

College Sport

Bishop Viard take aim at the big guns

LIAM HYSLOP
RUGBY

Bishop Viard College will come out "all guns blazing" on their return to Wellington premier one first XV rugby.

The Porirua school won through to their top grade with a gutsy 17-13 win over Tawa College in their final grading game last Saturday.

That means a date with St Pat's Silverstream this weekend as their first premier one game since 2007.

The team's assistant coach, Peter Savelio, said their gameplan would be simple.

"We'll go in with all guns blazing. We can't aim for anything less or you'll get burned. We're gunning for every single team and that starts with Silverstream this weekend.

"We potentially do have a great team here and they've just got to believe in each other and go out there and really go for it."

Savelio knows what it is like to reach the summit of Wellington high school rugby – although it was a false summit when he was part of a Viard team which won four consecutive premier one titles between 1990 and 1993.

That was because St Pat's Town, Silverstream, Wellington College and Rongotai College were playing in an under-19 grade, rather than school rugby.

Viard sent challenges to each of them every year they won a title to see if they could test their skills against them, but they went unanswered.

"We would love to have played the top teams where we were then, but the boys get a chance to do that now this year," Savelio said.

"We're always reiterating to them how important it is because we never really got the chance."

The Viard team of 2007 was relegated midway through the season, but Savelio said this year's team felt more like the one of the early 90s.

They all played together in under-15s, as the 90s team did.

Senior players Dylan Patu and Dorian Tato lead the forward pack, while young first-five Denzel Leota marshals the backline and speedy winger Roy Maiava has yet to find



Bishop Viard College's Philip Filipo is tackled by Tawa College defenders on Saturday. Viard won 17-13 to qualify for premier one.

PHOTO: JOE SERCI/WELTEC

an opposite he can't beat. The team has lost the experienced Adam Tone for a while to a fractured shoulder, but none of their stars left the squad, even when the big teams came calling in the offseason, Savelio said. "There have been a few people chase a couple of our players, but it's that unknown that these young boys are maybe afraid of, and the young parents themselves ... the

unknown of going into places like Scots College and Wellington College. "The kids are happy and that's all the parents want for their kids, that they're enjoying school – why would you want to go to another school just for rugby?" Last year, Viard dominated premier two, winning all 11 of their games, including beating St Bernard's 27-24 in the final.

They also won the Wellington Co-ed Cup, before losing to perennial champions Feilding High School 33-8 in the Hurricanes regional final. The team likes to run the ball from all parts and many of their players can produce individual moments of "magic", Savelio said. "I've always thought you should never train out the magic in a player. The ball-running skills

and stuff, back in the day it was typical Fijian rugby we liked to play and you don't want to coach that out of the boys now. "We work on some set plays and set pieces, but on the day, if they're feeling it, they're going to go and that magic gets them over that line." If ever there was a year a team like Viard could shake the first XV tree, it is this year.

First XV rugby squads:

Bishop Viard: Adam Tone, Antonio Tone, Roy Maiava, Tominiko Maiava, Dorian Tato, Nasser Tato, Tisileli Finau, Denzel Leota, Brandon Naera, Darius Patau, Dylan Patu, Leigh Nansen, Sean Atoni-Gatu, Arthur Matini, Philip Filipo, Makalio Iakopo, Chad Shaw, Etuale Logle, Issac Sushames, Jeremiah Lokeni, Kit Manava, Pene Tuiketeti, Kakati Royal.
Rongotai College: Mouna Aukafolau, Karl, Brownlie, Sen Chut, Taha Corkran, Liam Fainalaga, Norman Fatialofa, Shaquille Fiso, Mitchell Gough, Eskelo Komaisavai, Oscar Kulitapa, Matthias Lima, Tobias Makisi, Ngatama Marurai, Jarome Pole, Matiu Samuel, DJ Taopu, Va'a Taopu, Denny To'o, Jason Tuitama, Paul Turia, Reuben Va'a, Steven Va'a, Tavita Va'a.
Scots College: Moala Katoa, George Jacobs, Christian Lee, Tamaterangi Kapene, Daniel Brown, Harry Saker, Tommy Prescott, Jack Loader, Jack Royal, Josh Wilson, Jaylen Tuapola, Drew Meiklejohn, Faafetai Neli, Maloifiganofovaleane Manuao, Connor Garden-Bachop, Werdna Maligi, Ezra Dunlop, Jack Mexted, Jack Gray, Manaaki Boyle-Tiatia, Max Tapitiki Muehngati Matinde.
St Bernard's College: Elijah Afoa, Mikaele Alaifatu, Callum Asher, Iosefo Avau, Raymond Bewley, Usaolinofolele Brown, Bernard Devine, Benjamin Ernst, Bree Henderson, Lahalo Luka, Puna Manaia, Matthew Mann, Connor McLeod, Joshua Peckston, Bill Roberts, Kade Tuari, Alex Tupu, Te Aoreere Wanao.
St Patrick's College, Silverstream: Kahil Adams, Toalima Anae Laupola, Iona Apineru, Chris Aumua, Harrison

