



Marist Australian Football Club

YEARBOOK 2021





MaristCollege
Canberra

TOGETHER,
WE CREATE
FINE YOUNG
MEN



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SPONSORS

THE MARIST AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CLUB COMMUNITY THANKS OUR 2021 SPONSORS –

MAJOR SPONSOR



OTHER SUPPORTERS



COMMITTEE

President	Geoff Davidson
Vice President	Kylie Denny
Secretary	Peter Hyde
Treasurer	Hugo Ellwood
Registrar	Lynn Chua
Director of Coaching	Chris Maher
Manager's Coordinator	Andrew Choules
Property and Merchandise	Mark Vardy
Canteen Manager	Tamara Korsten
Sports Medicine	Gemma McRae
College Sports Coordinator – AFL	Sarah Mahar

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Marist Australian Football Club community began the season full of optimism and determination. The boys were excited to be playing footy without the disruption of COVID-19 restrictions – no spectator limits, and a more relaxed atmosphere on game day.

It felt like a return to normal.

This season Marist again fielded 10 teams with two each in the Under 12 and Under 14 competitions.

All of our teams were competitive in their respective competitions, and I was impressed with the skill level shown across all age groups. Each week, our boys demonstrated courage, kindness, fairness, determination, and resilience.

The boys were supported by parents and other family members and friends. It is truly special to sit among our families at Lindwall Oval and to see, hear and feel the support the boys receive.

Unfortunately, in August, COVID struck again in the ACT – and it soon became apparent that the season would be cancelled. Our First XVIII was in first place on the ladder and our Under 11 (second), Under 13 (sixth), Under 12 Royal (fourth), Under 14 Sky (fourth), Under 15 (second) and Under 17 (third) teams had all qualified for the semi-finals.

Multiple Marist players featured among AFL Canberra's Best and Fairest awards. Alexander Maher (Under 11) and Matthew Choules (First XVIII) were first, Ben Vardy (Under 15) and Xander Tuan (Under 17) finished as runners up and Xavier Beesley (Under 12) was third. Congratulations to each of these players on a fabulous season of footy.

Some club achievements during 2021, included:

- Moving to online registration payments and introducing cashless payments for all other transactions
- Reopening of the Lindwall game day canteen courtesy of the amazing Tamara Korsten
- Celebration of AFL Indigenous Round at Lindwall Oval including Acknowledge of Country said in Ngunnawal language
- Our First XVIII wearing special playing socks to raise awareness of motor neurone disease and R U OK? Day.



In other exciting news, Old Boy Tom Green (2018) picked up his second NAB AFL Rising Star nomination and placed second with 38 votes. Another Old Boy, Michael Barlow (2015), was appointed as a Boundary Umpire in the 2021 AFL Grand Final, Ben Fely (2017) has been added to the AFL Umpiring list for 2022 as a Boundary Umpire, and Tom Highmore (2016) made his AFL debut for St Kilda.

I would like to thank our coaches, assistant coaches, team managers and other volunteers for their efforts this season. I would also like to thank my colleagues on the footy club committee and our College sports coordinator, Sarah Mahar. I've been volunteering in junior sports administration for over 10 years, and this is by far the best committee I have worked with.

Finally, I would like to thank our Major Sponsor Brooks Marchant, and other sponsors Delta Electric Motor Repairs and ProArb Trees. This season our sponsors covered the cost of warm up tops and the preseason Wagga match for the First XVIII, the club's season launch expenses and new polo shirts and jackets for all team officials. Brooks Marchant again sponsored the Spirit Awards.

I love Marist because of its Marist values and Catholic ethos and the care and support we show to each other. It is an honour to be serving this community and I am grateful for the people we have involved in the Marist Australian Football Club.

Servo Fidem

Geoff Davidson
President – Marist Australian Football Club





MAFC LIFE MEMBERS

John Brown	1986	Anne Davies	2004
David Bailey	1998	Peter Woods	2005
Denis Sweeney	1998	Andy Finlay	2005
Peter Verdon	1998	Joe Box	2006
Tom Wharton	1998	Brendan O'Rourke	2008
Mark Winchester	1998	Chris Toogood	2011
Paul Sullivan	2000	Helen Delahunty	2013
Sue Sullivan	2000	Maria Hicks	2014
Denis Heritage	2001	Peter Maher	2016
John Sirr	2002	Ciril Karo	2016
Kerry Woods	2002	Peter Moon	2017
Br Mark May	2003	Janine Clark	2019

AFL CANBERRA AWARDS

AFL CANBERRA JUNIOR BEST AND FAIREST

Under 11	Alexander Maher	1st place
Under 12	Xavier Beesley	3rd place
Under 15	Ben Vardy	Runner up
Under 17	Xander Tuan	Runner up

AFL CANBERRA SENIOR AWARDS

Rising Stars Best and Fairest	Matthew Choules
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MAFC CLUB AWARDS

Damian McMahon Coach of the Year	Steve Mahar, U14 Sky
Sirr-Woods MAFC Volunteer of the Year	Kelly Davis, U14 Sky
Senior Clubman of the Year	Joe Carrol First XVIII – Captain
Junior Clubman of the Year	Jesse Ellwood and Harry David – joint winners

TEAM AWARD WINNERS

UNDER 10

COACHES AWARD Joe Geyson
COACHES AWARD Kai Kemper
COACHES AWARD Jack Deluca
MOST IMPROVED Damon Martin
BROOKS MARCHANT CLUB CULTURE
Finn Duffy

UNDER 11

BEST & FAIREST Alex Maher
RUNNER UP BEST & FAIREST
Jude Leech
COACHES AWARD Thomas Bolton
MOST IMPROVED Lucas Fogles
BROOKS MARCHANT CLUB CULTURE
Hudson Taylor

UNDER 12 SKY

BEST & FAIREST Elijah Roff
RUNNER UP BEST & FAIREST
Lachlan Green
COACHES AWARD Ethan Cook
MOST IMPROVED Xade Borthwick
BROOKS MARCHANT CLUB CULTURE
Reuben Belcher

UNDER 12 ROYAL

BEST & FAIREST Xavier Beesley
RUNNER UP BEST & FAIREST
Jesse Ellwood
COACHES AWARD Mitch Wadie
MOST IMPROVED Oliver Brew
BROOKS MARCHANT CLUB CULTURE
Max Francis

UNDER 13

BEST & FAIREST William Hyson
RUNNER UP BEST & FAIREST
Archie Blacker
COACHES AWARD Ewan Hyde
MOST IMPROVED Noah Brown
BROOKS MARCHANT CLUB CULTURE
Leo Ryan

UNDER 14 SKY

BEST & FAIREST Archie Webb
RUNNER UP BEST & FAIREST
Oliver Cannon
COACHES AWARD Sam Laria
MOST IMPROVED William Johnston
BROOKS MARCHANT CLUB CULTURE
Brodie Davis

UNDER 14 ROYAL

BEST & FAIREST Daniel Egan
RUNNER UP BEST & FAIREST
Kelley Jack
COACHES AWARD Jonah Korsten
MOST IMPROVED Jack Berg
BROOKS MARCHANT CLUB CULTURE
Hugh Barry

UNDER 15

BEST & FAIREST Jacob Scholtens
RUNNER UP BEST & FAIREST
Ben Vardy
COACHES AWARD James Angus
MOST IMPROVED Leo Patterson
BROOKS MARCHANT CLUB CULTURE
Noah Apps

UNDER 17

BEST & FAIREST Arran Harsdorf
RUNNER UP BEST & FAIREST
Xander Tuan
COACHES AWARD Thomas Beesley
MOST IMPROVED Callan Williams
BROOKS MARCHANT CLUB CULTURE
Caden Egan

RISING STARS

BEST & FAIREST
John Brennan and Jack Sanson
RUNNER UP BEST & FAIREST
Ned Korsten
COACHES AWARD Ryan Fraser
MOST IMPROVED Alex Ellwood
**MARK WINCHESTER SPIRIT
& DEDICATION** Joe Carroll



TEAM REPORTS





UNDER 10 TEAM REPORT



TEAM DETAILS

Coach

Richard Bartlett

Team manager

Tim Graham

SUMMARY OF SEASON

Sixteen young footballers came together to start their Marist football journey in 2021. We had a mix of experienced players from other Canberra clubs and a few trying Aussie Rules for the first time. Clearly the first order of business was to build team spirit, and this was achieved without too much difficulty - a terrific bunch of boys.

On field, the game plan was simple; positive, fast play when we have the ball, maximum pressure when we don't. The effort the boys gave each week was fantastic and our tackle count was 'off the radar'. I doubt we were ever beaten on that score and the adage - if you're tackling, you're in the game - translated to our results. While official scores aren't kept in the U10s, we certainly had the better of most of our games and were very competitive in the few games the opposition had the edge. Purpose and effort are the most important ingredients in our game and the boys have it in abundance. As they develop their skills and game sense

it's hard not to think that they will be a very formidable group as they progress through the higher age groups.

Off field, it was wonderful to meet the boys' families. Thank you firstly to team manager, Tim Graham. You not only did a mountain of work but most importantly provided an excellent role model for the boys. It wasn't always easy - never is in junior footy - but your manner and judgement were always spot on and helped me enormously. Our umpire each week was James Morrison - rain, hail, or shine (and snow!). James did a fantastic job, was scrupulously fair, and has a great feel for how the game should be played. Assistance at training from Matt H and Matt G was also greatly appreciated. All in all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable year despite the often-inclement weather (good for the dams!) and the ongoing concerns about the COVID pandemic.

Bring on 2022!

PLAYER SUMMARIES

SETH ARMYTAGE

One of our most energetic and vocal team members, 'Gunner' really lifts his teammates with his positivity. On game day he reads the play instinctively and uses the ball well. Season highlights were those moments where he used real 'footy smarts' to find space in the forward line and then, with deadly accuracy, score big goals (very Jack Gunston-like).

PATRICK BARTLETT

A whole-hearted team player who attacks the ball and likes to bring his teammates into the game. Paddy probably had as many handballs as kicks this year, working hard to win inside contested ball. When he did get the opportunity to use the ball in space, he established an impressive highlight reel showcasing strong marking, great foot skills and a knack for goals.

RYDER BOERSIG

Effort is the essence of team football. Effort inspires deeds in others. Ryder is 100% effort. In true Port Adelaide tradition, Ryder throws himself at every contest, tackles as hard as anyone, and wins the toughest ball. On many occasions this season, Ryder against the odds stopped opposition attacks cold, with relentless chase and tackling pressure.

RYAN BROWN

Ryan is a natural prankster who helped make training and matches fun. Over the season he also showed steady improvement, particularly in his field positioning and ability to win the contested ball. On a freezing day at Kambah, Ryan provided a major highlight against his old team, reacting quickest to a loose ball and snapping a delightful goal.

JACK DE LUCA

From the outset Jack demonstrated focus and enthusiasm. A fantastic team player. On field, Jack excelled in all roles - defence, midfield and forward. He is beautifully balanced, has clean skills and reads the play well. As to highlights, is it the ability to find space and hit the scoreboard in the forward half, or the rebound and precise skills coming out of defence?

