

COLLEGE SPORT



with **Tim Barton**
 email: tim.barton@dompost.co.nz
 (04) 474 0123

St Pat's Town face twin threat

RUGBY

THE St Pat's Town first XV survived a twin attack last Sunday but now face another.

Town's ability to restrict the damage caused by twins Peter and Thomas Umaga-Jensen was a key factor in their 19-8 victory over Scots College in the Wellington premiership final.

That earned Town a weekend off but they will be up against another double act when they meet Hastings Boys' High School, at home on August 22, in a semifinal of the Hurricanes schools competition.

Hastings are led by centre Antonio Mikaele-Tuu and his twin Marino will be at No 8.

Marino was a member of the New Zealand Barbarians team last year, as a year 12, and is an obvious contender for the national schools side this winter.

Both brothers were selected for the Hurricanes under-18 training camp this year, though only Marino made the final side.

Hastings are having their best season for years and will be a tough obstacle for Town to shift.

The Hawke's Bay school beat St Pat's Silverstream 31-10 at the festival pre-season tournament and finished fourth in the Super 8 competition, just one point behind third placegetters New Plymouth Boys'.

Hastings had a four win, three loss record in Super 8, beating New Plymouth 21-10, Gisborne Boys' 21-17, Palmerston North Boys' 15-12 and Tauranga North 34-23. The win against Palmerston North was the first for Hastings since 2004.

They lost against the eventual Super 8 finalists, Hamilton Boys' and Rotorua Boys', but it was a shock loss against Napier Boys' that cost them a home semifinal in the Hurricanes competition.

The seedings for the Hurricanes region are calculated from matches played between schools in the region and Napier's 18-13 win over Hastings meant that Gisborne was the top Hurricanes qualifier from the Super 8 competition.

"Rotorua and Hamilton are two good teams but the Napier game was easily our worst of the year and cost us," Hastings manager Steve Small said. That was the only Super 8 match that Napier won.

Hastings, who have a sizeable



The St Pat's Town players are ecstatic while it is agony for the Scots team, at the end of the premiership rugby final at Porirua Park last weekend. Photo: ROSS GIBLIN/FAIRFAX NZ

'The game at this level is more professional now and there is more hype, compared to 20 years ago.'

Town coach Glenn Donaldson

pack, also beat Wellington College, Kelston Boys' and St Paul's, from Hamilton, in pre-season games and have twice beaten Lindisfarne this winter.

Tongan lock Viliani Kaipouli, who was new to the school this year, has been a big contributor to the Hastings pack and year 12 full-back and Hurricanes under-18 triallist Danny Toala has made a mark. "Danny is one to watch," Small said.

However, Hastings have some homework to do on St Pat's Town.

"Our perception had been that we were likely to be meeting Scots and we had done a bit of work on them but didn't know a lot about Town," Small said.

Hastings will also be without their head coach, Jack Wiggins, for the final stages of the season. Wiggins left New Zealand last weekend to take up an academy role with London Wasps.

Town will appreciate a weekend off after a tough but successful period which included four premiership games in less than three weeks.

Town had two games against Silverstream and also met Wairarapa College in the leadup to the final.

First five-eighth Zac Donaldson will have a shoulder injury assessed but otherwise Town have come through the schedule in good shape.

"There were some sore bodies [after the final] but they have got time to recover now," coach Glenn Donaldson said.

In addition, the result will have helped ease any pain the Town squad was feeling on Monday.

"It [winning the premiership] doesn't happen often," Donaldson said. It was Town's first title since 1995, when the side was also coached by Donaldson and John Bishop. Five other schools had won a premiership between the Town wins.

"It was a different feeling this time," Donaldson said. "The game at this level is more professional now and there is more hype, compared to 20 years ago."

"There is greater exposure for the top teams, with the television coverage, and you have to be more rigorous in your preparation."

Scots went into the final as favourites, a situation that Town were able to exploit.

"We took the view that we had nothing to lose and Scots did," Donaldson said. "They were the national champions and Wellington champs. It's not easy to defend a title and there is the expect-

ation and pressure that goes with it.

"Some of the leadup games might have been a bit too easy for them [Scots] too. They hadn't had to work for a win for a while."