Boyle, Mitchell Bull-Elvines, Kieran De La Rambelje, Riley Forbes, Jarrod Harawira, Callum Harkin, Chris Hemi, Teddi Herr, Albert Latalakepa, Aisea Mafie'o, Luke Mannix, Connor McGeough, Callum McLachlan, Stanley Paese, Dimitri Perez, Albert Polu, Joshua Southall, Fredrick Sunia, Todd Svenson, Jack Wright, Te Tana Wright.
St Patrick's College, Town: Gerard Ahnau, Zachary Aldridge, Samuel Baylis, Xavier English, Kevin Fauatea, Meinrad Fitsemanu, Connor Fitzsimons, Luke Georgeson, Andre Hart, Thomas Horan, Nuri Kaya, Adam McLean, Ethan McQuinlan, Finn Meredith, Leo English, Xavier Numaia, Setefano Paese, Siosaia Paese, Billy Proctor, Jasper Stone, Grayson Whitman, Keelan Whitman.
Wairarapa College: Issac Bracewell, Shaiane Daniel, Chris Dickson, Flynn Ellmers, Josh Fulton, Jordon Galyer, Adam Gordon, Joseph Gordon, Brad Griffith, Croydon Hall, Ryan Hargood, Jack Harley, Tia Levi, Lochie Macrae, Major Mariu, Liam McCartney, Jacob Morison, Sam Morison, Cameron Percy, Guy Percy, Callum Pritchard, Rhys Reiri, Joe Roberts, Chester Rothery, Samuel Smith, Anthony Tamakehu, Jonas Tamihana, Fouina Wilson.
Wellington College: Naitoa Ah Kuo, Bronson Aiona, Qualen Asi, Oliver Dawson, La'au Finau, Noase Foaia, Connor Fuli, Sam Green, Qori Gucake, Michael Heyworth, Tom Hoskin, Gus McPherson, Dylan Meek, Joshua Morgan-Ranui, Ben Murphy, Oliver Paotonu, Ish Perkins Banse, Reece Plumtree, Taine Plumtree, Adrian Seumanufagai, Toka Sopoaga, Stone Warren-Robinson, Callum Watts-Pointer.

East's youthful rebuild begins to take shape

LIAM HYSLOP
NETBALL

It is nearly impossible to replace six year 13s in a high school netball team and remain successful.

But Wellington East Girls' College are making a decent go of it this year with just two players, Tiana Metuarau and Sharnay Leef, back from their 2015 team.

Metuarau, 15, has led the way in the shooting circle, as her team finished second at the College Sport Wellington premier tournament last Thursday.

East overcame an early 17-10 loss to Newlands College in the round-robin to make the decider against a strong St Mary's College team, losing 24-11.

East coach James Laursen said the team was heading in the right direction after losing to St Mary's 55-32 in the Saturday club competition earlier in the season.

"We came second and lost to St Mary's, but I'd like to think the gap between us and them is slowly shrinking."

Laursen said the focus for such a young team was short-term goals and reducing errors.

"We've got lower North Islands in our mind. I'd love for us to have a spot at nationals – to do that we'd have to take the fifth or fourth spot, but we don't want to bite our nose off to spite our face, we just want to stay on track with what we're doing."

Metuarau has made an out-

"I'd like to think the gap between us and them is slowly shrinking."

East coach James Laursen on their rivalry with St Mary's

standing start to the year, not only for East. She was named shooter of the tournament when she helped the New Zealand secondary schools team win the International Secondary Schools Challenge on May 6.

She has also earned a starting spot in Central's table-topping national league team, shooting 37 of 39 and 32 of 36 in the team's last two wins over South and Mainland.

Metuarau said making the starting seven for Central had been the highlight of her netballing year so far.

"At the start I thought I was going to be on the bench. I didn't think I would get much court time, but I have been starting in the recent games. It has been a real confidence booster for me."

The leadership role at East was a natural progression for Metuarau and she said it had been made easier by the year 10s and 11s not being afraid to have their say.

"The leadership aspect has been good, but it's also nice that a lot of the other girls are confident themselves and are not afraid to communicate with one another."

"It's a bit different, especially



Wellington East Girls' College's Tiana Metuarau looks to make a pass against St Mary's College in the College Sport Wellington final.

PHOTO: MASANORI UDAGAWA

because we don't have Mila [Reuelu-Buchanan] and she was our captain last year."