FINN DUFFY

Another whole-hearted team player whose 'pressure factor' inspires others. Finn never gives up on a contest. His tackling and smothering stopped the opposition in their tracks on countless occasions. He also showed an excellent turn of speed when winning a contest, which makes me think he could be an emerging midfielder or pressure forward.

DOMINIC FRASER

Dom is a real character at training and on match day. When the game is on, however, he's a serious player. Dom knows where to go to win the football, uses his strength to good effect, and is a thumping kick. While he loves playing forward, it was in the midfield, late-season that he showcased serious football nous and had a big impact on games.

JOSEPH GEYSEN

Every great team has individuals who drive standards and set examples. Joe is very competitive and wants to improve himself in every training session and game. He thrives on winning contested ball and using his strength and pace to put his team in an attacking position. It was also really pleasing to see Joe rewarded for his hard work with a fantastic goal tally.



MATTHEW GRAHAM

Our game is unique and difficult for first timers. It was really uplifting for everyone to see Matt's effort and persistence rewarded. In the last three or four games, I commented that I thought Matt had just played his best game - he's on the up-and-up! Final round, Matt had a special moment when he gathered the ball and, on the run, kicked a beautiful long goal.

PATRICK HOCKING

Pat is another finding his feet in our game but is an excellent listener at training and on match day. He made noticeable improvement over the season and I particularly like the way he positions himself as an option for players moving the ball up the field. On many occasions, Pat put his head over the ball, showing no fear to win possession. Coaches love that!

LACHLAN HOWARTH

Another great listener who adapted his game as the season progressed for the good of the team. Lachie is blessed with size and athleticism. He's a ball magnet but early on tried to take on too much, causing turnovers. That he adjusted his play - mainly using release handball to good effect - was remarkable for a young first year player. A ripping ruck prospect.

KAI KEMPER

'Ever reliable' is a term that fits Kai well. He goes about his football with a minimum of fuss and just gets the job done. His marking and ball use are consistently excellent, and he seems to have an abundance of time, even in heavy traffic. Over the season he provided countless highlights as an intercepting defender and a goal scoring forward, in equal measure.

DAMON MARTIN

'Dusty' has a league and karate background ... and boy it shows. He is an inspirational team player who is ferocious in the contest. Over the season his ball skills emerged, and he became one of our most dynamic midfielders. Unforgettable were his repeat efforts to win the ball and driving kicks into our forward area. Didn't mind a goal of his own, either.

HAYDEN MCGRATH

Fantastic personality and a popular team member. Hayden is a classy footballer who uses his footy smarts to find space on the field. Hayden is a good option for his teammates as he marks well and uses the ball effectively. The best highlights Hayden provided were as a crafty forward, where he created many goals and scored quite a few of his own.

LIAM MORRISON

From the beginning Liam bonded very well with his new teammates. On the field he was super consistent, displaying neat skills, ability to win the contested ball, and above all else, very good decision making under pressure. Liam often excelled at using his precise kicking to open the play and allow us to move the ball quickly to create scoring opportunities.

CAMERON SMITH

Cam brings a super competitive attitude to the team. One of our most reliable ball winners over the season. His strength, speed and long kicking were a big standout. While Cam showed aptitude in all zones, I particularly liked his work in defence; attack the ball, run-and-carry, long clearing kicks, etc. Rebounding Half Back might be an option to explore.



UNDER 11 TEAM REPORT



TEAM DETAILS

Coach	David Whalen	Team manager	Kylie Denny
Assistant coaches	Joe Carroll, Harry Miller, James Bolton & Trent Yates		

SUMMARY OF SEASON

Marist Under 11 boys had a great season, finishing 2nd on the ladder. Due to Covid the finals did not get to go ahead. The boys only lost 2 games for the year, which could be put down to the conditions, we could not get used to the large open spaces and the constant wind at Amaroo. We were primed to give the finals a real shake.

We had a percentage of 347 due to some dominating performances, but even in these cases we still got to move the players around, and let the kids enjoy different positions on the field. All boys improved throughout the year, and the team results showed this. We implemented a simple game plan, which the boys adhered to. There were some great passages of play, hand ball, lead, mark, goal. The boys were also very selfless around goals, often sharing the goals around, sometimes they were over generous in their sharing, but it was always a pleasure to watch.

Trainings were always fun, each week ending with a very healthy competitive game of 50/50 footy. I was lucky to

be assisted by three of the senior boys, Joe, Harry and James were welcome additions at training and the boys were quite thrilled to have them as part of the team, especially at the few games they did get to attend when not having their own game commitments.

The year ended in zoom meetings, playing bingo and doing team-based quizzes, always fun times with this group. Hope to see all the boys return to AFL in 2022 and give it a real crack.

Thank you for Kylie in her manager role, Joe, Harry, James and Trent in your assistant roles (extra thanks for Trent for his umpiring), Mappa for running and fill in umpire, Stacey for First Aid, Emma for her Photography and all parents who chipped in with other match day roles, all very appreciated.

Congratulations to ABomb on being joint winner in the League Best and Fairest.

PLAYER SUMMARIES

ANTHONY APOSTOLAKIS

Antho played his first season of AFL this year, he had a great season and improved out of sight, his goal against Gungahlin on the run was one of my team high lights.

ZACHARY BARTKOWIAK

Zac always strong around the contest, loved kicking goals. Zac was used at both ends of the ground with equal success.

THOMAS BOLTON

Mr in and under, Tom played centre for most of the season, always digging in under the pack and feeding it outside via handball. Super competitor.

LOGAN BRAY

Logan has all the tricks in his bag, barrels on the run, snaps over his shoulder. Played through the spine mainly, kick some great goals, in particular, the one over his shoulder.

FELIX CLOWRY

Felix played a number of roles, from ruck to back pocket, always worked hard around the ground, still remember the fist pump celebration when he kicked a goal at Perace.

XANDER DENNY

Xander played some great games this year, in particular his game at Full Forward was exceptional, continues to improve, knows where the goals are.

LUCAS FOGELS

Lucas had a great first year for Marist, a Year 4 boy playing up an age group. The smallest on the field, but never took a backward step, I remember a particular tackle he made at Gungahlin, awesome stuff.

JONAH HAMILTON

Jonah had a bad run with injuries, but when he got out there, he gave 100%. His tackling and attack at the ball was a huge improvement on last year, loved his tackle at Gungahlin.

HENRY HYSON

Henry had a great year, played through the spine. Started in the forwards a lot, but really found his home at Fullback, highlight was the barrel from fullback at our last game at Pearce Oval.

LAWRENCE KOVACS

Lawrence, the speed machine. Playing his first season of AFL, played mainly on the wing. Great patches of play, will excel with more footy experience.

JUDE LEECH

Jude, another ripper Year 4 playing up. Even though he was younger he still had the size to dominate most positions, his first game at Fullback showed how well he read the play and then his work in the ruck was outstanding.





JAKIAH LEESON

Kai continued to improve on his performance from last season, unfortunately clashes with basketball lead to missing some game time. His work in the contest saw big improvements.

ARMAND LISMAN

Armand continued to improve this year, using his size he spent time in the ruck and centre half back. Reads the play well which helped strengthen our back line.

ALEX MAHER

ABomb, great season, just loves his footy and it is evident in his output each week. Joint winner of the League Best and Fairest Medal says it all. In a close contest where we lead by 3 points with 2 minutes to go the ball locked in our backline, simple message from the coach, let ABomb know we are only 3 points up, he did the rest to ensure the win.



JAY MILLER

Jay continues to improve on his AFL journey, very quiet but listens very closely, played well in defence. Better suited in defence where his height can be used to spoil in marking contests.

MICHAEL SCHULTZ

Michael with his height is a natural fit for the ruck role, but with his natural thirst for a contest I liked his work at Centre Half back, still early days he will develop into a very good defender.

ISAAC SLADIC

Isaac a Year 4 playing up, held his own, spent a lot of time on the wing, flank and pockets. Best game was against Tuggeranong at Kambah where he snagged multiple goals.

HUDSON TAYLOR

Huddie, the last of the Year 4 crew, has all the skills, marking, kicking, handball. Very well developed 10-year-old at AFL, clearly loves the game. Best asset was his set shot for goals, always reliable to kick the goal.

HARRY WHALEN

Enjoyed watching Hazza this year, worked as hard as anyone with his attack on the footy and the opposition often winning the ball with his second and third efforts. Played midfield and on the half forward flank, was a tackling machine (keep them down) and a good shot for goal.

NICHOLAS WRIGHT

Nick was new to Marist AFL, but not new to the game. Was handy playing back pocket where he was able to take some great intercept marks due to his better reading of the play.

DANIEL YATES

Dan had a great year, working through mids, wings and forward and back flanks. Strong runner who attacked the ball front on. Very good marker, took some fine grabs over the course of the year.

UNDER 12 ROYAL TEAM REPORT



TEAM DETAILS

Coach	Paul Nihill	Team manager	Christie Wilson
Assistant coaches	Phil David		

SUMMARY OF SEASON

Marist Under 12 Royal enjoyed another great and successful season. We won the majority of our games with the losses only being close giving us a very good percentage throughout the year. This shows that the boys always gave it their best effort in every game. The players continued to develop their skills, and regardless of how big, small or skilful the opposition was, the boys played together as a team that helped secure some great wins. As the season progressed the team really bonded together and it was great to watch the way everyone played footy as a team, working together and learning their role.

The boys trained hard all season and the coaches were always impressed with their dedication and maturity. We qualified for the finals in fourth place, but the season was cancelled due to the COVID-19 health measures and lockdown in the week leading up to the finals.

I would like to thank Coach Phil David, team manager Christie, our runner Troy, volunteer umpires Hugo and Richard, and the parent volunteers for their support during the season.

PLAYER SUMMARIES

HENRY ATKINSON

Henry played many roles this season in both the backs and forwards who showed very good aggression in winning the ball at both ends. Henry had some great games which was built on his dedication at training and kicked 2 goals for the year. Well done Henry.

JAMES BARTLETT

Jimmy is a versatile player who would win the hard ball each week for the team. His relentless tackling pressure on the opposition is big feature of Jimmy's game which was on display against a tough Tigers outfit. Jimmy kicked 5 goals for the season.

XAVIER BEESLEY

Xavier is very talented player with an unlimited engine who regularly featured in the best players each week. His attack on the ball was fantastic however his football IQ is the next level which really makes him a great player. Grub had a great season in winning the Marist best and fairest for the second time, kicking 16 goals and also placed third for the ACT best and fairest.

OLIVER BREW

Oliver had a stand-out season this year who has continued to improve his skills and reading of the game. Oliver is a reliable back man often shutting down a key forward or providing an intercept in defence. Oliver had some great games with a stand-out performance against Gungahlin getting some votes.

WILLIAM BROWN

Will is our Mr Reliable who normally would play CHB and also backing up for Ruck. Often a quiet achiever he would shut down the opposition CHF by always doing the best for the team by doing the simple things very well. Another great season Will.

REUBEN COLL

This was Reuben's first season who showed great perseverance in practicing his skills and learning to read the game which became evident towards the end of the season. Reuben became a very effective forward using his speed to lead into the space for an option. Great first season Reuben.

HARRY DAVID

Harry had another great season who started the season on the half back line that progressed to playing on the ball. Harry developed his tackling pressure and ability to win the hard ball that allowed him to play backs and on the ball. Harry celebrated his 50 games this year.

