



HIGH MARKS

***MARIST AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CLUB
– SEASON 2011***

U14 DIV 2 ROYALS GRAND FINAL REPORT

DIVISION TWO: Under 14 ROYALS

ROUND: GRAND FINAL

DATE: Saturday 3rd September 2011

MATCH: Marist Royals Vs Weston Creek Wildcats

VENUE: Lindwall Oval

GAME REPORT:

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| MARIST ROYALS | 6 – 7 – 43 |
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| WESTON CREEK WILDCATS | 4 – 8 – 32 |
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GOALS: J Levien (4), H McKenzie, P Carton

BEST PLAYERS: R Pollock, R Crowley, J Levien, O Kuskie, J Briggs, T Morwitch



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Let's set the scene; fourteen games of footy. We had lost to the Weston Creek Wildcats three times through the season. We met them in the Semi-final and lost to them for the fourth time. We got through the Preliminary Final for another chance at the Wildcats. The game was held at our home ground. We had a full team with help from the Under 12's again. The crowd was the biggest we had played in front of all season. The parents were nervous. The boys had trained well under the calming tutelage of Fluoro Luke. Coach Ash was calm. Manager Dave was focused. We had a chance to win a Grand Final. How was this game going to play out? Four quarters of footy would tell us the ultimate outcome of a great season by the boys.

The Grand Final started with our boys running through a parade of streamers and cheers. Rich was in the Ruck and was brilliant from the get go. Carto tackled hard, the ball went over the sideline twice and Hugh saved another kick going over the line. Toby made a brilliant save in the centre but Weston Creek were relentless. Kenzo intercepted a Wildcats pass then soccered the ball down field. Weston Creek were on it and before you could blink, they had the first goal. Our boys were not deterred. Ollie and Briggsy put in a supreme effort in defence, Toby made a fantastic tackle and Hugh made a save, kicking, then helping Ollie out by tackling Cats players.

Stevie kept an eye on the ball running for possession and Carto produced a big kick to score our first point. Ryan saved the next attempt by the Wildcats to get it through the posts. He kicked huge over the sideline but it gave the boys a breather and the Wildcats hadn't added to the board. X, Bomber and Jezza worked hard next, followed by Ryan, Mikey R and Briggsy putting pressure on the opposition to force the ball over the sideline. Billy juggled the ball, got a kick in,

Carto marked but unluckily his kick went over the sideline. So close. Toby tackled with help from Hugh, gaining a penalty then kicking huge. The Wildcats came up with a behind with Will, Briggsy and Ryan putting pressure on them at goal. Some lovely play followed with Hugh kicking to Rich, then Bomber, the Wildcats and Toby in the way again, running around the opposition to kick on. Oliie got it to Kenzo who kicked down the sideline. Bomber was in to tackle hard causing a ball-up. Ollie got a huge kick in with Jezza marking on his knees. He booted a big kick but it was just short. The Wildcats were next to kick for goal but X, Will and Ryan pressured so much they only came up with a point. Ryan kicked a massive kick out from goal with Hugh getting it down the sideline. Toby marked the kick followed with a lovely mark by Kenzo. Jezza tried so hard to get it next and suddenly it was quarter time. What a great quarter of footy. We had kept constant pressure on the Wildcats, not allowing them to get in front points-wise too much. The game was still within our reach. The score was 7-1.