Town's triumph was based around a committed defensive effort and Scots did not score a try till the game was an hour old. "We really did defend brilliantly, especially in the first half," Donaldson said.

The coach had special praise for second five-eighth Willie Schutz, who was marking Thomas Umaga-Jensen. "He was my man of the match. You can't rely on one person marking the twins, because they can turn up anywhere, but Willie did a great job defensively and was good on attack."

"Sefo Numia was dynamite - he used to be a 100m sprinter and now he plays at prop - but it really was a good team effort," Donaldson said. "The team has gelled and is peaking at the right time."

Season not over for Scots first XV

RUGBY

SCOTS COLLEGE have lost one title but can still end the term with a trophy in the cabinet.

The Scots first XV were unable to retain their Wellington title but still have the Moascar Cup and remain in contention for the Hurricanes schools title.

Previously, a loss in the Wellington final usually marked the end of the season but that is no longer the case.

With Taranaki leaving the Hurricanes franchise, the Wellington premiership runners-up get a second life, and it is possible that Scots and St Pat's Town could meet again, in the Hurricanes final at the end of the month.

Town are able to have a breather this weekend while Scots travel to Whanganui to play Wanganui High School.

Wanganui, who play in the Manawatu under-21 competition, might struggle against a Scots side who will want to show that their performance last weekend was not a true indication of their worth.

But Scots will not get an easy run to the Hurricanes final, as a win against Wanganui would lead to an away semifinal against Gisborne Boys' High.

Gisborne, who lost to Scots in a Hurricanes semifinal last year, have consistently produced strong rugby sides and have been especially effective at home.

They had three wins and four losses in the Super 8 competition this year but beat Palmerston North Boys' 23-7 at home and pushed the Super 8 finalists Hamilton Boys' and Rotorua Boys' in home games.

Gisborne also recorded a 39-0 win against St Pat's Town in the first XV festival in May, though they lost to Silverstream a week later.

Scots were below their best in the Wellington final. They were up against a determined and capable Town team but made far too many errors, particularly in the first half.

Down 19-3 at halftime, Scots needed to score early in the second half but couldn't and left

'Town were definitely the better team on the day. They dominated up front and unsettled us at the set pieces.'

Filo Tiatia
 Scots coach

themselves with too much to do.

It was the first loss to a New Zealand team for Scots since they went down 28-26 to Silverstream in a round robin game in June last year.

Their one loss in 18 previous games this year had been at the Sanix world youth tournament, where they were beaten 34-8 in their semifinal clash with Brisbane Boys' College.

It has also been rare for Scots to be restricted to just one try, and that came late in the final.

"That's not like us and we were disappointed with how we played, particularly in the first half," Scots coach Filo Tiatia said. "We gifted them two tries in the first half."

"But Town were definitely the better team on the day. They dominated up front and unsettled us at the set pieces."

The Moascar Cup was not at stake in the Wellington final but will be if Scots make the national top four.

The Scots squad was showing the effects of the final on Monday. "They all pulled up feeling sore and bruised," Tiatia said. "It was a very physical game and it was mentally draining."

Scots have also lost experienced lock Jarimar Schuster, who is out for the rest of the season after fracturing a leg in the final. "He has played really well for us and he still had a couple of goals he wanted to achieve this year," Tiatia said.

Skipper Peter Umaga-Jensen also has some injury concerns and is not certain to play this weekend.

Wellington teams will clash early in Rankin Cup

HOCKEY

FAMILIAR foes will be meeting on an unfamiliar battlefield at the national Rankin Cup tournament in Auckland.

There are eight pools at the tournament, which will be played under a new format this year, but the top four schools in the Wellington premier one hockey competition - Hutt International, Wellington College, Scots College and Wairarapa College - are spread over only two pools.

Wellington College and Scots College are the top seeds in one pool and Wairarapa and HIBS top the seedings in another.

St Pat's Silverstream will be the other Wellington team at the national Rankin Cup, which begins on August 31, and have drawn a pool headed by Palmerston North Boys' and Burnside High.

The two top qualifiers from each pool will make up the top 16 and play for the Rankin Cup, with each subsequent game a knockout match. The bottom 16 will play off for the India Shield.

