch Carney was again inspirational in this quarter picking up 2 marks and 6 disposals while James Colmer contributed with 4 disposals and Jasper Kidd and Gus McManus worked tirelessly in defence.

Next Round 2 Marist Vs Tuggeranong Hawks at Lindwall Oval, 16 April 2011 at 1pm.

Players are requested to be there at least 30 minutes beforehand. End Report.