Fluoro Luke had some quiet words of encouragement for the boys and Coach Ash got the boys to sit down, surrounded by supporters, other Marist AFL players and Millsy, a senior boy assistant coach from season 2010. The boys came out and continued to pressure the Wildcats. They came up with another point and Hugh made a spectacular mark on their kick in. Rhys was on the job next followed by Kenzo running in to mark Rhys' kick. The Wildcats got it next to 'Oohs' from the Marist supporters. Will pressured the Wildcats to put the ball over the sideline and then teamed up with Ryan in defence, allowing Ryan to kick down field. Kenzo chased the ball down and Briggsy kicked whilst being tackled. The Wildcats got it but Rhys was there to mark their kick. Jezza made a great save kicking on with X tackling brilliantly and it was ball-up. Stevie made

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a fantastic collect then kicking, followed by Hugh marking, then Rhys and Briggsy. Beautiful play by the boys! The Wildcats had another go at goal but Ryan was there to ruin their moment. He kicked to Toby but poor Toby had few options to move the ball forward. The Wildcats went for goal again but Will was on the spot to tap the ball and spoil that moment for the Wildcats – Behind!. Hugh had a chance at a run, kicking down to Ollie when the Wildcats got close. Ollie, Rhys and Toby were on the opposition quickly forcing another ball-up. Hugh was in again kicking down field with Bomber sprinting after it. Ollie, Carto, Stevie, Briggsy with Stevie in for his second effort, were the next players to produce beautiful footy but the Wildcats scored another behind. We weren't letting them get the goals they were after though. Maybe we were starting to rattle them? Connor got a penalty kicking a massive kick to Stevie, followed by Toby and Rhys. Ryan bombed the ball up with Hugh and Rhys eyes focused upwards going for it. Connor got it, ran on then kicked. Bomber got the ball to Hugh then Jacob with X going for it. Jezza came down and struggled to rise from the grass. The game paused for a spell as he was stretchered off for care by Nurse Jen and Dr Phil. Coach Ash got the boys over in the pause for some encouraging words and the game was on again. Mikey R and Connor helped Ryan out and the Wildcats marked in front of goal. Will got their kick, just amazing, kicking to Kenzo then X. The Wildcats got it on his kick and with Mikey R trying desperately to prevent them gaining possession and the Wildcats scored the goal they had been trying so hard to get. Connor made a fantastic tackle in the next play assisted by Bomber and backed up by Mikey R and Toby. Billy and Liam tackled brilliantly next with the following kick by the Wildcats, over the sideline. The sideline featured again with Hugh pressuring them, allowing Will to kick down the ground. The Wildcats tried for goal again but luckily for us, it hit the post and went over the sideline. Mikey R made a great collect and handball. The Wildcats finished

the quarter with another point and thankfully our boys could catch their breath. The score at half time 17-1.

After a well-earned break in the shade of the sheds the boys came out for the third quarter. Rich made a great effort in the Ruck with the boys working hard. Hugh spun around, kicked to Jacob and guess what? He booted a beautiful goal. The crowd were loud with the picket fence tacking a beating, as did the boys on the field expressing their delight. Hugh came up with the next mark, kicking to Bomber who marked on his knees. Rhys got his kick then Rich marked perfectly. Hugh and Toby tackled hard and Tazi, Kenzo and Ollie put some superb pressure on the Wildcats, with Ollie gaining the penalty. Kenzo got it on Ollie's kick, followed by Toby, who fumbled it but was clever enough to get it to X then Ollie in again. Carto kicked to Dan and he came up with a behind and we were inching closer. Briggsy continued his relentless pressure kicking to X and Bomber made a spectacular mark, falling gracefully to the ground on his back. Rhys, X and Toby continued the Marist pressure on the Wildcats and Will saved another kick by the opposition. He kicked to Hugh who tried desperately to get it. Ollie marked next with Bomber once again pushing his legs to run like the wind, to get the ball. X marked followed by Rich. Hugh collected his kick and Paul made a lovely collect and kick but the whistle blew as his effort was blown, with the ball over the sideline. So unlucky! X got the throw in getting it to Toby but his kick went over the sideline. All the play was in our forward fifty with the boys determined to stay focused on the game. Jacob made a brilliant smother and the ball had to be thrown in again. Ollie got the ball to Tazi and Toby made a fantastic kick under pressure but the Wildcats got it. Toby was not deterred. He got in their way, marking on their kick with Rhys backing him up to mark near goal. Rhys scored a behind and we inched closer again. Hugh kicked to Ollie who handballed