The team has lost all five of its Saturday club games against the older women, but Laursen was happy with that.

"They've got to lose more before they start winning more. They're quite content with that and they're learning slowly but surely."

"Their fitness is a bit lacking at the moment, but it will come with time."

"They do a good solid half an hour at the moment, but in the Saturday league they need to be going for an hour, but again this is good training because when they go to their main school tournaments they are only 40-minute games."

The team will also get a helping

hand from Metuarau's mother, former Silver Ferns coach Wai Taumanu, who is in line to take a few trainings when Laursen is away for sport and work.

They are still a long way from matching St Mary's, who have retained a host of senior players from last year, including NZSS representatives Ainsleyana Puleiata and Renee Savai'inaea.

East was the only team to crack double figures against them last week.

Metuarau said they would continue to work away to try and match them.

"I hate to say it, but they are very, very good this year. But for every game we play against them we just want to scrape back a few points so that we get that tad bit better."

WC start with emphatic victory

JACOB BELESKI
BASKETBALL

Wellington College have started strongly in their quest to dominate Wellington premier basketball and qualify for the national secondary schools tournament.

On Friday night they ended three rounds of premier qualifiers with a dominant 81-57 victory over St Pat's Town.

They had earlier beaten Hutt Valley High School (61-40) and defending champions Onslow College (58-44).

Captain Efrain Villalobos-Santana, 17, said they had been steadily building towards the first full round-robin of premier matches, starting this Friday.

"We had a slow start to be honest. Our pre-season started slowly as we had a few people, including myself, overseas."

The team was still getting used to each other and the new

coaching structures, he said. "Now that the season has started I'm pretty happy, as are the coaches. Our chemistry is definitely getting better."

The team faced a rebuilding period after losing four year-13s and one player to another school from the squad that finished fourth in 2015.

Beating St Pat's had given the team confidence it can match it with one of the stronger teams in the competition.

Knowing how St Pat's play would help them when they meet again later in the season.

"I definitely didn't expect a score that big. Even though they didn't have their full squad I thought the score would be within 10."

The team has clear goals starting with making the premier final and hopefully winning it.

They then want to do well at regionals and qualify for nationals, Villalobos-Santana said.

Areas have been identified for improvement heading into Friday's first-round match against Rongotai College.

"I think we need to run our offensive plays better, we've been playing a little bit of free-ball as we call it. Definitely executing our plays is an area we can improve," he said.

The boys' premier grade will be made up of Wellington College, St Pat's Town, Hutt Valley High School, Onslow College, Rongotai College, St Pat's Silverstream, Aotea College and Scots College.

In the last round of premier girls' qualifiers, St Mary's College beat Wellington Girls' College 109-58 and Hutt Valley High School beat Naena College 78-51.

All four had already qualified for the premier girls' grade due to last year's placings. They will be joined by Queen Margaret College, Aotea College, Wellington East Girls' College and Tawa College who topped their qualifying pools.

Duo prepare well for three-day event

ORIENTEERING

Lara Molloy and Stefan Prychodzkho have prepared for the Queen's Birthday three-day orienteering event by winning the College Sport Wellington competitions.

Paraparaumu College student Prychodzkho narrowly won the senior boys' experienced division over Wellington College's Joseph Lynch following the six-round competition. With four rounds counting towards the overall score, Prychodzkho finished with a perfect 100 points, which was just 2.4 points clear of Lynch in second. Onslow College's Sam

Middleton was third, with the trio being joined by New Plymouth's Callum Sutherland and Wellington College's George Engleback in the Wellington regional team for the schools challenge at the Queen's Birthday event on the Horowhenua coast.

Molloy claimed another College Sport Wellington title, despite competing in just four of the six events. She managed a perfect 100 score as well, with Chilton St James' Amber Riddle second on 86.8 points and Wellington Girls' Alice Fisher back in third.

Molloy has been selected for the junior New Zealand team, known as the NZ Pinestars, to take on the Australian Bushrangers at the

Queen's Birthday event.

The Wellington senior girls' team will consist of Marina Comesky (St Catherine's College) and Fisher in the top grade, while the Wellington Girls' pair of Nyah Parbhu and Caitlyn Douglass will compete in the B grade.

Riddle will lead the junior girls' team, along with Sarah Prychodzkho (Paraparaumu), Josephine Reeves (Chilton), Fiona Middleton (Onslow College) and Tara Kendon (Wellington Girls').

The junior boys' team is: Kieran Edwards (Upper Hutt College), Liam Kendrew (Newlands College), Seb McBride (Newlands), Oak Jones (New Plymouth), and Christopher Dagger (Onslow).

College Sport Wellington
Where sports stars unfold

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