LIAM EDWARDS

Liam was a standout performer for Marist on the wing this year using his speed and tackling pressure to win the one-on-one contest who kicked 2 goals for the year. Unfortunately, Liam injured his shoulder towards the end of the season which was a big loss for the team.

JESSE ELLWOOD

Jesse's performance in the centre was fantastic who could dominate a game with his pressure and intercept play. He kicked 5 goals for the year and consistently featured in the votes being awarded runner up best and fairest for Marist. Great Season Jesse.

WILLIAM EVANS

From the start of the season; Will showed great potential and continually worked hard at training and each game that really shown through towards the end of season. Will played backs, forwards and ruck this year with standout games against the Tigers scoring some votes and then against Magpies kicking his first goal.

MAX FRANCIS

Max had a great season this year kicking 5 goals using his speed and soccer skills as a small forward. As the season progressed Maxi moved onto the ball where his commitment to win the ball was a great asset for the team. His dedication and commitment at training and on game day is rewarded by winning the Club Spirit and Culture Award.

OLIVER HENDERSON

Ollie had a cracker of a season on the wing in his first season of AFL at Marist. He commanded the wing with explosive pace and was the Royals key link player. He is a ball getter, racking up many disposals and even kicked 3 goals. He practiced developing his skills and footy attributes over the games and at training. We look forward to watching Ollie develop in AFL in future seasons.

JOSHUA HOLDOM

Josh had another consistent season at Marist - his skills and footy attributes have developed which made him a valuable team player. His main positions this season were on the wing, on the ball and in the forward line, where he made great contributions every week, kicking 5 goals for the team. He has good skills and trained hard - great season Josh.

BAILEY MAHAR

Bailey in his first season of AFL for the U12 Royals was unstoppable at full back - a position in which he was in his element. He often shut down opposition full forwards, taking goal saving marks and intercepts in the last line of defence. Bailey was best on ground in his first game and on the one occasion he was put forward he slotted a major. He has a booming kick and clean hands - a superb season!

JAKE MUNYARD

Jake played many key positions this year - CHF, FF and with the occasional run on the ball. A quiet achiever, he had a great season as a key position forward, booting 11 goals (highlighted by 3 goals against the Magpies). Jake dominated with his skills, ability to take a grab and read the play, along with his accurate kicking. He proved to be one of the teams most consistent players.

LIAM NASH

Liam has improved since the U11's - spending time both in the backs and forwards this year. He is a competitor who tries hard every game. He worked hard on his footy skills at training, which transferred into game day, highlighted by a couple of goals in the last game of the season. Keep practicing Liam - well done this year!

HENRY NIHILL

Henry is a true key position forward for the team - playing in the pocket, on the flank and at full forward. He came 4th in the U12 league with his 17 goals, often kicking truly at crucial moments to turn a game! Highlights of the season for Henry were a 5 goal haul against Gunghalin, 4 against a tough Tuggeranong, an outstanding effort on the half back flank against the Magpies and passing his 50 game milestone. Awesome contribution Henry!

TOM PENROSE

Tom played a variety of positions from the backs to the forwards, with the occasional run in the centre. In his first season at Marist, he focused on developing his AFL skills and footy IQ especially at training and transferring what he has learnt into game day. Tom tried hard this year on game day, highlighted by a goal in the first game of the year.

SAM ROUWHORST

Sam proved to be a back pocket player who often tagged the opposition forwards to great effect. He chased and tackled hard, often getting into the pack to get the ball out to our runners. Sam played a great game against the Magpies to be in the best players! Keep going Sam!

DAVID SCOTT

David played the majority of the season in the forward line. He has developed confidence to get involved in the game - chasing hard and attacking the ball. David's skills continue to develop, and he gave his all at training. Well done David!

MITCHELL WADIE

Mitch had a great season again as the Royals big man in the ruck!! He often won the taps straight to our players and was always where the ball was. His contribution around the ground was awesome, owning any key position he played in. Mitch would often bust through a pack with the ball and break open a game! Even though he did not hit the scoreboard this year, Mitch accurately fed the ball to our forwards resulting in many goals. His contribution was invaluable in the team's success this year - a fitting winner of the Coaches Award. An excellent season Mitch!

FINN WILSON

Finn again proved to be a valuable on-baller this season who was always at the bottom of a pack putting his body on the line in all contests. He also played some excellent games on the half back flank in quarters where the games were tight. Finn continues to develop his skills and footy IQ, being focussed at training, contributing to the team game by gaining many effective possessions. His efforts on the field and work ethic at training were consistent - congratulations on a great season and your milestone 50 games Finn!



UNDER 12 SKY TEAM REPORT



TEAM DETAILS

Coach

David Geremia (Gerra),
Paul Sheahan (Sheano),
Rod Cowie (Rocket)

Team manager

Kylie Kovac (KK)

SUMMARY OF SEASON

The under 12 Sky team returned to football this year freshened up with some talented recruits which in effect was a complete reversal of last season, beginning the year with COVID in our rear vision mirror only for it to rear its ugly head and ruin the end of what was a very rewarding season for the group.

In similar fashion to last season our players ranged from being seasoned campaigners to complete newbies. The challenge we as coaches faced was much like last season, one training session to cover off on so many fundamentals whilst ensuring each boy received the individual attention required to develop their talents.

Finishing middle of the ladder in a 14-team competition was a great achievement for Sky. Of our 11 games, 7 were against teams higher than us on the ladder and 2 of our 6 wins were against teams higher than us on the ladder, finishing the season with 6 wins and 5 losses. The team worked hard over the season at evolving into a side that could move the ball both down the corridor and up the wings. We can confidently say that at numerous times throughout the season we played the most attractive style of football amongst any of the teams in the competition. It was very pleasing to observe the boys to start to kick to defensive pockets and huddle and spread

during games. Skills overall have improved, particularly accuracy and intent with kicking. The use of fast handballs was becoming the norm whilst attacking rather than just throwing it on the boot and hoping for the best.

One thing all the coaches can agree upon is that this group have united and show a real spirit and respect for each other. The friendship amongst the players was observed on and off the field, sticking up for your mates during the game as well as being respectful at training and on game day has been the standard.

Although disappointed the season came to a sudden end, we were fortunate to experience several highlights throughout the season, I thought it would be nice to share some of them (in no particular order).

- After being bullied and bashed for three quarters and finding ourselves behind by three goals, the boys found something and kicked five goals straight in the fourth quarter to roll over the shell-shocked Queanbeyan Tigers and win by 13 points. Ironically this game was the catalyst for Rocket to agree to our terms and officially sign his contract to commence his role as the Sky's specialist coach. Up until this point, he was sitting on the fence.

- It is a shame that not everyone could attend but informal gathering in Sydney (just prior to its lockdown, literally) to watch the GWS v Carlton game was let's just say really good for everyone bar the Carlton tragic!! Thanks to the relentless pestering from KK along with some solid internal GWS connections the boys were able to have a pre-game experience which included walking out onto the field and getting a group photo taken, some even got to heckle Razor Ray as the umpires warmed up.
- Playing a mid-week game against the Royals on Lindwall Oval! These games always live up to its reputation and this one was no exception. There was less than a goal in it and we were lucky enough on this occasion to take home the chocolates. The excitement post game was unbelievable, can't imagine what it would have been like had it been a final.
- The miserable, wet, windy, and freezing cold day at Giralang. Trying our best to play silky footy when the conditions just wouldn't allow it. Not in the game, down by a goal and a bit more the boys were instructed to play messy footy, get the ball into our attacking 50 and do not let it out. After gaining the lead in the third quarter we commenced the fourth quarter a goal in front, what followed was the most beautiful "ugly" brand of football you have ever seen, picture 36 boys in our forward 50 for the whole quarter!! Zero goals and three behinds gave us the victory by nine points in what was a very satisfying victory. To top this off the boys did a victory slide in a massive puddle, all the parents loved it, not!!
- The "Father-Son" training day which we turned into the "Anyone-Son" training day. This was a fun afternoon and will be looking forward to making this a more common activity next season. It was a really good opportunity for the boys to experience playing against some super talented AFL wannabees and I know the boys won't want to be reminded of this but the Wannabees won the game, might have had something to do with Sheano having no regard for size differences, absolutely smashing the young kids.

To complement the MAFC sanctioned awards in the land of Sky we also have four non-sanctioned team awards – Golden Boot, Golden Tongue, Golden Spirit and Golden Leader I am pleased to announce the winners for season 2021 are as follows;

- Golden Boot (Joint Winners) – Ari Geremia/Ethan Cook
- Golden Tongue – Marcus Buckley
- Golden Spirit – Logan McRae
- Golden Leader (Joint Winners) – Archie Kovac/Ashton Ryan

The coaching staff would like to thank all the parents/ carers for getting the boys to the games, taking on weekly tasks, just being genuinely friendly and receptive to us. In particular we would like to thank the Ryan Family (once again) who were involved weekly in game day roles, especially Ella as our experienced water distributor and Rhys for his love of running the boundary. Our very own "Razor Ray" sympathiser, Paul Smith for once again taking on the role as team umpire, he is improving each game. You know I am just kidding Paul; we are all very grateful to have someone of your talent and experience taking on this role and the professionalism you display whilst in uniform is unbelievable. Tony G from the Rising Stars for attending training sessions and assisting with skill development and the general running of the sessions, it is a fantastic initiative of the club to get senior footballers involved with the juniors and Tony was certainly a testament to this. The three Under 11 boys – A-Bomb, Xander and Hazza who backed up after their games and contributed across the park for us. Mick Burgess (KK's Dad) for his weekly financial support of a weekly award inclusive of inspirational words of wisdom for the recipient. Jodi Sluis once again returned as the primary carer of our injured little men and I think would agree her workload was higher than last season but all in all another very tame season, thankfully! The boys are very lucky to have someone as committed and caring as Jodi looking after their well-being, we can only hope you hang around for the years to come. The living legend Rod "Rocket" Cowie who just couldn't stay away, I will be doing my best to ensure this quality human being continues his role as specialist coach as the boys embark on their first year of senior footy (that's right Under 13's). We are very lucky to have someone of Rockets' calibre involved with the development of our boys.

Last, but not least, Kylie Kovac "KK" for her super Managerial skills that did not go unnoticed. Keeping on top of things this season was a big step up from last season, the amount of time KK has to put in outside of what we all see is massive and we are so lucky to have someone who does this week in week out whilst always maintaining a smile. I think it is only fair that due to the shortened season this year, KK's contract is renewed for another season. Geez this sounds familiar, I get the feeling this is exactly what I wrote last season, probably because it is, I guess if you have got a good thing why change it!! So see you next year KK...

It is almost becoming familiar, once again it has been a fun and rewarding year being involved with a super talented group. As coaches we can only hope the boys had a good experience, enjoyed the opportunity we provided them and return next season to continue their legacy at the MAFC.

Gerra, Sheano and Rocket.

PLAYER SUMMARIES

XADE BORWICK

At training or playing, Xade is always able to find the balance between having fun and having a real crack. Xades friendly and happy nature hides a strongly analytical, determined and competitive young man who always works to give his all.

MARCUS BUCKLEY

Marcus continues to give his all to his footy and team, he knows how to fully engage and have fun at the same time. Marcus has become legendary for his team speeches and decomposition of coach's instructions. Working across the park, Marcus always gives his all to win contested footy and move the ball forward.

DANIEL COFFEY

Daniel is really finding a niche role with his ability to read play, time his engagement with the ball and delivery to advantage. Daniel is a natural outside and connecting player, playing his best footy when we are in attack. We'd like to see Daniel develop his defensive side to become an intercept weapon when there are forward turn overs.

ETHAN COOK

Cookie continues to be an exceptionally versatile player who can be relied upon to get the job done. There were many times throughout the season when the coaches looked to Cookie for moves to change things up in attack or close down defensive challenges. A selfless player who applies himself to any role and always plays with a team first attitude. Congrats on equal first in the goal kicking.

CARTER FREEMAN

Carts contributed strongly throughout the season but had a couple of standout games where his application of determination, speed and ball skills had a significant effect on the passages of play he was engaged in. Carts always applies himself in training and engages valuable, if occasional cheeky, contribution to team chats.

ARI GEREMIA

Ari loves his footy. He is a quiet fella who loves sending the pig skin towards the big sticks, congrats on equal first in the goal kicking. Ari holds his own with his opponents, enjoying the challenge of the physical game and is learning the mental game. Ari would be well advised to listen to his brother more than his dad.

LACHLAN GREEN

The irrepressible Lachie really took on his footy again this year, be it training or game he always gives 100%. Lachie is never short of words of wisdom and encouragement for his team mates and the coaching team and he always backs it up with leading from the front. Lachie understands the value of individual effort in a team environment and always worked to take options that improve the team's position. A great year Greenie.

ARCHIE KOVAC

Archie stepped his fitness up a level this year, giving good on ground endurance across the game. Archie brings great spirit, skills and determination to the game. Archie's strong (and admirable) sense of social justice can distract him from the footy, turn all that passion into attack on the footy and he will be unstoppable.

LOGAN MCRAE

Logan is the concealed weapon every coach loves to have. Around contests Logan is tenacious with the footy and never backs away from the hard ball get. Logan is a great team player with his unassuming and kind personality bringing stability and confidence to the team.

CONNOR MIDDLETON

Connor had a great season and has worked hard, applying himself both to training and to games. It's great to see him continually building in confidence and enjoying the team environment and allowing his personality to shine. Connor is a team player who is always looking to contribute his best and encourage his mates along the way.

ELIJAH ROFF

Skilled, fair and measured - the votes say it all. Elijah is an instinctive reader of the ball and play who is able to effect contest clearances beautifully. A total team player both with the footy and leadership amongst the fellas, he is always one of the first to rally the troops when we're under pressure. Bub is very coachable, he listens to reason and instruction and executes beautifully.

ASHTON RYAN

Ashton has really started to show himself as a defensive forward who works well in contests to help move the ball forward and keep it in our forward line. Ashton's positive nature at training and games is a great part of our team's spirit, this is clearly demonstrated with his continued attendance and participation during the period of long term injury and recovery. Ashton continues to grow with his footy and his enjoyment of the game and team is clearly evident.

GRIFFIN SLUIS

Grif always bring great skills and reading of play to the game. Managing a few niggling injuries knocked a bit of the wind out of his sails this year. Grif contributed significantly thought the spine of the field defensively, midfield and booting goals. Keep an eye on the long game and believe in yourself mate, we do.

NATHAN WATT

Nathan continues to impress as a mild-mannered fella with some great inner mongrel. Defensively, Nathan is always competitive and accountable, he takes pride in his own efforts and it shows. Nathan is a great team player contributing both on field and at training.

LEO WILLIAMS

Leo has continued to make his presence felt in contested situations with frequent calls to play in the ruck. Leo excels in pressure situations when the feels he can take it on and win. When Leo does take it on, he can clear a path from the contest to the goals making great forward progress with the footy.

MITCHELL WISE

Mitch had a great year in front of the sticks, coming third in the goal kicking rankings. Mitch is very much a quiet achiever who works well in team. Mitch's ability to read the fall of the ball and progression of play means he usually well position to receive the footy or to clean up around the outside of a contest. Mitch continues to be a significant contributor to the team on field an off field.

REUBEN BELCHER

Reuben was new to MAFC this year and made a stunning debut. Defensively, Reuben's ability to read incoming play, identify the most dangerous threat, deal with the threat whilst being accountable for his man is exceptional. Often the coaches would see a loose forward, work out that it was Reuben's man and then relax – we could always depend on him to have it covered. A great year Reuben.

COOPER CLARK

Cooper, who was new to MAFC this year, is constantly improving his game sense and skills. Cooper enjoys being part of the team, engaging with team mates and contributing on field and at training. We feel that as Cooper grows into the game, his enjoyment and participation will really take off.

WILLIAM NEWBURY

Newbs was new to MAFC this year and we were super pleased to have another Carlton fan on board. Newbs has really picked up the AFL skills and shown great awareness and ability to read the play, picking up a few sausage rolls along the way. A fantastic first season with Sky and were looking forward to many more.

WILLIAM REES

New to the team this year, William quietly went about his business of establishing himself as a player who has great skills and is a very calm and capable opponent when under pressure. William always seemed to make the right choices defensively about when to push up and when to hold back, a rock solid and dependable player who was often the last line of defence. A great first season Reesy, keep it up mate.

THOMAS TARBUCK

Thomas was new to Aussie Rules this year and has had a real crack at all aspects of the sport. Whilst initially a little unsure of some of the physical aspects of the game it was pleasing to see him start to embrace them and come out smiling. Great work Thomas, keen to see you back next season.

ABHAYAN THARMARAJAH

This season was Aby's first and what a debut season! Aby has a good grasp of game play and understands how he can engage to influence the game. Aby is very coachable, he talks, listens, learns and takes the knowledge onto the field and applies it. A solid and courageous competitor with a great sense of being a team contributor.

UNDER 13 TEAM REPORT

TEAM DETAILS

Coach	Declan Welsh	Team manager	Wayne McAuliffe
Assistant coaches	Tony Bufalo, Simon 'Gus' Blacker	Team captain(s)	Ewan Hyde, Tommy Smith, Sevie de Cos, Blake Egan, Nick Bufalo, Leo Ryan and Will Hyson.

SUMMARY OF SEASON

At the beginning of 2021, a hefty amount of eager, young footballers registered to play Aussie rules for Marist, and after a rejig of numbers, equally sharing older boys amongst the two U14 teams, the U13s were left with a quality mix of returning Year 6/7s, and boys new to the College (special nod to Eastlake for the talent pool!). Training commenced with a healthy dose of optimism that Covid shutdowns and restrictions were behind us and a successful season lay ahead. While we didn't get to quite see out the entire season, a finals berth was just one of many positives for the year. Round 1 saw a clash with the eventual undefeated ladder leaders, Eastlake, and unfortunately ended in a 100+ point loss (with a score of 2.0, at least we kicked straight!). Despite the deflating start to the year, the boys turned things around immediately with a 6 goal win in round 2 at the ever-windy Amaroo Oval. From there, the boys managed to string together a few strong wins before a patch of tight, and not so tight, losses. For the rest of the season there were definitely moments in games where we didn't play to our best, resulting in some losses by under a kick. Add in two 'wash out' rounds, and it was always going to be hard to gain momentum for the all-important run home. Despite the setbacks, the boys finished 6th with a gutsy loss against one of two very strong Ainslie teams. The season officially 'ended' with an unfortunately winnable, yet cancelled, elimination final. Every boy who pulled on the Marist jumper for the U13 played with heart and more importantly, there was improvement across the board, allowing for a truly enjoyable season regardless of the outcome. I hope there's enough hunger for all boys involved to go around again in 2022, as the ongoing bond of this group was great to witness and certainly points to future success. I wish the very best to each individual in this team, whatever choice is made next year, and congratulate all for the tremendous amount of character shown in such a challenging year. A massive thank you goes to

Wayne McAuliffe, Tony Bufalo, Gus Blacker and Mark Korsten, whose passion and commitment towards this team ensured the boys had the chance to compete every week against a remarkably strong competition. Wayne organised the all important match day jobs, kitted the boys out in the amazing Indigenous jumpers for a portion of the season, and helped out at training with genuine team deficiencies (mostly what he referred to as 'real tackling' with rugby bags). Buf made sure there was plenty of light-hearted banter from the bench and would routinely take on the unenviable task of organising player rotations in a team of 26 boys! Gus brought a fantastic knowledge of junior football with him, and while I occasionally focussed on providing training support to boys new to football, he ensured the more experienced players were driven and were given the chance to improve specific facets of their game. Mark offered some insight into the values based side of coaching and put his hand up despite juggling two different weekend sports. A sincere thank you to all parents or family members who fulfilled a match-day job. Special mention to Simon Smith and Cherrone Ryan who goal umpired and first aided almost every game, respectively, along with our regular home umpire, Anthony Burke. This team is seriously lucky to have such supportive, passionate Marist families. See you all next year!



PLAYER SUMMARIES

ARCHIBALD BLACKER

Archie showed great versatility playing predominantly as a midfielder, but occasionally rebounding across half back or going forward as a tall, strong marking option. Brilliant in the air, Archie took a mark of the year contender (and almost undid his good work with a recalled miss in the square), and showed superb foot skills all year. A worthy B+F runner-up in his first year at Marist.

JED BOURKE

Jed took some time to settle into one position, but once he went forward, he didn't look back! He was a great leading option, routinely getting in front of his opponent and snagging some crucial goals, late in the year. Well done on your first year in the Blue and Blue!

NOAH BROWN

An absolute brick wall in defence, 'Brownny' (or 'Pumpkin' as he attempted to nickname himself) became a proverbial goalkeeper, swallowing up opposing team's attacks, often on the very last line. Brownny combined brilliantly with Plugger all year and must've saved more goals than anyone in the competition!

NICK BUFALO

It's hard to name a tougher wingman than Nick. He played like an absolute terrier all season, laying countless tackles and applying constant repeat efforts. Nick really led from the front in games where we lacked aggression and would come to the bench at every rotation having nothing left in the tank.

CHARLES CHIPMAN

It was great to have 'Chippo' back at the club; he improved drastically as the year went on, and became an important tall defender, reading the play brilliantly and taking strong contested marks from all over the back 50. Chippo's strength in the contest was particularly appreciated when coming up against such big bodies in the U13 comp!

SEVIE DE COS

Silky Sevie continued to play his brilliant goal sneak role this year, but managed to push up the field and take some strong marks, throughout the season. Not happy with his goal of the year contender, earlier in the year, he decided to kick another tight one from the pocket in the same game! Sevie's strong leadership and respect for the jumper was hugely appreciated.

BLAKE EGAN

A true clubman and quiet achiever. Despite his gentle and friendly demeanour off the field, Blakey doesn't take a single back step in any contests, and proved to be a valuable 'swingman' playing at both ends of the ground. Thanks for your respect and constant help at training, Blake.

LUKE GILL

Gilly really grew in confidence this year, and will give his palm a well-deserved rest in the off-season after handing out more 'don't argues' than Dusty Martin. Gilly's thumping right boot also proved to be a great asset throughout the season.

RILEY GOLLEDGE

Another new student and player, Riley was challenged by the coaches in multiple roles, always giving his best and coming to the bench as equally as drained as Nick. The ball was always in safe hands with Riley.

