

Activity File Week ending Monday June 2 ()

Basketball

The under 14 premier 1 team came out on top of a close battle with West's on Friday night, to pick up their second straight win. After a see-sawing first half saw Grammar trailing by one, the boys resolved to play to their strengths, and some fantastic execution gave the boys a five point lead at the end of the third quarter. West's came out firing to start the fourth, however, and quickly leveled the scores. The boys didn't panic, instead combining good choices at the offensive end with solid hustle defense to build and maintain an 8 point lead. In what was ultimately an outstanding team effort, special mention goes to Andrew Nguyen, whose scoring throughout the game came at critical moments, and to Oliver Tridgell, whose persistent defense greatly reduced the effectiveness of West's' 6-foot-plus centre.

The 18As basketball team took on the formidable Shadows outfit, who boast four state representatives, on Friday night and the Grammar boys withheld numerous offensive onslaughts to eventually smash the Shadows team by 14 points. Mark "Skywalker" Raymond, was outstanding in defence and produced four of the biggest aerial rejects seen at Tuggeranong stadium. Along with Mike Richardson's tough offensive work and the pure shooting of Phil Peters and Will Comensoli, the Grammar team stayed strong for the entire game to frustrate the numerous charges by the Shadows team. One of the best games played by the 18As and an outstanding win for the team.

Debating

The Kitchen Tyrrel Debates were held on May 23 at Canberra Girl's Grammar. While the Year 12 team of Anthony Lieu, Anthony Tridgell, Robert Selth and Yudhish Shakespeare did not prove that "the best things in life are free", despite throwing many free things into the audience, the Year 9 team of Josh Robertson-Elliott, Miles Greenburg, Tom Morrison and Nick Woolcott successfully debated that "sport is the Australian religion and the stadium is its cathedral". The boys will now present the trophy to the Headmaster.

Football

The first XI kicked off the season with a visit to Wanniasa against Tuggeranong Muddogs. With 5 new players, the team looked as if they may take some time to gel and this was the case in a first half that was a cagey affair. Grammar ended just ahead by a goal. In the second half, superior play by Grammar and a tiring Tuggeranong contributed to Grammar running out 5-1 winners. Goals from Sunni Noh, Michael Kim, Andreas Maude, Matt Hope and an own goal.

Our second match, against Belsouth Strikers, ended in a 6-1 win to Grammar; the score might indicate that it was an easy run out, but nothing could be further from the truth. Where Belsouth got to every 50-50 ball first and played some good passing football, Grammar were struggling to play anything that resembled fluent football. Luckily for Grammar, the Belsouth forwards lacked any conviction; whilst our forwards took the chances they were offered. Goals from Sunni Noh, Michael Kim, Matt Hope and a hat-trick from Andreas Maude.

Our third game Tuggeranong went ahead almost from the kick-off and for the first 5 minutes or so, Grammar looked shell-shocked. Gradually the team played themselves out of trouble and with the score at 3-1, looked to be getting on top. But Tuggeranong fought hard to get the score back to 3-3 and this looked to be how it would end, but with 2 minutes left to play Grammar scored the winner. This was a hard game and the win did a lot to bring the team together. Goals from Ben Cantwell 2, Matt Hope and Ed Walls.

The fourth game came against Gungahlin Wolves at Nicholls. Playing at Nicholls brings its own problems for Grammar. Our Flinders Field must be the smallest pitch in Canberra with Gungahlin's being at least one and a half times bigger. Grammar adjusted well to this, with some very good football played. The team made great use of the space out wide, creating chance after chance. Unfortunately, our forwards were having an off day with 90% of our goal scoring chances spurned. An injury to Andreas Maude meant that he had to sit out most of the second half. Grammar were doing a very good job of containing the Gungahlin midfield and forwards with Conor Getchell in goals having nothing much to do, only once did Gungahlin get through on goal, but with Conor diving bravely at the feet of the striker, nothing came of the chance. Grammar could have scored 10, but the game ended 2-0. Goals from Matt Hope and Andreas Maude.