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back to Hugh with Bomber marking Hugh's kick. Hugh got it again making a great kick to Carto who marked in front backed up by Jacob. Carto kicked our second goal and it was 17-15. This was an amazing quarter of footy excellence by the Marist boys. Hugh got it again, kicking to Carto and Kyle and Stevie were in helping. Billy made a fantastic collect, run and kick to Carto, with his kick a bit skew-if but Bomber was alert and got it. Hugh marked his kick producing a huge kick but it was tapped in goal. 17-16. So close! Billy marked with perfection on the kick in and Kyle was in working hard. X got it next, scoring a behind and the score was on equal terms. The crowd were cheering madly for the Marist boys. Rhys kicked to Jacob who pressured the Wildcats going for it, forcing them to kick over the sideline. We scored the next point and we were ahead on the scoreboard for the first time all game. What a moment. Stevie kicked next scoring another point and we inched ahead some more. Ollie garnered a penalty and Jacob gave him a lead to kick to. Jacob then kicked a miraculous goal from the far right of the posts. It was the perfect kick. He was smothered by his teammates and the crowd were beside themselves. Three-quarter time and the score was 25-17 in our favour. Coach Ash asked the boys to huddle, to grab a jumper and look in each other's eyes. He asked the boys not to give up and to run, run, run. Coach Ash told the boys this game was for them after all the hard work they had done over the season and through this game.

This was it the fourth quarter. How would this game end? Would it be in our favour or would the Wildcats break through? The look of steely determination on our boys' faces was amazing to see. They wanted this game. They wanted to get past this great team to win for the first time against them all season. As expected the Wildcats started the last quarter rapidly. They scored a behind and the score was 25-18. Rhys kicked to Ollie who marked with perfection. There was a

ball-up soon after and the Wildcats scored another point when the ball touched the post. 25-19. Liam gained a penalty and Rich was in to mark his kick. The ball went over the sideline but Will got it next, kicking to X and Rhys marking with confident hands. Bomber made a brilliant effort to get the ball and Jacob and Toby tackled hard causing a ball-up. Ollie got a kick in to Bomber and X made a spectacular mark, followed by Jacob. Rhys gained the next penalty kicking to Kenzo then Rhys in again and wouldn't you know it, Kenzo was there again too. Hugh made a fantastic run, gaining metres, kicking to NJ and Bomber was there to continue his pressure on the Wildcats. Jacob tackled spectacularly and he got the penalty. Stevie got in the Wildcats way marking their kick but his kick went back to them. Possession swapped frequently this quarter but our boys remained totally focused. Rhys tackled and with calls of 'ball' from the crowd he got the penalty. X marked on his kick with Jacob on to it next. Hugh marked Jacob's kick after help from Billy and Toby. Hugh stepped quickly to the left of the opposition and booted a wonderful left-foot goal. The score was 31-19. This scribe had to take a few moments to collect herself after that one, struggling to talk. Briggsy, Ollie, Liam and Hugh got in the next action and Kenzo marked. He kicked to Rich, followed by Kenzo in for his second effort. Rhys got it next and Bomber handballed but our boys were unable to keep possession. Rhys produced another brilliant kick, with Billy and X in the action to follow. Carto marked perfectly and Jacob focused on his mark. He kicked a massive goal and the crowd went ballistic. 37-19. Toby got it next with help from Bomber and the Marist boys in the crowd were chanting 'Maaarist', 'Maaarist'. Quite emotional stuff really! Stevie made the next brilliant tackle causing a Wildcats player to get very slowly to his feet. Kenzo and Mikey R were backing each other but the Wildcats scored a goal and they crept closer. The score now 37-25! The chant

