

SPC Sport Report – Term 2, Week 4

This period of unprecedented remote and flexible learning has caused many boys to be disappointed and upset that they are missing out on playing sport for both St Patrick's College and their community clubs.

By Week 4 our Term 2 Sport would usually be in full swing and would have seen St Patrick's College enter 22 teams across 5 different sports. By the end of this week we would have also competed in the BAS Athletics competition, SPC Lap of the Lake, VSAC Swimming Carnival, AGSV Golf at Spring Valley, Victorian Schools Touch Rugby Tournament, Basketball Victoria's 3 v 3 Schools Challenge and Football matches against CBS Fremantle, Caulfield Grammar, St Joseph's College and Emmanuel College.

2020 looks as though it will go down in the history books as a year that there were no winners to engrave on Term 2 sport trophies. This is especially significant for the College's Football program which has been running since 1893. Below is a photo of the 1893 First XVIII premiership team.



First XVIII: 1893

Back Row : J. Lawless, A. Mulquiney, M. Scanlon, J. Darcy, B. Gurry, J. Noonan, E. Sullivan, E. Noonan, V. Barwick
2nd Row : J. Shorthill, H. Murphy, M. Quinn, T. McManamny (Capt), J. Hayden, C. McSwan, H. Devine
Front Row : G. Murphy, F. Mann, C. Baker

History Heritage Book – Polio Epidemic

Our College Archives Officer, Halina Szynda, looked through the history books to see if there were any other years that the sport program may have been impacted by a pandemic.

She found information in the History Heritage book about The Poliomyelitis (Polio) Epidemic. In September 1949. An epidemic of poliomyelitis struck Victoria and disrupted many of the schools.

In Ballarat the effects of the scare affected schools variously, and some of the normal sporting competitions were cancelled. There was no combined athletic meeting in 1949, and the interschool tennis competitions were suspended.

Fortunately, St Patrick's College remained unaffected and there was little change in the school routine. A note from the House Annals touches on the unusual situation.

During the (August-September) vacation poliomyelitis swept the State, and there was some doubt as to whether we would be able to reopen school. However, on Thursday, 15th September we reopened; but quite a number did not send their boys back for a few weeks.

1949 COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Whilst taking a trip down memory lane Halina was also able to find some great pages from the 1949 College Chronicle. Below are the words of the "Victory Song" that the College introduced to give added encouragement to those representing the Green, White and Blue. You may find the chorus familiar with only a few words from the 1949 Victory song changed in our modern-day College Song. I am sure the Victory Song was sung with pride and the echoes were heard around the College. Although, with the student numbers we currently have at SPC, I don't think the echoes would have been able to match the exuberant sound of our current war cry's in the lead up to the Head of the Lake.

OUR NEW SCHOOL SONG

For many years St. Pat's has been famous for the rousing War Cry with which her pupils applaud the efforts of her representatives on the athletic arena; but now a new inspiring "Victory Song" has been introduced to help give added encouragement to those playing for the Green, White and Blue. With patriotic verse, its tune is that of the world-famous "Victory Chant" of America's mighty Notre Dame. It is very fitting that St. Pat's, which holds a record unparalleled in Australian school-boy football, should have as its school song an adaption of the Chant of the school which is world renowned for its football (Gridiron) achievements.

Those boys who know—and will know—the Victory Song of S.P.C. will carry its melody in their hearts as a perpetual souvenir of their Alma Mater. The tune forever running through their minds should always recall for them the joys and excitements of life at S.P.C. The words of the verse and chorus will ever remind them of the spirit which St. Pat's desires of all her boys, and while singing it again they will renew their pledge to be loyal to their Alma Mater and all her teachings.

For the benefit of our interested friends the words of the song are reproduced below.

Sing her glory and her fame,
Rally Sons of S.P.C.
Raise her Green, White and Blue
And cheer with voices true—
Rah! Rah! for S.P.C.!
We will fight in every game,
We will ne'er forget her,
And will cheer her ever—
Loyal to S.P.C.

Chorus:

Cheer! Cheer! for old S.P.C.
Wake up the echoes cheering her name
Send her volley cheer on high,
Shake down the thunder from the sky
What tho' the odds be great or small,
Old S.P.C. will win over all,
While her loyal sons are marching
Onwards to victory.

Repeat chorus.

From the current College Song

Cheers, Cheers, for Old S.P.C.
Wake up the echoes, calling her name.
Send a mighty cheer on high,
Shake down the thunder from the sky.
Whether the odds be great or be small
Old S.P.C. will win over all
While her loyal sons go marching
onwards to victory.

In the same chronicle there was another song submitted for consideration as a further song that could be sung during the Football season.

OUR FIRST XVIII.

(Tune: "The Marine's Hymn")

From the distant Grampian Ranges
To the shores of Western Port
We're the champions of the football field
And excel at other sport.
We're the glory of the State you know
Good as ever there has been
And we glory in the title of
St. Patrick's College First XVIII.
We're the wearers of the green white blue
And unbeaten through the years
When the game is hard we do not flinch
But we play with all our speed.
We will never let our College down
No, we'll play as men who're keen
And we glory in the title of
St. Patrick's College First XVIII.

These words and tune have been submitted for consideration as a further song which may be sung during the football season.

Weekly Sport Challenge

During this period of remote and flexible learning I will be providing weekly Sport Challenges to our staff and students in an effort to keep them active and to provide some activity away from the screen.

The Week 3 Challenge asked students and staff to compete in a Tennis Challenge where they had to keep a tennis ball up only using the edge of their racquet. Congratulations to Noah Barwick for winning the Week 3 Challenge with 73 hits followed by Oscar Cherry with 18 hits and Joseph Freeman with 11 hits.

After many requests the Week 4 Challenge was a Basketball Challenge with a special guest appearance from our very talented staff member Eric Hayes. We are looking forward to seeing the entries from this week to see if anyone can beat the master. The winners of this challenge to be announced next week.

Each week a description of the challenge will be emailed as well as a video of the winners from the previous week and instructions on how to enter. Winning videos will be posted on the SPC Ballarat Old Collegians Facebook page each week.

At this stage sport scheduled for later in the year is unknown. We can only take it week by week. However once this is all over and we are back to normal routines I am sure we will no longer take the little things for granted and will embrace the friendships and opportunities we have both on and off the field.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself (tbenoit@stpats.vic.edu.au) or Sports Administrator Ms Jess Hawken (jhawken@stpats.vic.edu.au) at the College with any questions.