XANDER HALL

Xander steadily grew in confidence this year, and it was great to see the games where he'd involve himself early before going on to show off his footy smarts and great marking ability throughout the day. Well done on your first year for Marist, Xander.

EWAN HYDE

A consistent year, from a smart midfielder, which saw a milestone game. Despite his size, Ewey is as tough as any other player in the competition, and his ferocious tackling, piercing foot pass, and run-and-carry are just some of the strengths of his game. It was his leadership and commitment to further improving his already impressive game that secured Ewan the Coach's Award for 2021.



WILLIAM HYSON

'Plugger' was a standout this year, and deserving B+F winner, routinely doing what he liked across halfback, gobbling up countless opposition attacks. If Browny has the record for goals saved this year, Plugger must have it for uncontested marks. Plugger's developing leadership skills were well noted.

JONAH KORSTEN

Jonah was another new student to the College and a big improver over the course of the season, becoming unstoppable in the air, clunking any mark that came this way, always quickly swinging around to propel the ball forward to the right spot. We thank you for the commitment to and love for the jumper, Jonah, by regularly backing up for the U14s.

LOGAN LITTLE

'Loges' has always shown a great deal of character off the field, and this year he brought it into his game. Loges showed a cool head under pressure and began running to the right spots and playing in front, starting to get onto the end of some important forward plays and showing great aggression.

LUKE MCCORMACK

Size certainly wasn't a prerequisite for toughness this year, and Luke was as hard at it as any. Lukey spent the year laying tackles on players twice his size (often Jonah, at training, regardless of whether or not there was a tackling drill involved) and drove us forward countless times through the middle. An impressive first year for the club.

EDWARD MURPHY

Eddie was another big improver, in his first year, and by the halfway point of the season, had become an impressive tagger. Eddie possess a want to learn and grow, and seemed to really enjoy his footy once he began finding his own ball and shutting down some of the competition's best midfielders!

THOMAS SMITH

'Sticks' had what can only be described as a breakout year. His leadership shone through in a season where he played on ball, in the ruck, as a sweeping mid, and across half back. His ability to read the play was as good as anyone in the competition, and he drove us forward all year with toughness, a strong mark and impressive foot skills.

JACK SUTER

Jack was new to the club and unfortunately had his season cut short by injury; his limited display was particularly impressive, however, showing an ability down back to impact the right contests, often peeling off his man to provide a strong fist in defence. His cool head and accurate foot pass is something we hope to see more of next year.

LAWSON TAYLOR

Lawso was another big developer in his first year for Marist, and showed great energy at every training session, finishing the year as a strong contested midfielder, with plenty of smart, releasing handballs in traffic. The aqua headgear was easily spotted from the bench, and was often found in the thick of the contest.

ETHAN WILLEMSEN-BELL

'EJ' ran and fought hard all year and showed off his impressive kicking ability, absorbing plenty of opposition attacks through the middle of the ground and smashing the ball back into attack. We asked a bit of EJ this year, often playing him in, as he described, his 'worst' position – if only he stopped owning the centre of the ground we might have moved him!



JARED WILSON

Another (new) big improver throughout the course of year, Jared showed an unbelievable amount of skill and an impressive ability to read the play, especially at stoppages. Later in the year Jared added a real toughness to his game which saw desperate acts around the ball where they were desperately needed in close games!

DARCY MCAULIFFE

Darcy absolutely owned the high half forward role in his first Marist season (in conjunction with hard running midfield stints), and was seen routinely swinging around on his powerful left boot to set up attacks inside 50 (I've speculated about a lot of potential stat leaders and I think Darc gets the 'Inside 50' crown).

XAVIER RICHARDSON

Xav's footy smarts extend well beyond the team he supports, and his cool head under pressure has been invaluable all season. One of several dependable rebounding half-backs, Xav never rushes a disposal and competes well at ground level.

LEO RYAN

To say Leo is a quiet achiever would be an understatement. His decision making skills and ability to read the play are beyond his years, and his respect for the jumper and willingness to learn and grow as a footballer has been a joy for the coaches. Although certainly not the loudest in the team, Leo would have to be one of the toughest; special mention to his ruck heroics late in the season against some BIG bodies.

UNDER 14 ROYAL TEAM REPORT



TEAM DETAILS

Coach	Ray Jack	Team manager	Andrew Choules
Assistant coaches	Matt Knox, Brendan Egan		

SUMMARY OF SEASON

With the U14 age group split into two teams in 2021 the Royal team were joined by a very talented group of U13 boys giving us a solid list of 19. With the usual injury and illness, the Royal team regularly started games short, relying on a regular top up of U13 boys that had played the earlier game.

Outnumbered and outsized the boys were never beaten on effort, always trying their hardest and never giving up. This attitude mixed with some quality football produced three cracking wins and a couple of very close losses. The boys should be very proud of the way they represented themselves this year.

The boys have a wonderful parent group and are well placed for volunteers.

Thank you to my assistant coaches Matt Knox, Brendan Egan and Matt Ellwood and to Mark Korsten for helping at training throughout the year.

To our manager Andrew Choules for putting it all together.

To our first aids Nicole Knox and Mel Berg.

To all our game day helpers with special mention to Michelle Barry and Michael Ross.

To Harvey Jack, Matthew Choules and Caden Egan for match day running (and talking) and helping at training.

Special thanks to Archie Blacker, Noah Brown, Sevie de Cos, Blake Egan, Ewan Hyde and Xavier Richardson who regularly travelled from their game to ours, providing us with some great highlights. Our season would not have been possible without your help.

PLAYER SUMMARIES

HUGH BARRY

Great year from our quiet achieving back pocket. Hugh really took his game to the next level this year introducing contested marking to his growing skill set. A dedicated trainer, Baz never complains or seems defeated, rather, he works harder with the rewards really starting to show. Hard to beat one on one, Baz is hard at the footy and has really made the back pocket his own. Recipient of this year's Spirit award.

LEVI BELCHER

Very consistent year from a player who is a great kick of the footy and a great reader of the play, often steps in front of those around him. Can play multiple positions but most dominating at Fullback where he consistently wins the ball and drives his team forward.

JACK BERG

Despite niggling injuries all season Jack was able to play some great footy. Bergy is a natural athlete with a huge leap who was used as a stop gap this year, playing in multiple positions. Bergy grasped the opportunity to play wherever he was asked and always gave his all. Possible future number one ruckman in the making, Jack is the recipient of this years Most Improved player.

ZAYN BUTLER

One of the teams talls, Zayne is a hard at it footballer with pace and skill. Playing mostly key position Zayno was regularly given a job to stop an opposition player with great affect. Played some great games this year, his battles with Daniel Egan during tackling training a highlight.

WILLIAM CHOULES

Strong and fearless Will has all the attributes needed to be a game changing footballer. Playing mainly through key position roles this year, Choulsey was able to curb the influence of opposition big men and provide a dangerous avenue to goal. A great mark and thumping kick, many game day highlights await the big fella.

DANIEL EGAN

Outstanding season of footy from our best player. Tough and talented, Ego leads by example and provides a wonderful inspiration for his teammates. Unbeatable one on one, Ego dominated all opponents and was a standout on game day. Best and Fairest award winner and U14 Giants representative.

FINNEGAN ELLWOOD

A frustrating year for Finn ruined by injury. One of the competitions best, Finn is a natural footballer that can play anywhere. Finn showed how much he was missed this year with a wonderful cameo performance against QBYN with 4 goals in 10 mins, helping his mates to our best win of the season. U14 Giants representative.

TIMOTHY HANLEY

Frustrating season with injury for one of the team's best players. Lower leg injuries hampered Silk's ability to run but did not stop him from winning lots of the ball. Playing deep back, Silky was able to dominate games at times and will no doubt benefit from a break during the off season to come back bigger and better next year. U14 Giants representative.

KELLEY JACK

A move from the forward line to a role at halfback and in the midfield provided a new challenge for Kel this year. Kel put together a great season with his hard at it ball winning ability and great skills providing his teammates with many opportunities. Runner up Best and Fairest winner and U14 Giants representative.

NATHAN KERR

One of our U13 boys who is naturally skilled and who has a bright future. Playing and age up Nathan was never daunted and always gave his all playing both deep forward and back.

CALEB KIRK

Caleb is a hard at it footballer who can be relied upon to play in many positions often on opponents much taller. Kirky can win contested possessions at will bringing those around him into the game. A quiet achiever, Caleb is blessed with an accurate right boot and a safe pair of hands.

SAM KIRKALDIE

Another of the teams talls Sam is a natural footballer with a thumping kick and super pair of hands. Playing in many different positions this year Sammy K is a natural key position player that is suited to CHF or CHB and one who will provide MAFC with a quality player that future teams can be built around.

PARKER KNOX

Despite some interruption with injury and a nasty concussion Parker played some great games of footy this year, often asked to shoulder the games forward responsibilities. A natural runner who is a wonderful mark for his size, Knox is ideally suited to the midfield where he wins multiple possessions and drives his team forward.

JONAH KORSTEN

One of our U13 boys who played six quarters most weekends and took ownership of the number one ruck position. A natural tap ruck man who is a great mark and kick, Jonah took on and beat some big older age boys this year and was an easy choice as recipient of this year's Coach's Award. U13 Giants representative.

KYE MURTAGH

One of our U13 boys whose small stature hides a fierce attack on the ball. Well suited as a small forward Kye has a deadly left boot that can be used to effect when winning the ball at the foot of a pack. U13 Giants representative.

JOSHUA NUSS

Huge year of football for our first-year player Josh. Nussy has a real appetite for the contest and is a great kick, scoring some great goals this year. Appears naturally suited to the game of AFL and one whose natural progression will provide MAFC with a quality footballer.

CAMERON PEPPER

Typical hard at it year from one of the team's real characters. Provided the team some lighthearted moments in a tough year and someone who when the body is right can be a very good footballer, as shown in the last round when Pepp's was thrown on the ball and provided the team with first use, dominating against the top side.

JAKE ROSS

One of the U13 boys whose running ability can break a game open. Played mainly as an attacking winger Jake played some solid footy and was one of the team's big improvers, hitting the scoreboard and shutting opposition players out of games.

NICHOLAS STEPHENSON

One of the U13 boys who is not out of place at the older level. Stevo had an outstanding year and played many different positions often getting the job on the opposition's best player. Rarely beaten one on one Stevo has a unique ability to evade the tackle and is very damaging by foot. Player who can dominate when played in an attacking role. U13 Giants representative.

UNDER 14 SKY TEAM REPORT



TEAM DETAILS

Coach	Steve Mahar	Team manager	Kelly Davis
Assistant coaches	Brett Davis, Dom Egan	Team captain(s)	Sam Laria

SUMMARY OF SEASON

Marist Under 14 Sky enjoyed a very successful 2021 season. We won eight of ten games, finishing equal top of the ladder and were due to play finals until they were cancelled due to COVID.

The season was filled with so much positivity and fun. I'm grateful to the club and parents for allowing me the privilege to coach an amazing group of boys. I'm also grateful to the many boys and parents in the U'13s team who played up to give us the necessary numbers to field two U'14 teams this year.