Previously, the entries for the Rankin Cup and India were determined by the results from the previous year. That meant that some of the better teams could be playing in the second division [India], a situation that the new format should avoid.

Wairarapa made the Rankin final last year, losing a shootout to Hamilton Boys', while Wellington finished fourth, for the second successive year.

Scots won the 2014 India Shield, with HIBS third, and Silverstream earned entry into the extended Rankin draw by



winning the third-tier Mayhill Cup.

The Wellington premier one competition has been unusually tight this year and just four points separate the top four, with one round remaining in round robin play. The competition will be split into a top four/bottom four next week, with the points carrying through.

HIBS lead the competition by a point from Wellington College and are unbeaten in the premier round, with five wins and a draw from the six games.

HIBS, who play Rathkeale on Friday, beat Scots 4-0 on July 31 and notched an

important 2-1 win over Wairarapa College last weekend.

"We are starting to hit our straps now," HIBS coach Sam Rama said. "We have got a good group of senior boys and a couple of juniors who have taken a step up."

"The last two results [against Scots and Wairarapa College] have boosted their self-confidence. They have been putting the goals away and starting to believe that they are good enough to do it."

HIBS are led by striker Troy John-

son who has averaged two goals a game this year and scored 17 goals from six games in the premiership round, including a double against Scots and both goals against Wairarapa.

"He's got that cricketer's hand to eye co-ordination, along with speed and attitude," Rama said. "He's a very good athlete and he's also been getting good support."

Peter Manning, Bradley Collins and year 11 defender Jaiden Chhika were members of the Wellington under-18 side and Chhika's form at the back has

allowed his experienced team-mate Deevan Rama to be moved into midfield. "Deevan adds more power to the midfield."

The HIBS squad also has three year 10 players, with striker Anish Rama joined by Nathan Ann and Graeme Murrell.

"The competition is very even this year and a lot will depend on who can take their chances on the day," Sam Rama said.

Wellington College have had four wins and two draws from their six matches and have earned valuable bonus points with big wins against Silverstream (10-0) and Rongotai (9-0) in their last two matches. Another big margin is likely this week, against Paraparumu.

"We don't have an elite level player or a game-breaking striker this year but that has meant we have had to play more as a unit," coach Manoj Parbhu said.

Skipper Logen Stent, who is in his fourth year in the first XI, had been impressive in midfield, while goalkeeper Sam Dearsley and defender Josh Symonds had also been standout players in recent games.

Scots, who beat Rathkeale 3-0 last weekend, are in third place in premier one but have an important game, against Wairarapa, on Friday.

There has been good news and bad news on the injury front. Experienced defender Lothar Krumpen is out for the rest of the season, with a dislocated knee, but Lachie Paton returned last week, after a lengthy layoff from a hand injury.

BRIEFS

YACHTING World champs

Hutt International sailor George Gautrey will compete in the radial laser world youth championships in Canada this weekend. Gautrey, won the New Zealand title in January. He was also awarded a St John's Rotary scholarship, which assists two New Zealand sailors to attend their class world championship. Previous scholarship recipients include Olympic champion Jo Aleh, who competed in the laser radial class in 2002. Olivia Christie (Wellington East) is also competing at the radial laser championships.

FOOTBALL Big win

Wellington College has gone to the top of the premier youth football ladder. Wellington College ended HIBS' unbeaten run with a 5-1 win at home last weekend. It was a significant result with the two teams due to meet in the final next week. HIBS had recorded six wins and two draws in eight previous matches. Rongotai beat Scots and the Kapiti-Hutt Valley game was deferred. The semifinals in the girls' premier grade will be played today, with top qualifier Wellington Girls' meeting St Mary's and Hutt Valley, who qualified second, meeting East.

BASKETBALL Top of the table

Wellington Girls' and St Mary's, the two teams at the top of the table, meet in the Sharp Cup on Friday. Both teams have had eight wins from nine games, with St Mary's beating Wellington Girls' by a single goal in June. Hutt Valley lead the Pohlen Cup after beating Wellington College 88-77 last weekend. The boys and girls semifinals will be held on August 21.

Major Sponsors: