



THE RED MACHINE

Newsletter of the Marist St Pats Rugby Football Club Inc

PO Box 3472, Wellington

www.msprugby.co.nz

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HOT WORK: Tui Tuituia, Peter Sciascia and premier captain Nick Passi at the Spillane tournament in Hastings

Spillane tournament a big part of pre-season program

Although the club relinquished the Spillane Cup at the NZ Marist tournament in Hastings on 14-15 March, the event has become a key part of MSP's pre-season build-up.

The premiers went down to Hutt Old Boys Marist 24-18 in the final, after conceding a late try. The previous day, they had defeated North Harbour Marist 35-18.

The colts also had a narrow last-minute loss, going down 18-16 to HOBM in the Moran Cup final.

The Spillane tournament is now in its 79th year.

Early in March, a squad of premier and colts players had

recorded two good wins over top Sydney club sides in a short tour to Australia.

A 39-12 victory over Eastwood was followed several days later by a 32-6 win over North Sydney.

The final pre-season hit-out on 27 March saw the premiers score three tries to two against Petone.

Coach Murray Tocker says that although neither club fielded full-strength sides during that game, it was still useful to see how players performed as the club rebuilds after player losses during the off-season.

► Murray comments on the team's prospects in a preview inside.

Welcome return of many in key roles

*by John Holden
MSP chairman*

Welcome to Marist St Pats, 2010 style! A special welcome to new and returning coaches, managers, players, supporters and Management Committee members. Thank you to everyone for continuing to offer time, energy and skills.

Volunteers are MSP's foundation; their contribution is enormous and appreciated. People generally volunteer in areas they are passionate about. They use their talents to produce great results. But it also gives them an opportunity to use their skills, especially in leadership.

To help recognise the role of volunteers, MSP has been pleased to work with the NZRU to ensure that all are registered and will receive priority information about Rugby World Cup 2011.

The 2010 year sees a return, from the hugely successful 2009 year, of many coaches and managers. I

am also delighted to confirm the continuity of the senior coaching teams: Murray Tocker and Kevin Horan (premiers), John Duignan and Tony Meachen (senior 1s), Gus Slade (senior 2s) along with newcomer Geoff Owen, and Sione Savaiinaea and Sio Mapu (senior 3s).

I also welcome a number of new skilled Management Committee members. Thanks to everyone on this committee for helping to make enjoyable rugby available to men, women and children.

A full list of team coaches, managers and administrators is at www.msprugby.co.nz. Bookmark MSP's website as your internet homepage.

Congratulations to Neil Murphy on his appointment as MSP Club Captain. Neil has had a strong involvement with the club as a player and in recent years with MSP's Junior Club. Neil will be assisted in the role by David Wanden who has stepped into the Assistant Club captain's role to back up his role as MSP's

colts coach.

Already, the outstanding House Sub-Committee is planning 2010's social events. This is the club's 40th anniversary year, and the past players and supporters' day is set for Saturday 15 May.

Such social occasions promote camaraderie among players and supporters, and we will continue to welcome opposition teams to share MSP's hospitality.

Players, coaches, managers and supporters are always ambassadors for Marist St Pats. We are all guardians of the enviable reputation the club has developed over its 40 years.

That reputation extends to high standards on and off the field and in the dress standards that coaches and managers set with players.

With the premier, senior and womens teams kicking off on Saturday 3 April, plan on meeting up with old friends and making new friends on the sidelines and at the Hataitai clubrooms. Welcome to Marist St Pats rugby, 2010 style!

Rebuilding year for premier team

MSP's premier side will be rebuilding this year after the loss of 12 players during the off-season, says coach Murray Tocker.

Murray, along with Kevin Horan, will again coach the top side. After making three Jubilee Cup finals in three years, the club has been hit hard in 2010 by player movement overseas plus injuries and retirements. The premier player loss includes:

Alex Tulou – playing in France
Saina Mekaio – playing in Ireland
Sean Cockburn – playing in Scotland
Marcus Slade – playing for the Brothers club in Brisbane
Jackson Martin – travelling overseas
Brendan Watt – transferred to North Harbour
Michael Kingsbeer – transferred to Hutt Old Boys Marist
Sean Hay – transferred to Oriental Rongotai
Craig Simeon – retired
Sio Tuituia – injured

Dan Scanlon – injured
Jamie Parkinson – injured.

On the plus side of the ledger, the club is welcoming back lock Matt Egan, who has had three seasons with the Hawkes Bay NPC team. Julian Tupai has transferred back to MSP from Ories, and loosie David Jackson, a former MSP colt who played for Taranaki B last year, is also back at the club.

One new player to watch is 18-year-old prop Solomona Sakalia, a member of last year's Wellington College 1st XV and a New Zealand Secondary Schools representative.

A core of experienced NPC players in Ged Robinson, Arden David, Nick Passi, Fa'atunu Fili, Apoua Stewart and Anthony Bradshaw will once again turn out in MSP colours.

Victor Vito may also be available once his Super14 duties with

the Hurricanes are finished, but there's no doubt the player loss will test the club's depth.

Murray is philosophical about the team's prospects, saying that the situation opens up opportunities for younger players to push for premier places.

The team has a tough opening trio of games, with the first match of the season a repeat of last year's Cup final against Norths, followed by Poneke and Ories.



FA'ATONU FILI, MSP's 2009 Sportsman of the Year, will be back at first-five this year.

Obituaries

The club extends its condolences to the families and friends of those who have passed away in recent months:

WA (Bill) Brien
DJ (Des) Chambers
Miriam Clark
ME (Sister Moyna) Dunn
Robert Evans
Patrick Geraghty
GM (George) Graham
DP (Denis) Horan
AE Laban

BJ (Brian) McKeown
Theresa May
MJ (Martin) Montague
Gilda Palmer
MM (Margaret) Perry
AG Toye
JM Vorstermans
Cathleen Wootton

MSP Committee 2010

MSP's management committee for 2010 is:

President: Mick Robbers
Chairman: John Holden
Deputy chair: Matt Buck
Secretary: Geraldine Manu'a
Club captain: Neil Murphy
Assistant club captain: David Wanden
Treasurer: MaryAnn Spillane
Junior convenors: Karin Graham, Andrew McLean
WRFU delegate: Alan Woods
Committee: Ken Ah Kuoi, John Knox, David Milne, Michelle Smyth, Mere Wilson
Chaplain: Fr Geoff Broad.

Coming up at Marist St Pats..

First games

The premiers, senior 1s and 2s open their seasons with games against Norths at Porirua on Saturday 3 April. The premiers kick off at 3.00pm, and the senior 1s and 2s at 1.15pm.

Women's rugby also starts on the 3rd, while the colts, senior 3s and under-85s have grading games.

Clubrooms open

The Hataitai clubrooms will open for the season after the second round of games on 10 April. The premiers and senior 1s and 2s will be playing home games against Poneke at Evans Bay Park.

Past Players and Supporters' Day

Put Saturday 15 May in your diary - that will be Past Players and Supporters' Day. Traditional rivals Petone, who are in their 125th jubilee year, will play the premiers and senior 1s and 2s at Evans Bay.



Short cuts

Eleven MSP teams

MSP will field 11 teams this year, the same as in 2009. While there will be just the one senior 3 team, three under-85kg sides will take the field, one more than in 2009.

In the centurions club

Centre Chris Slade, the most recent member of MSP's centurions club (see below), says he still has plenty of games left in him. "I'm a bit of a late developer - I'm just getting into it now."



CHRIS SLADE: Last year's final the highlight of 100 games

There's no prizes for guessing Chris's highlight in his 100-plus premier games for MSP - it was match no. 103, last year's

Jubilee Cup final in which he kicked seven out of eight penalties to win the game.

The premiers' unbeaten run in

2008 is another good memory.

Chris played his 100th premier match against Tawa last July. He debuted for the team on the wing against Petone in 2004, the same match in which current captain Nick Passi played his first premier game.

Reserves recruiting

If you are too big for the under-85s, too young for the Presidents and too good for the All Blacks, then Marist St Pats has a team for you...

That's the recruitment pitch from the club's Reserve International team who are looking to build up their numbers this year.

Coach Edwin Meachen says the side is social but serious, trains once a week, has rolling subs in Saturday's games and offers an 'unbeatable' team culture. That's no idle boast, given the team never lost a game last year.

Anyone interested in playing for the Reserves can contact Edwin on 027 454 3004.



In the bank

MSP customers of the ANZ can rest easily knowing their funds are in good hands, with four MSP players working for the bank in Wellington.

Late last year the four featured in the bank's Australasian newsletter, the *World*. Ross McIsaac, Henry Fidow, Andrew Tait and Mark Cooke (L to R above) all play for the club's under-85kg Blues team, with Henry captaining the side.

The newsletter noted that Mark is the quickest in the team over 60 metres, and that Andrew Tait regularly tops the tackle count. Blues coach Andrew Robinson is a business client of the bank.

MSP centurions recognised on new Honours Board

Three new honours boards soon to go up in the MSP gym will recognise many outstanding players in the club's 40-year history.

The three boards list the centurions who have played 100 premier games; the winners of the Mick Horan Memorial Trophy; and the winners of the Sportsman of the Year Award.

The centurions are:

Anthony Duffin
John Fleming
Kevin Horan
Maurice Standish
John Wootton
Paul Quinn
Steve Hinds
Tu Wyllie
Anthony Meachen
Murray Tocker
Neil Sorenson
Chris Welch
Denis Tocker
Mike O'Leary
Wayne Gray

Brian McGrattan
Glen Donaldson
Gerard Wilkinson
Patrick Dunn
Damian Geraghty
Matthew Christie
Philip Gray
Andrew Gallagher
Kas Lealamanua
Norm Broughton
Reece Poutawera
Daniel Scanlon
Jamie Parkinson
John-Paul Tocker
Christopher Slade

MSP coaches 2010

Many thanks to all the following coaches who will take MSP teams throughout the grades this year:

Premier: Kevin Horan and Murray Tocker

Senior 1: John Duignan and Tony Meachen

Senior 2: Gus Slade and Geoff Owen

Senior 3: Sione Savaiinaea and Paddy Mapu

Women: Mere Wilson

U85 Blues: Andrew Robinson and Rhys Knight

U85 Red: Mark Witkowski and Matt Smith

U85 Green: Dan Wilton

Colts: Dave Wanden, Bevan Packer and Steve McGill

Reserve Internationals: Edwin Meachen

Presidents: Henry Fidow and Mark Porter.

Juniors gear up for a big season

Many parents commented on the 'awesome family atmosphere' at the highly successful Junior Open Day at Evans Bay on 20 March, says Junior Club co-convenor Karin Graham.

The premier team came along and the women's team and St Pats Town 1st XV were also in action, in what was 'a festival of Marist rugby,' says Karin.

"Our young players and parents were treated to some fantastic rugby and a display of great club spirit."

Karin says the junior committee has been working tirelessly to get the season ready for the big junior kick-off on 17 April.

They have organised four registration days, pre-season training every Friday night in March, as well as the official season launch.

Following on from last year's successful Junior Night at the clubrooms, the juniors season will be officially launched up at the clubrooms on the evening of Saturday 24 April. The junior committee extends a warm welcome to all club members and supporters.

Karin says the juniors have 214 registrations to date.

"Thanks to all our sponsors and to those who have got in and supported our committee - we really appreciate it."



WARMING UP: Junior recruits get put through their paces at the Juniors Open Day at Evans Bay on 20 March when the premiers and womens teams, along with the St Pats 1st XV also turned out



JUNIOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS Neil Murphy (who is also the club captain) and Claire Meredith (in front), along with Neil's daughter Tessa who was helping out with registrations

SAUSAGE SIZZLES FOR HOME GAMES

Hungry supporters of the premiers will be delighted to hear that the Juniors will be running sausage sizzles for all the team's home games at Evans Bay.



COMMITTEE MEMBER Martin Paget with a young lad who wanted his photo taken



'Any excuse to try shoes on': Isabella Reidy picks out a boot size for when she makes the premier women's team

GYM TRAINING: Time out from training for a quick photo shoot (from left), Zac Lemon, Gabe Meredith, Joseph Graham, with Utu Ah Kuoi in front



The RED MACHINE is compiled by Pat Martin. Printing by Milne Printers.

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