The final game of the month against Yass was probably the best of the five. It proved to be a hard, fair game played in a very good spirit by both teams. Grammar made a fantastic start with Matt Hope scoring in the first minutes. Yass had some good players who linked up well, but Grammar looked to be the better team and dealt easily with most of the Yass attacks. Despite this, Yass capitalised from a mistake at a corner and forced an own goal. Grammar fought back well and goals from Ben Cantwell and Michael Baker meant the half ended with Grammar up 3-1. The second half started with Grammar on top and a goal from James Butterworth looked to have killed the Yass challenge off. Unfortunately, no one told Yass, who took control for the last 20 minutes. Grammar looked to be dead on their feet with Yass finishing off fitter and stronger. Yass scored to take the game to 4-2. Grammar then conceded a penalty, which fortunately Conor Getchell saved. At the end of the game, it was

Grammar looking for the final whistle. Goals from Matt Hope, Ben Cantwell, Michael Baker and James Butterworth.

Highlights of the month include a strong defense marshaled by Eddy Hill, Ben Cantwell who has proved an excellent addition to the midfield and Michael Baker's long throw-ins that have proved almost impossible for our opponents to defend.

Hockey

The CGS 2nd XI had a tough encounter against Marist on Sunday. Grammar scored early through a short corner that was finished by Alex Gent. However Marist replied with two quick goals. A late first half goal by Matt Hughes took the score to two a piece at half time. The second half was an even affair until the last five minutes when Grammar scored two goals through Lachlan Yeend and Rohan Jolly to put the game beyond doubt. Strong performances by Alex Tridgell and Alex Trinder. Final score: 4-2. This win means that the Seconds remain undefeated this season with only a forfeit to blot a perfect scorecard.

On Sunday 1st June, the First XI Hockey had an important win over a Marist team placed higher on the U18 Div 1 ladder. Much work at practice sessions has been directed towards improving on-field performances - esp. in the areas of transferring the ball through the mid-field and also the scoring of goals. All players had a very sound game, with four players standing out - Daniel Beaton; Alex Trinder; Michael Jude and Chris Palin - the latter esp. due to a sustained burst of pressure from Marist (through a short-corner blitz) halfway through the second half for 8 minutes. The final score was 4-0, with goals by Alex Gent, Michael Jude, Lachlan Yeend and David Carroll - however the importance of not getting scored against whilst scoring 4 of our own needs to be reiterated.

Rugby

In their best game of the season, the 13 As ran out convincing winners against St Edmund's on Saturday. This was an especially pleasing win because of the manner in which the team played. Our forwards had their best game of the season, dominating the line outs as usual, but the scrum was solid and our rucking and mauling was excellent. As well as this, we started to drive the ball around the edge of the ruck and made very good ground. On top of this, the backs, ably led by Sean Cross were able to get the ball wide with crisp passing and made numerous breaks out wide. In a performance in which all 7 played well, it was hard to pick the best players, but 3 points went to team captain Angus Cooke, who worked very well in attack and defense and was rewarded with 3 tries. He was well supported by Patrick Miller (2 Points) who showed why he is a representative player with a fine all-round

performance. One point went to Declan Moore, who is gradually realising his potential. He made a number of effective runs and did some good work in the rucks and mauls. Although the backs were not given best and fairest points, they played well individually and very well as a unit. Sean Cross, Michael Ryan (who scored an excellent try that came through his speed and evasion skills) and Michael Holt were the stand-outs here. Mention must also be made of Jack Ungerer, who twice pulled off tackles that prevented almost certain tries. Scorers were Angus Cooke 3 tries, Michael Ryan try, Sean Cross Penalty and 2 goals

The U16s played a very strong game against St Edmund's matching, frustrating and arguably outplaying them in the first half. However, in the second half St Edmund's ran away with the game through some strong attacking plays, breaking the line predominantly in the centre. St Edmund's also capitalised off a couple of intercepts from Grammar's attacking plays. Grammar once again showed its mettle in defence but failed to exhibit the flair and execution in attack that we are capable of. All the forwards played their hearts out with standout performances by Will Nash, Steve McMahon and Scott Sheridan. It was particularly good to see the pack going forward under Harry L'Estrange's direction and matching it with St Edmund's. The backs defended aggressively most noteworthy being the efforts of Daniel Potts, Matt Reinhard and Tom Ethel. However, the attack in the backline suffered from not getting the ball out quickly to the outside backs thus restricting the game to the five-eighth and inside centre positions. Additionally, we didn't take advantage of a range of penalty opportunities close to St Edmund's line. Despite the 33-0 score line, we can take heart that this U16s team has the ability to not just match St Edmunds but to outplay them.

A stunning winter's day provided warmth for the 2nd XV as they celebrated their first win of the season against Daramalan with Andrew Hermes leading his side strongly.

The 1st XV had a tough assignment against an undefeated St Edmund's team that finished a creditable fourth in the very tough Schoolboys Invitational tournament in Japan during the recent vacation. It was immediately apparent that Grammar would have its hands full in trying to shut down the St Edmund's precision passing and pace, but there was some early success as the Grammar defenders met the direct running lines with some strong midfield defense. An early penalty goal by Tom Gilmore had the home side ahead 3-0 after a late tackle on the man who kicked the goal. Grammar made some ground around the edges of the ruck/maul and from one such break by Andrew Kourpanidis a panic pass resulted in a furious counter attack from the loose ball, and in a flash St Edmund's had scored the first try of the match to lead 5-3. They looked dangerous on a number of occasions, partly because the plan to kick to touch and not allow their speedy back three to counter, was not carefully

implemented. Kicks did not find touch on five occasions in the first half and the result was predictable, although some desperate scrambling defense prevented further tries. Right on half time Gilmore kicked his second penalty to give the home side an unlikely 6-5 advantage. Unfortunately the malaise of not finding touch was repeated in the tenth minute of the second half, compounded by four missed first up tackles involving St Edmund's exciting and elusive (apparently!) full back. With the successful conversion the visitors regained the lead to be ahead 12-6, and then followed what amounted to the game's turning point. St Edmund's took the ball deep in to Grammar's left side defense, before knocking the ball on, an incident witnessed by everybody at the ground except the one who mattered the most. St Edmund's continued on, a try was awarded, and was converted for a 19-6 lead. Such is rugby, yet this situation flattened Grammar for a time and St Edmund's soon had another try from a lineout as they spread the ball from one touchline to the other in a passage of play that rugby lovers enjoy no matter who is responsible. Suddenly it was 24-6. Grammar rallied and exerted some sustained pressure as they fought to find holes in the St Edmund's defense. Wave after wave was repelled by the men in white until quick hands to the right wing found Robert Mardus in space and his finish was quick and clean. Gilmore converted and the deficit was back to 11 points. St Edmund's quickly replied after some ordinary Grammar defensive reads amongst the backs. 13-31. to their credit the Grammar team rallied strongly and after some excellent continuity from backs and forwards, Captain Ollie L'Estrange forced his way over. With Gilmore's conversion the final score was 20-31, a victory well earned and deserved by St Edmund's. For Grammar, loose head prop Robert Gibson had a sterling game, running and tackling with gusto that will surely see him sacked from the front rowers' club. He was well supported by hooker/halfback Tom Pilkinton who was very tough in defense, and robust with the ball. Robert Mardus and Tom Moulds made successful returns after lengthy absences and Tom Gilmore fought bravely despite illness. Andrew Kourpanidis was resourceful; as were Tom and James Miller, and David Bennett worked hard at the breakdown. In the end it was Grammar's inability to handle the slick passing and speed of their opponents that was the difference between the two teams.

Next week no ACTJRU matches will be played owing to the long weekend.