Over the course of the year every Sky boy developed due to having more game time than ever before. Each playing a vital role in the team's success. Our 'Team First' approach saw us bond, take great pleasure in our collective success and as a result become one of the best teams in the competition.

I thank all the boys for buying into the game plan and how we ran the team. Every week they took ownership of our team and helped to build a culture of fun, competitiveness, and genuine care for each other on and off the field. This was very well supported by a strong parent group who were nothing but engaged and encouraging.

Assistant coaches Brett Davis, Dom Egan and runner, Guy Cannon provided great coaching and guidance to me and the boys in the team. Our extraordinary team manager, Kelly Davis made it so easy for the coaches and players to do their thing on a Saturday. Her weekly "Sky News" article always kept parents entertained and well informed. As a group, our skills and experience gelled to provide a supportive environment and develop a strong team culture.

I extend a very big thank you to the parents who not only were able to support the boys to be the best they could be on game days but volunteered when needed and created a positive vibe on a Saturday morning. Special thanks to Rob McGregor who took some amazing photos during the year.

Marist U'14s can be really proud of developing two strong teams that supported each other at various times throughout the year. I acknowledge Ray Jack's support and commitment to coaching the U'14s Royals and his willingness to provide support to Sky whenever it was needed.

PLAYER SUMMARIES

LUKE ALLARDYCE

Luke progressed in the early part of the season to confidently compete in the U'14s age group. His performance in the Belconnen Cats game demonstrated that he was more than up to the task and he was able to use this to springboard into the rest of the year. Due to his increased confidence and work rate, Luke was able to have an impact in many games towards the back end of the year.

JOEL BUCKLEY

Joel's ability to take the game on and use his speed was a real highlight. His ability to read the play is something that Joel can be very proud of. These are key weapons Joel can use to build his game on into the future.

OLIVER CANNON

Ollie had an outstanding year where he displayed a physical dominance that highlighted he is one of the best players in the competition. Ollie played many roles all over the ground, but it was when he played in the midfield with a steely determination that we saw him play his best footy.

LIAM CLOWRY

Liam progressed in the early part of the season to confidently compete in this age group. Throughout the year he became a significant contributor for our team using his superior fitness and foot skills. Liam's ball control in traffic is excellent and he was able to provide the ball to his teammate's advantage.

TOM COLES

Tom continued to develop throughout the year and was able to use his excellent kicking skills to link up well with his teammates. Tom played many roles up forward and on the wing, but his kicking out of fullback is where he played his best footy.

BRODIE DAVIS

Brodie again had a very consistent year and was able to step up in big games when needed. His leadership was acknowledged by being named one of our Vice Captains. His improvement when playing on ball was excellent and provided great aggression, drive and direction for our team out of the midfield.

LUKE EGAN

Luke is one of the most courageous players in the competition. His attack on the footy and his ability to bounce back and feed the ball off to teammates is outstanding. He handled the step up in age groups with ease and found his niche on the half back line by reading the play well.

WILLIAM JOHNSTON

JJ played many important roles for the team this year and a standout was his game against the Belconnen Cats where he was able to shut down his opponent and then be very dangerous for us in attack that set us up for success. JJ's speed and raw athleticism is going to be a weapon for his game as he continues his development.

SAM KEOGH

Sam played in various positions this year, but it was his role in the forward line in the early part of the year that set us up for many wins. Sam worked extremely hard in the pre-season that provided a great base for him to be a great player for us in 2021.



DANIEL KNIGHT

Daniel was Mr Reliable this year. He was able to hold down many key positions in all parts of the ground this year. Daniel displayed great leadership on and off the field and was awarded Vice Captain as recognition of these leadership attributes. He was also a very dedicated trainer which enabled him to be so damaging for us this year.

SAM LARIA

Sam played much of the year on the wing and gave the team strong structure to play through in attack, but also help the defenders when needed. He was a great leader on and off the field and was recognised by being named a very popular Captain. Sam played a crucial role for our midfield towards the end of the year.

GRIFFIN LEITCH

Griffin was our leading goal kicker for the year, but it was his team first approach is where he showed most growth. He continued to improve his work rate which complemented his brute strength and ability to out-muscle his opponent especially when near goal.

HARRY MAHAR

Harry had a very strong season this year. He played his role in the midfield with clean hands, but up forward is where he was most dangerous for the team who reads the play well and provides a great target. He is a passionate player who likes to get around his teammates and was acknowledged as one of the Vice Captains.

COOPER MAHER

Cooper had a very solid year and often took on the opposition's best forward and came out on top. Cooper played his best footy when he backed his own judgment and was able to attack the ball. His fitness improved out of sight through excellent training habits.

ALASTAIR MCGREGOR

Alastair had a very good season and was able to play some important roles for the team in defence and attack. Alastair's strength was his marking and he provided a great target up forward for us this year.

HUGH MCKENZIE-MCHARG

Hugh had his first year of AFL with the Sky team this year. His positive attitude and his willingness to learn was a real highlight. Hugh will benefit from this experience and we hope to see him back next year!

ELLIOT PARKER

Elliot's ball reading ability was outstanding this year. Many times he would read the play and leave his opponent to pick the ball up first and then send us deep into attack. Elliot's ability to switch from CHB to the Ruck and have a strong impact allowed the team to be flexible and adapt to each situation.

WILLIAM POLINELLI

Will had a very strong year. As the year progressed Will's confidence in what he could do physically improved out of sight. He was able to break tackles, put the ball under his wing and run to send the team deep in attack. Will's ability to read the play and get into a dangerous position continued to develop throughout the year.



ALEXANDER ROUWHORST

Alex is the quiet achiever of the team. He stepped up to every challenge that we set him whether it was in defence or attack and he followed instructions really well. Alex has great pace and a very strong tackle that often caught people by surprise.

ALEXANDER SLADIC

Alexander had a late start to the season, but when he did arrive, he brought a great hunger to be involved in the contest. The game at Stirling was a turning point for Alexander who kicked a miraculous goal and then became a potent target for us for the rest of the year.

ARCHIE WEBB

Archie had an outstanding year and was recognised by winning the Best and Fairest. His ability to read the play, attack the contest and either come out with the ball or negate his opponent was a sight to see. Archie also had an amazing work rate that allowed him to get to many contests and provide real drive for our team.



UNDER 15 TEAM REPORT



TEAM DETAILS

Coach	Mark Vardy	Team manager	Julia Mayne
Assistant coaches	Paul (Cec) Sanson, Lawrie Hosking	Team captain(s)	James Davidson (c), Ben Vardy (vc)

SUMMARY OF SEASON

Marist Under 15 enjoyed a very successful season, only losing one game. It was great to have the two teams from last season's Under 14s combined into a single competitive unit.

The season started well with consistent winning performances, but the big 30 boy squad was soon dwindled down through some serious injuries. Many thanks to several of the Under 14 boys who came and played up a grade to help us with our numbers for a couple of games, most notably for our first game against Tuggeranong where our Year 10 boys were away on Trek.

There was lots of improvement to the skill level of the boys across the whole team, with a couple of boys new to the sport fitting in very well. It was great to see the plans we practiced at training being put into good effect on game day, with a special thanks to Anthony Bourke who helped with some invaluable training of our midfield group.

One of the key goals at the start of the season was to ensure that we weren't reliant on a small handful of key players – this was one of the secrets to the success of the year as we saw many boys perform well outside their previous comfort zone. This confidence was infectious and led to our most rousing win of the season against Ainslie at Reid. The other notable game from the coach's perspective was the final game of the season against Belconnen Cats where we had to win to give us the chance of second place on the ladder and a double chance in the finals. The game was full of pressure, but we prevailed with a spirited performance across the team. Sadly, we didn't have the opportunity to fully play out the season and test ourselves against the Magpies.

I would like to thank my assistant coaches Lawrie and Cecil, team manager Julia and all the other parent volunteers for the support during the season.

PLAYER SUMMARIES

ANGUS MCRAE

Angus had a solid year operating in our backline as a member of one of the strongest defences in the competition. He capably competed against some strong forwards and provided great rebound.

ANGUS MILLER

Our equal highest goal kicker of the season with 24 goals. Gus's skills are a pleasure to watch with his marking ability and uncanny knack of knowing where the goals are making him the x factor of the forward line.

AUSTIN BENNIE

Austin contributed consistently with strong efforts at training and a dependable player on the wing. Aussie's marking and kicking skills are a key to his capabilities on the field.

BEN VARDY

Ben's dominance in the ruck contest was a strong contributor to the momentum we were able to gain from the midfield and general play stoppages. His fitness and ability to run out the game was a valuable asset to the team.

CHARLES GILL

Charlie's ability to be our "goal sneak" was evident again this year with 7 goals across the season and numerous times being in the right place at the right time.

CONNOR DARBY

Connor's season was cut short with a broken wrist in the first game but what we did see on the field was a strong and fearless competitor, hard at the ball with strong foot and hand skills.

DANIEL BAILEY

Dan's season was cut short with a back injury that only allowed him to play a couple of games. What we got in those games was an intensity and desire that was missed for the rest of the season.

DARCY CHIPMAN

Darcy's season was cut short with a back injury that only allowed him to play a couple of games. It was a sad loss for the team that would have benefited from Darcy's fearless attack at the marking contest. Hopefully we get to see him continue in the sport in the future.

DOMENICO PELLE

Dom's season was cut short with a broken wrist but what we did see on the field was a strong and fearless competitor, hard at the ball and great skills.

DYLAN SHILLINGTON

Dylan was another of our quiet achievers with great skills and solid attacking effort in the contest. His versatility was a great asset to the team, being equally comfortable between the forward and back flanks, and the wing.

ERIC FIRTH

One of the speedsters of the team, with a great kick and solid contributions at every training session.

GEORGE DENNY

The ever-reliable fullback, with a great read on the game and the ability to close down some tough opponents.

HENRY SMYTH

Henry contributed consistently with strong efforts at training and put in solid performances on game day. Henry brought a higher level of confidence to his games this year, which was real asset to the team.

JACOB SCHOLTENS

The team's gatekeeper on the half back line, stopping some strong opposition attacking efforts and rebounding strongly with great kicking skills.

JAMES ANGUS

Our high pressure forward flanker. Great hand and foot skills, with the quiet intensity in his game that saw many occasions of goals being credited to the pressure Jimmy was able to keep on the ball in the forward line

JAMES DAVIDSON

James led from the front all season, with another strong season in the midfield, but also with the adaptability in playing wherever he was needed, including kicking goals in his milestone game.

JAMES HALEY

James came back to AFL having not played for several years and fitted into the intensity of our midfield group showing great courage and composure under pressure. His desire to improve and contribute to the team was a pleasure to coach.

JONAH PENROSE

Jonah contributed consistently with strong efforts at training and being versatile in being able to play both forward and back as needed.

LEO PATTERSON

Leo had another great season as our super reliable Centre Half Back, taking on and succeeding against some bigger opposition with a fearless attack on the ball. Leo's ball use also improved throughout the season, delivering many accurate rebound efforts into the midfield and forward line.

NOAH APPS

Noah was our quiet achiever of the team, always hard at the contest and a very capable member of our midfield group. Noah is one of the strongest defenders of the team, with a strong, fearless tackling pressure and great hand and foot skills.

OWEN HARDY

Owen's season was cut short with an unlucky break to a finger, following on from a break in the cricket season. On field, Owen's ruck work was very dominant, along with his follow up around the ground.

RYAN MUNYARD

Ryan's run out of the backline and from the wing were stand outs of a consistent season of contributing to the team effort every time he was on the field.

SAM HOSKING

As part of our midfield group Frosty had a good year competing at the coal face and presenting as hard ball contributor. A strong defender with a solid game sense and ability to kick some important goals across the season.

SOLOMON BELCHER

First time player to AFL, with a great season operating in the midfield. The speed around the ground along with the ability to read the fall of the ball in the ruck contest were a standout for a first-time player. Hoping we can keep Solomon in the sport.

TOMAS SANSON

Tomas put in solid efforts on the wing in the games he played. His foot and hand skills are excellent, along with his efforts at training.

VANSH MALHOTRA

Great first year effort with confidence that improved with every game. Unfortunately, we just couldn't quite get him the goal he richly deserved.

WYLIE AGNEW

Wylie contributed consistently with strong efforts at training and being part of a strong backline that performed well throughout the year.

XANDER WILD

Xander has a great attitude in attacking the ball in a fearless but calculated way. He stood strong in defence across most of the season, operating in a strong backline.

ZACHARY THOMAS

Our equal highest goal kicker of the season with 24 goals. Zach had an intensity in the forward line that led to many of his goals. Zach's kicking skills were a strong component of his game.

ZACK CARMAN

Our second highest goal scorer of the year with 13 goals. Zack's consistent contribution in the forward line helped the team with achieving many of the wins through the season.





UNDER 17 TEAM REPORT



TEAM DETAILS

Coach	Liam Stakelum	Team manager	Amanda Taylor
Assistant coaches	Dave Geremia and Sean Drummond	Team captain(s)	Arran Harnsdorf

SUMMARY OF SEASON

Marist Under U17 enjoyed a very successful season, and have been left dreaming of what could have been.

A super talented squad, with 31 players registered, The U17 wasted little time in establishing themselves as a side to be reckoned with. The boys' commitment to training from early March all the way till the end never faulted, and the cold Monday nights at Phillip Oval showed their commitment to the game and to each other. With a combination of fast running, high intensity at the contest, and a willingness to take the game on, the "Ressies" were building to a fantastic end of season climax in the finals. With 8 wins and 3 losses for the season, with two of those losses by narrow margins, the

17s showed class throughout. With COVID ending the season prematurely, the 17s will have a point to prove next year.

Sincere thanks to Dave Geremia and Sean Drummond, who were far more than assistant coaches. Your contributions were valued by all. A further thanks to Mandy Taylor, and the Taylor family, for their tireless efforts in managing this season. From setting up the table early, having the boys' jumpers ready to go, to the lollies and burger vouchers after the game, thank you for all the time and effort. And finally to all the parents, without whom we would not be able to build the culture that MAFC is envied for. Thank you.

PLAYER SUMMARIES

ARRAN HARNSDORF

Aran had an incredible season where he led from the front. A fast midfielder who can read the play, Aran was often the player to stand up when we needed it most.

BARTON TAYLOR

Barton has speed to burn and showed great grit and determination throughout the season. He is learning his craft and a highlight was seeing him fake and step his opposition and nearly kick a career defining goal. A great trainer, Barton exemplifies the spirit and humour of the Ressies side.

BEN PATON

A tough inside mid, Ben's courage at the contest and willingness to put his head over the ball, allowed us to win most stoppages. His leadership skills and maturity shone throughout the season, a player who inspired everyone.

BEN RANKIN

A fast crumber in the forward line, Ranko was dangerous if given any space with the ball. He was just as dangerous when moved up the ground, with his pace and smarts used to good advantage.

CADEN EGAN

A quality midfielder who was desperately have two long term injuries throughout the season. A committed team member who contributed despite his injuries, Caden exemplified the team spirit of the group.

CALLAN WILLIAMS

A tireless worker of a CHF who was dominant across the ground. Call improved out of sight across the season and played every minute as hard as he could. A real leader.

CONNOR HILL

A leader in the backline who would have comfortably led the league in intercept marks. He personified the team rule of taking the game on, and his run out of the backline began many of our movements for the year. Connor will terrorise the opposition forwards next year.

COOPER WILSON

A solid performer who was always in the right spot on the forward line. Cooper used his pace and smarts to crumb well. He had a great year and will be better for the experience.

DARCY JAMES

With talent like Darcy in the backline, it is easy to see why the 17s played so well. Rarely beaten, Darcy read the ball and contests with an intensity that scares the opposition. When Darcy hits them, they stay hit.

DIGBY BLACKER

A ruck with the engine of a running midfielder, Digby was dynamic. Rarely beaten in the ruck, he was not afraid of winning the hard ball, nor the gut running to have an intercept mark.

FLETCHER HOWDEN

A fantastic winger who played hard and wasn't afraid of putting his body on the line. Fletcher never let his teammates down and was clever with his disposals all season.

HUON APPS

A hugely talented backman with the capacity to play all over the ground, Huon dominated the first 5 rounds, never being beaten. His season was cruelled by a collarbone injury. He will have a point to prove next year.



JESSE ROSIN

Jesse has speed to burn and grew as a footballer as the season progressed. He roves the ball well, and using his speed, was a great link from the backline, or small forward crumbing the ball. Jesse plays hard and will be a force to be reckoned with after another season of experience.

JOSH STAKELUM

There isn't anyone in the side who attacks the ball with more pace or intensity, and his tackling was superb. Could play on the ball, but his pace in the forward line made him incredibly dangerous.

KAI MARTIN

A player that kept getting better throughout the season. Although he didn't have much experience in the ruck, Kai was outstanding. With a huge leap, and a stronger tackling technique, he often was found crunching an opposition player at the stoppage.

LIAM MOTHERWAY

A strong flanker who led up the ground well but could also deliver the ball into the forward line. Liam showed grit throughout the season, improving with every run.

LIAM NAUGHTON

A gut running winger who found great form throughout the season. Liam reads the play as well as anyone and was a crucial link down the wing, winning contest after contest.

MATT PEPPER

Matt really found his rhythm by the end of the year and was playing great foot as a small forward. Often roving against bigger defenders, he improved his hardness greatly over the course of the season.

MITCH BREHAUT

Another member of the dominant half forward line, Mitch was a key position player who made our midfielders' job easy by marking nearly everything that came to him.

NATHAN FITZGERALD

Another player who improved significantly over the season. "Fitzzy" would put his body on the line when needed, and late in the season began to rack up the possessions in the backline. Highlight would be the pressure on the opposition when kicking at goal, which led more often than not to a miskick.

NATHAN STILWELL

A speedy winger who played for his teammates, Stilly's workrate moving up and down the field was tremendous. Would run hard for space and helped the backline move the ball out quickly.

NICK KENT

Another talented user of the ball, Nick was responsible for the marshalling and movement out of the backline rule- in one way and out the other. A smart footballer, he had a great season both with the ball and defending key opposition.

NICK QUINLAN

An enigma and crowd favourite. Nick kicked some miraculous goals this year and was unstoppable when we moved the ball in quickly. Was stiff not to win the league goal kicking award in a great season, missing by 1 goal.

PATRICK ROBINSON

A versatile tall, Patrick stood up when needed. After finding some form in the early season, he moved down back to fill a gap, and excelled playing as the key tall down back. Patrick often played on the toughest forward and kept them quiet, and could be counted upon to take a crucial mark.

SEB SENTI

An unlucky season for Seb who ran into a major injury earlier. His early form on the half forward line was great, and showed what we missed for the rest of the season. Can't wait to see him back on the track next year.

THOMAS BEESLEY

His running ability is well known, but his courage and composure was incredibly valuable on the wing. Not afraid of the contest, his ability to clear the ball and move into space is second to none.

XANDER TUAN

A prolific ball winner, Xander had a brilliant season, finishing second in the league best and fairest. Floating between the half back and midfield, Xander could be relied upon to move the ball efficiently and creatively.

XAVIER BUCKLEY

Xavier plays with a great intensity with his eyes entirely on the ball and began to throw his weight around towards the end of the season. He played around the ground, but is more suited to the contest, where he could use his smarts to win the ball or put on a hit.

ZAC JENKINS

The Vice-Captain led from the front all year and could be relied upon to put his head over the ball. Comfortably in the middle winning contest or floating over the half-backline, Zac gathered possessions and used the ball wisely.



FIRST XVIII TEAM REPORT



TEAM DETAILS

Coach	Guy Mertz	Team manager	Bri Sanson
Assistant coaches	Tony Mahar, Paul Sanson, Michael Stinziani	Team captain(s)	Joe Carroll (Captain) Lachie Mertz (Vice Captain)

SUMMARY OF SEASON

The hope for the 2021 season was to have a 'normal' season after COVID-19 forced a delayed start to the 2020 season and reduced it to 11 games which included the Grand Final. In 2021 we had 14 boys who had played Rising Stars previously and a larger really talented group of players eager to represent Marist College at 1st XVIII level coming through.

We had good numbers to a few preseason runs prior to Christmas which set the standard for a quality group of players. In mid-January the senior squad consisting of both U17s and U18s started preseason training twice a week with impressive numbers and a very motivated group. A quality preseason consisted of a balance of

ball work and running working towards a practice game against Tuggeranong and the highly anticipated trip to Wagga to play Mater Dei College. In both games the player's hard work and dedication in preseason was evident coming away with two strong wins.

With a large number of registrations across both the U18s and U17s two squads of 31 players were selected. The season was upon us and we had Belconnen at the Nest in round 1 with all 31 players fit and ready to play. It was great to see the group come together and put together a 4 goal win against a strong opposition. From here the playing group was challenged by themselves and the coaching staff to improve each

week and they certainly did that which showed a maturity and culture that was very pleasing to the coaching staff.

There were many highlights during the season but one that stood out was round 13 on the 6th of August playing Queanbeyan at Football Park under lights on a Friday night with plenty of Marist supporters in crowd to watch the 1st XVIII. All the players really put it together that night to produce impressive football for all four quarters to come away with a quality win. As a team it was our best performance of the season that included all the traits we had been working on.

None of us knew it at the time but this round 13 game was to be our last game for season 2021 and the last MAFC game for our 25 year 12 players. Canberra going into an extended lockdown due to COVID-19 put an end to our hope for a 'normal' 2021 season. After 13 rounds which included 11 games and 2 washouts the MAFC 1st XVIII finished on top of the ladder with 10 wins and 1 narrow loss. An achievement all 1st XVIII players and volunteers can be very proud of. I have no doubt that the boys had the belief, the willingness, the connection and had done all required of them to go all the way and be the champion team for 2021. An abrupt end to the season bought with it all sorts of emotion and disappointment of what could have been but when reflecting on the season all players can be immensely proud of their achievements and in the way they went about being the best they could be which allowed them to be the best team on and off the field for the 2021 season.