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changed- 'Marist (clap, clap, clap), Marist (clap, clap, clap)' and our boys continued their relentless determination to get over this team when it really mattered. Rich was brilliant in the Ruck again with Billy getting the ball to Toby, followed by Carto. Jacob and Rhys tackled hard and Hugh and Bomber were in assisting Carto to kick to Liam. X kicked with perfection to Bomber and Toby under amazing pressure, kicked to Billy, followed by Rhys. We were keeping possession, which resulted in Jacob once again marking; this time, right in front and we moved another six points ahead. What a game. 43-25. The Marist boys hugged Jacob wildly then quickly focused again. Manager Dave remained much focused I might add, refusing to smile even after encouragement from the crowd. Saving his smiles till the end we decided. Mikey R was in with Billy working hard and the Wildcats scored another point. 43-26. The supporters were desperate to know how many minutes to go. This quarter seemed to be going forever. Ryan and Billy worked hard to keep possession away from the Wildcats and the ball was over the sideline. Billy was tackled high garnering a penalty and Hugh kicked huge after wriggling out of a Wildcats players grip. Ryan got the ball to Briggsy, then Mikey R who handballed to Kenzo, with Jacob next after Liam shepherded for him. The Wildcats gained a penalty and the Wildcats finished the game with a six-pointer but it wasn't enough. The hooter went for the last time this season and we were victorious.

It is still hard to fathom how this Marist team, who had lost to the Wildcats in their first game of the season by 100 points, were now the Champions holding that beautiful, precious trophy. Who would have thought? The underdogs had put in the best game of the season when it really mattered, which I believe made this win all the more special. The Marist boys went wild, hugging each other in the centre square and the huge crowd streamed onto the field to join in the celebrations.

This was certainly a moment every single person involved with this team enjoyed. Congratulation must to go to Rhys for best player on Ground for his amazing efforts for the team and for Tom being there to cheers his team on. Apparently we are the first Marist team to win a Grand Final at Lindwall oval. Congratulations to Coach Ash and Assistant Fluoro Coach Luke for all your work, building the boys skills and confidence throughout the season and to Manager Dave for his weekly efforts keeping score, managing parent jobs and much more I'm sure. You can smile now Dave!!! This is a game the boys in the Marist Royals team will never forget.



U14 DIV 1 GRAND FINAL REPORT

Well, we're finally here; the last report of the season. I have been mulling over what I should say. The bottom line is this: we lost yesterday. Bad news doesn't get better with time, so I may as well just get it out there from the beginning. I could say something sad and melodramatic like, 'Now is the winter of my discontent' – but to be perfectly honest, I am not all that discontented. I mean, sure, I'd prefer to be writing that we 'put the sword' to the Hawks, and pulled off a glorious victory. But we didn't. And yet strangely, even though we lost, we were victorious in everything other than the score. We played our hearts for 80 minutes; we played as a group of mates helping each other out throughout the entire game; and we played in a manner that enabled all members of the Marist team to excel at the very best footie this reporter has seen in a long while. We gave it our best; players; coaches; managers and supporters; and we walk away at the end of the season with our heads held high, knowing that footie really was the ultimate winner yesterday.

The quarter by quarter scores speak for themselves; however, I'd commend readers to look closely at the score leading up to half time. To achieve this outcome against a team as physically large and aggressive as the Hawks is no small feat. And I, like many other Marist supporters, was almost weeping with pride as our gallant lads attacked and defended all the way to the final siren.

The entire team excelled yesterday. It is pointless attempting to single out standout performances, because the entire Marist U14 Div 1 Team yesterday turned on a standout performance. I would however, specifically like to add my thanks to Simon and Richard for their coaching efforts, and to Michael (supported when required by Peter Krajina) for their managerial duties.

Well, it's signing off time now for this reporter. It's been a fantastic season, and a privilege to be able to describe our boy's journey all the way from early April through to yesterday's magnificent performance. To make it to the grand-final has been a unique and extremely valuable experience for the team. We are well placed to build on this opportunity for an even better performance in 2012. Hope to see you all again next year: Go Marist!



MARIST AFL

WHAT A GREAT WEEKEND OF FINALS FOOTBALL.

On Saturday Marist AFL hosted the AFL Canberra Junior Grand finals for U12's Div I & Div II and the two U14 Div II games at Lindwall Oval, whilst the U14 Div I and U16 Div II and Div I games were played at Football Park over at Philip.

The Marist U14 Div1 team played a great game and leading half way through the game but were beaten by Hawks on the day, well done to our boys for a great season and doing so well in the final. 'Record crowds' were at Lindwall Oval all day to witness four great games of Junior footy. The crowds are to be congratulated on their support of Junior AFL, their enthusiasm and cheering for all teams all day. Thanks to all who helped in the canteen all day and to those that popped in for a while, it certainly was a production line to keep it going all day.

The best was saved to the last game, Marist U14 Div II Royal team played an inspirational game of football and were able to beat the bigger stronger Weston Creek Wild Cats.

The game was close all day, but coach Ash Colmer gave a great 3/4 time speech to inspire belief into the boys to run down the opposition and run away as victors. Well done to all the boys for digging deep and taking control of the game and finishing so strong. Congratulations to all the team, coaches Ash and Luke and to all involved with this team all year.

The great weekend of football continued on Sunday with the First XVIII playing Eastlake at Manuka Oval. Marist played a great game, well lead by Co-Captains Liam Flaherty and Ciaran O'Rourke. Liam booted 7 goals, Shae Darcy 'owned the far wing' running the ball into the forwards all day, the two Jacks (Divorty & O'Halloran) were driving forces through the centre and Stephen Kenny was unbeatable in the ruck giving us first use of the ball all day. Marist ran out victors with the backs keeping Eastlake scoreless in the last qtr after the Demons had taken the lead by one point with a goal just before the 3/4rd quarter break.

This gives the First XVIII one last game this week to win to get to the grand final, Marist v Tuggeranong Hawks – 9:30 am start – Manuka Oval Saturday 10th Sept – come and join us for another great game.



U14 Div II Royal taking the ground for the Grand Final.

NEWS

THE AFL CANBERRA JUNIOR LEAGUE AWARDS NIGHT WAS HELD LAST WEEK, MARIST AWARD WINNERS WERE:

| | |
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| Under 16 Div II Best and Fairest Player | Brad Burns |
| 'U14 Div II Pool B Runner-Up Best and Fairest Player | Hugh McKenzie |

The following finished in the top 5 in the AFL Canberra Junior League Best and Fairest

| | |
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| U14 Div 1 | Sam Fisher |
| U14 Div II (Pool B) Royals | Toby Morwitch |
| U14 Div II (Pool A) Sky | James Elwin |
| U12 Div I | Rhys Pollock |
| U12 Div I | Billy Clark |
| Best on Ground in Grand Final – U14 Div II (Pool B) Royals | Rhys Pollock |

AFL Canberra Umpire Awards

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Ross Norgate - Most Dedicated Umpire | James Hicks |
| Umpire of the Year | James Hicks |

NEWS

AFL CANBERRA SENIOR LEAGUE (INC U18S)

Sunday 21st August

Last Home Game for U18s Marist v Gunghalin LINDWALL OVAL

Saturday 27th August

Last round U18 Marist v Ainslie AINSLIE OVAL

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th September

Semi Finals U18s

Saturday 11th September

Prelim Finals U18s

Saturday 17th September

Grand Final U18

AWARD PRESENTATION EVENINGS

Tuesday 30th August

AFL Canberra Junior League Presentation Evening

Monday 13th Sept - TBC.....

AFL Canberra Mulrooney Medal Night

Tuesday 20th Sept

MAFC Awards Presentation Night

Thursday 20th Oct

MAFC U18 Farewell Dinner

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