

Sportsmasters report 2007

Oakhill Sportsmen and women continued to excel in a wide variety of Sports this year, with teams from every sport winning at least one competition. In terms of students participation, for a School where by weekend sport is not compulsory, Oakhill still manages to turn out as many, if not more teams than many other Sydney Schools. Combined with a group of dedicated staff, parents and ex students, I am sure Oakhill will continue to remain strength in Sport across the State.

As parents and students would know, Oakhill competes in a number of ISA Sports through the School year. In the mid 1990's, Oakhill entered the ISA rugby competition and since then the College has slowly entered more and more ISA sports, with the intention to apply for full membership to the Association. As of term 4 2007, Oakhill has been granted full membership to the Independent Sporting Association (ISA), meaning all sports will now be played in the ISA competition or, if no ISA competition exists, students will be sent as individuals to Combined Independent Schools (CIS) trials. As the College already competes in the majority of sports through the ISA and CIS, this change will have very little impact on the general student population. It will, however, secure our long term future in weekend based sport.

2007 commenced with our swimming team as ISA champions and many of our basketball teams as defending premiers. After the halcyon days enjoyed by our basketball teams in the early 2000's, Oakhill have become the school to beat in the ISA competition, with our opponents judging their season by the result of their games against Oakhill. Although our 1sts did not make the semi finals, Oakhill had a record 15 teams in the semi finals, with 8 teams contesting finals. Besides having a number of outstanding players, a major reason for the success our teams enjoy is due to the dedication shown by Oakhill coaches and managers. I am sure the wonderful facilities our players enjoy here at the College will also further strengthen our basketball teams in years to come.

Our swim team also enjoyed a successful season with Oakhill retaining the ISA shield for a second consecutive year. It seems Oakhill and St Patrick's are the two strongest Schools in the ISA at the moment and the Swimming shield has alternated between the two schools since the start of this decade. Prior to the ISA carnival, our swim team also successfully defending the Marist North Shore Shield (a shield we have held for 10 years) and the St Andrew's Cathedral Shield. Well done also to Andrew Pasterfield (Year 12 2007) who represented Australia in a n International meet in Canada this year.

Term two saw Oakhill students commence their winter sporting commitments with the College fielding 19 rugby teams, 11 soccer teams, 10 tennis teams and 6 netball teams. In the past, Oakhill has only entered 3 netball teams so, to have 6 teams represented a major change for Oakhill sport. Not only were our numbers larger than ever, the skill level of all the players, on a whole was by far the best seen in recent years. Of our 6 netball teams, all 6 made the semi finals, with 5 teams making the finals. Our A's were outstanding this

season, finishing their competition as undefeated premiers, securing the ISA shield for the first time. Two other Oakhill teams also finished the season as premiers (B1 and C3) while B2 and C1 finished as runners up.

Our rugby teams enjoyed a solid pre season, with a number of Oakhill teams defeating teams from Knox, SHORE, Newington and St Joseph's College. Of our 19 teams, the 16 A's, B's, C's, 15 B's, 14 B's and 13 B's were all premiers, while the 1st XV managed to make the semi finals of the Waratah Shield. As mentioned earlier, a major reason for our success can be attributed to the dedication shown by staff, parents and ex students. The rugby committee work tirelessly throughout the year to raise funds for Rugby at Oakhill and deserve much of the credit for the outstanding hospitality shown to visiting teams each week.

A major achievement for Oakhill rugby this season was winning the Schools Championship Shield for the first time. All A and B results are tallied up, with the school with the lowest total declared champion school for the year. This year, Oakhill finished on 19 points, 4 points ahead of second place – well done!

One of the problems the College faces with our soccer program is trying to entice the stronger players to play for the College. With rugby and basketball, it seems that all the strongest players represent the College, while some of our stronger soccer players continue to play for their club teams. In saying this, Oakhill ISA soccer has come along way in a relatively short time. This year we fielded 11 teams, with 4 teams in the under 13's competition. If the juniors who played for Oakhill this year remain playing for the school, it is only matter of time until the strength of our soccer teams match that of our rugby and basketball teams. This year, a new award was created in honour of a parent who, for more years than most can remember, has dedicated himself to Oakhill soccer. The Perry Griffiths award for the best performed team was won by the 13 A's this year, with the 14 A's a very close second. Both teams contain a number of outstanding athletes who will develop into formidable players as they get older.

Our tennis teams continue to perform well in the local and ISA competitions, with the 1st V entering their competition as defending premiers. The pressure associated with defending a premiership did not seem to effect the 1sts, easily defending their title. The 1sts also progressed further than any other Oakhill team this year, winning the CIS and CCC shields and are now to play the best CHS team to determine the number one ranked team in the state.

In terms of mid week knockout competitions, this year the 1st XIII progressed to the final 16 of the Nationwide Arrive alive competition, further than any Oakhill team has progressed in the past. Considering our 1st XIII do not play in a regular week in week out competition, progressing this far was extraordinary. Well done to all players and coaches on this achievement. Special mention must be made of Jason Baitieri who made the Australian Schools Rugby League team this year.

With sporting facilities here at the College to rival any school in NSW, I am sure that Oakhill Sport will continue to develop in a positive fashion. Congratulations to all students on their efforts this year and I look forward to another successful year in 2008.

Mr S. Tulevski
Sportsmaster