The 2021 MAFC 1st XVIII had a tremendous amount of quality support. A massive thank you to assistant coaches Tony Mahar, Paul Sanson and Michael Stinziani for their professionalism and knowledge. We were fortunate to have all 4 coaches present at nearly all training sessions which definitely added to the development of the players. A big thank you to the wonderful Bri Sanson our hard working team manager who made everything run so smoothly throughout the season and nothing was too much for Bri. Thank you to

our very important and professional sports trainers Jay Clarke and Gemma McRae, a vital role and both Jay and Gemma looked after the players very well. Thank you to our team runners Dave Geremia and Phil Chynoweth who covered a lot of km's especially with 31 in the squad. Thank you to regular game day helpers, Dave and Oliver Austin and Steve Miller for running water, to Peter Ilyk (2020 parent) and Mark Korsten for quality photos and video, to John Seymour for game day stats. Thank you to our president Geoff Davidson for taking the running sessions in pre-season and with the committee doing a fantastic job running the club. Thank you to Sarah Mahar in her role as the College Representative on the committee doing a great job connecting the Club and the College. Thank you to Chris Maher (Director of Coaching) for his leadership and advice. Thank you to our tackling coach Matt O'Connor for his expert tackling sessions during the season. A special thank you to the parent group as a whole, the buy in and willingness to do whatever job was required was second to none and allowed the boys to enjoy a quality season. A huge mention to 1st XVIII leaders Joe Carroll (Captain), Lachie Mertz (Vice Captain) and leadership group members John Brennan, Tom Johnston, Charlie Mahar and Harry Miller for their role in making the team so special and connected.

To all 31 players, the 2021 1st XVIII squad was a quality group on and off the field that really worked as a team to be the best they could be and it was a privilege to coach them. There was no ceiling for this group and the season being cut short stopped us seeing the best of this group as they were building each week to something special. All players can be incredibly proud of their commitment, effort and execution and after 59 training runs, 11 games and a top of the ladder finish all involved with 2021 season can be enormously proud. I hope the 25 Yr12 players stay involved with AFL beyond MAFC and there is no doubt the future is bright for MAFC with plenty of talent coming through in 2022. "For the Team" #BLEEDBLUE

Guy Mertz
1st XVIII Head Coach

PLAYER SUMMARIES

HARRY AUSTIN #18

Harry Austin was a really important part of the backline. He showed his footy nous throughout the year; able to be in good positions relative to his opponent, and willing to run off and create. Strong on the ground, and dashing left foot. A great team player, valued by his backline buddies.

HUGO BLACKER #38

Hugo had a terrific season and commanded a real presence in our forward line. With an ability to take impressive pack marks and also able to out run and position his opponents made Hugo a real focus up forward. A super talent with a bright future in the game ahead. Hugo was a member of the U17s GWS Academy and was select in the U17s NSW/ACT Rams state team, well done Hugo.

JAMES BOLTON #5

James is the type of footballer everyone wants on their team, he puts his body on the line to win the footy for the benefit of his team mates. With an ability to shut down a dangerous forward when playing down back or move into the midfield to give us first use of the ball James had a big impact throughout the season. James has a bright future playing AFL beyond MAFC.

JOHN BRENNAN #4

John had an excellent year and has been recognised for that as equal B&F winner. He was outstanding both across the ground and in the toughest of contests through the year. His preparation and game day approach made him an extremely valuable team member in 2021.

JOE CARROLL #1

Joe was a fantastic choice as captain and he did a great job leading this group of boys. He is a very creative small forward as whenever the ball hit the ground in the forward line, he always looked dangerous. He finished second in our goal kicking which is a solid return for a small forward. Joe was always a pleasure to coach and picked up coaching points very quickly.

MATTHEW CHOULES #26

Matthew is a player you want on your team. He has been a solid and strong on baller or key position player and has developed his offload and delivery by hand and foot which has made him into a feared opponent and an important Rising Stars performer this year. Matthew was a member of the U17s GWS Academy.

LIAM CHYNOWETH #17

Liam's attack on the footy was second to none which allowed him to impact in games. Having a huge running capacity allowed Liam to cover a lot of territory in games on the wing to both negate his opponent and win the footy to provide a link between our back and forward lines. Always looking to improve his game and a love for the game Liam has a great future playing AFL.

HAMISH COLLIDGE #2

Hamish did exactly what he was required to do week in, week out. He never gave his opponent room, and made every contest a genuine contest so that he was rarely beaten one on one. He knew what the right option was for the team, and always took it, slotting easily into a tight backline.

CHARLIE COOPER #20

It is fair to say that Charlie loves a goal. Charlie is a talented footballer who can do some amazing things on a football field especially one on one. He kicked some great goals this year and his celebrations were even better. Charlie seemed to find his role late in the season and was really beginning to flourish when the season got cut short.

ANTHONY EGAN #13

Antho has been a solid contributor to the Marist Rising Stars in 2021 up forward or across the midfield. His games in 2021 were often characterised by a sneaky goal or two, his quick running and his valuable forward pressure and goal sense. Well done in 2021.

RYAN ELLIS #12

With elite speed in the contest, a huge running capacity and a will to win the contested footy, these attributes allowed Ryan to be one of the premier wingman in the competition. A big part of Ryan's game is his quality ball use, he never wastes a possession and his team mates love to be on the end of one of his kicks. Ryan's game went to the next level this year and he has a bright future in the game.

ALEX ELLWOOD #22

Alex was strong in the air and on the ground. His determination in the contest was a feature, epitomised by his fearless tackling. He was able to move up the ground and create as easily as he was able to lock down a dangerous opponent. He embraced being part of the meanest defence in the comp.

HARVEY ELLWOOD #8

Harvey was an important player in the planning for the 2021 season due to his ability to play in all parts of the ground on either smalls or tall. Harvey came to preseason very fit after a successfully rowing season. Unfortunately Harvey only managed one game for the year due to a knee injury that required a reconstruction. To his credit Harvey was still very much part of the team attending training and helping out on game day.

RYAN FRASER #30

Ryan Fraser was Mr Reliable. He was rarely beaten by his opponent in a contest, and never beaten over the course of a full game. He read the play exceptionally well; able to drop back to cover, or to pick up a loose forward. An excellent leader and organiser in the backline, his skill level and decision-making set a great standard.

TONY GEREMIA #35

Tony battled a lot with injury this year but managed to string together a number of games coming towards the end of the season. He is one of the most dangerous small forwards in the competition as he is very smart with his body use and another player who really enjoys kicking a goal. One of the highlights was kicking 3 goals against Belconnen to contribute to a great win.

WILLIAM GREEN #33

Will has been an on-field leader in the engine room of the Rising Stars Team through his tough uncompromising efforts in the midfield. He regularly threw himself willingly into the contest often coming out with it and putting his team mates into space. His chase, tackling and midfield run have been a significant attribute to the team this year – excellent stuff Will. Will was a member of the U17s GWS Academy.



WILLIAM HARDING #36

Will was a valuable player on the wing for the team this season. With a combination of hard running and an ability to get to the right spots Will provided a very strong option between the arcs. Will's ability to win the ball below his knees and give a quick effective handball was a real strength. Always willing to learn and work hard at training allowed Will to build his game to become an important player.

BRYNN HART #25

Arriving to preseason training very fit after a successful rowing season Brynn played the first game down back. Unfortunately Brynn broke a finger and missed a number of games in the middle part of the season. Once fit and training and playing again Brynn was able to use his pace and attack on the footy to be a reliable back man for the team. An ability to win the ground ball and provide an effective possession out of the contest was a highlight of Brynn's game.

NICK JAROSZ #34

With a real love of the game and the willingness to get the best out of himself Nick had a great season. Playing down back on tall forwards Nick used his strength and fantastic closing speed to win the one on one contest which was a great asset to the team. When Nick was used in the ruck he provided real drive and a determined attack on the footy his opponents couldn't match.

JACK JEFFERY #19

Jack has to be one of the easiest players to coach as he never missed a training run or an opportunity to develop. His development throughout the year and buy in to game style was second to none. This also resulted in Jack kicking goals regularly in games. Jack's attitude of "team first" made him a highly valued member of the team.

TOM JOHNSTON #11

TJ has been the key part of the Marist midfield engine room and a dominant ruck of the competition this year. He often beat opponents taller than him in ruck contests around the ground providing our midfield with first possession and his run and possessions around the ground were a standout this year.

NED KORSTEN #14

While Ned has had an interrupted year due to injury his contribution to the team both on and off the field is irreplaceable. He demonstrates a passion and feeling for the game and his team mates like few others and it shows up in lights when he plays. He is committed and determined and there is no doubt a big year coming in 2022. Ned was a member of the U17s GWS Academy.

KAI LIVINGSTONE #15

Kai was always somewhat quiet but once he gets on the football field he really came to life. His pressure in the forward line was a key part of the team's success. Kai was our number one tackler in the forward line which often resulted in him getting an opportunity to kick for goal or set up a team mate. Kai played his 150th game this season which is an impressive total.

CHARLIE MAHAR #37

Charlie was an important part of the team's leadership group in that he was always challenging the team to be better. He played multiple roles throughout the season as a key forward and in the ruck. His confidence grew throughout the year to the stage where he was dominating games. Charlie was always a great listener and keen to absorb knowledge to assist further with his game. Charlie was a member of the U17s GWS Academy.

RILEY MCCARTNEY #16

Riley is a natural footballer with a high footy IQ and elite skills. This combined with his ability to play in all parts of the ground meant Riley was an important part of the team. Playing as a wingman or a high half forward Riley was able to use his skills to deliver a quality effective possession to his team mates. A back injury meant that Riley missed some games at the end of the season. Riley has a bright future playing AFL beyond MAFC.

FINLEY MCRAE #3

The enjoyment Fin gets out of training and playing for Marist is both obvious and infectious. Fin was an important part of the teams forward line this season using his height and clean hands to great effect. With an ability to win the ground ball and side step in traffic to give a quick kick or an effective handball was a highlight of Fin's game. A pleasure to coach and always willing to buy into the team plan made Fin a great team player.

LACHIE MERTZ #9

Lachie was our vice-captain this year and a very potent weapon at full forward. He finished the season as our team's and the league's leading goal kicker which is a fantastic achievement considering he also spent time changing through the mid-field. As a team, we always looked more dangerous when Lachie was forward. I look forward to seeing where the future takes Lachie and his footy. Lachie was a member of the U17s GWS Academy.

HARRY MILLER #23

Harry was rock solid; one of those players you know will never give up, and can create and drive in a way that lifts his teammates. He could match opponents in the air and beat them on the ground, and was often given the opposition's gun to look after, which he invariably did. Skilful and brave, he was a leader and driver in the backline.

JACK SANSON #7

Jack had an excellent year and has been recognised for that as equal B&F winner. Jack was the creative force of the backline. His reading of the play and strength overhead meant he was able to cut off the opposition's attacks and turn it back on them with his dash and penetrating left foot. He invariably took the right option, often opening up the play ahead of him to create scoring opportunities. A very important cog in a slick backline machine.

PATRICK SEYMOUR #10

Patrick always played with determination and vigour. He usually ended up on an opposition tall, but was rarely out-marked. He worked extremely well with the rest of the backline, able to use his strength and mobility to bring the ball to ground, where he followed up with second and third efforts. Valued as a terrific player who did what the team needed.

HUGH STRICKLAND #21

Hugh has been a key to the success of the Marist Rising Stars in 2021. His game sense and reading of the play is outstanding. Hugh's skills and on field presence have been super impressive this year either down back but more recently on the wing this year. On the wing Hugh really added to the team performance as link player who used his smarts and skill to provide many forward entries.















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