

COLLEGE SPORT

with **Liam Hyslop**
email: liam.hyslop@fairfaxmedia.co.nz
(04) 474-0279

Wairarapa upset Wellington

RUGBY

WAIRARAPA COLLEGE have produced the shock of the premier one rugby season, beating Wellington College for the first time in the school's history.

The 27-24 scoreline made the game look closer than it actually was, indicating just how well Wairarapa played and how far Wellington have fallen this year.

Wairarapa held a 20-0 lead after 55 minutes before Wellington finally got on the scoreboard with a converted try.

Another Wairarapa try made it 27-7 but they had to play the final eight minutes with 14 men after one of their players was sent to the sin bin.

Wellington scored three tries in that time to bring it back to 27-24, but the last try came after the final hooter and with Wairarapa knowing they had the game in the bag.

Wairarapa coach Chris Senior said the sinbinning made for a nerve-racking finish.

"Until that we were comfortable but that final 10 minutes was a nervous time."

Senior said he believed it was the school's first win against Wellington College, and one which had come about through finally being able to string sets of phases together.

The team's ball retention had been poor in 50-12 and 51-3 losses to St Pat's Town and Scots College in their previous two games, he said.

"It had been a tough couple of weeks and we knew that we weren't playing well.

"Those teams weren't 50 points better than us, we just weren't holding on to the ball and kept giving it away too easily.

"Against Wellington College, it was the first time we actually put some phases together and it really showed in how well we played."

An injury to their best back, Levi Harmon, had unexpectedly made their backline a more cohesive unit, Senior said.

"Levi was going well before his injury but we were far too reliant on him.

"As unfortunate as [the injury] was for him, it's actually been a bit of a blessing, in disguise, as instead of just giving it to him all the time, our backs have had to work more as a unit and make space for each other."



Wellington College's Connor Fuli fends off a Christ's College defender on his way to one of his four tries on Monday.

Photo: KEVIN STENT/FAIRFAX NZ

The form of the team's loose forwards was particularly pleasing, Senior said.

"Bruce Kauika-Peterson has been strong all season, as has our skipper and seven, Cameron Ravenwood, he's just a great leader and amazing on the scavenge."

Stepping up into the top grade for the first time has been an eye-opener for the young Wairarapa side.

"It's been different than prem two, where there's only a couple of strong teams, so you'll get one tough game before getting a few easier weeks against the weaker teams."

"Having tough games week in, week out and having bang after bang after bang has been tough. It's been a little bit hard to try and play at that level all the time and

we've had a few injuries. "But it's been good for us in terms of the broader picture. We're a young team, we've only got three year 13s so we'll improve come next year."

Wairarapa face a playoff showdown against Tawa on July 28, with the winner making it into the top six.

If Wairarapa manage a bonus-point win and Wellington lose to Rongotai College without a bonus point, then Wairarapa will leapfrog them into fifth.

Wellington did have something to smile about on Monday, beating Christ's College in the annual quadrangular tournament to book a place in the final as they chase their 13th consecutive win in the 90th edition of the tournament.

Four tries to Connor Fuli sealed the 36-8 win and set up a

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Wairarapa coach Chris Senior



final against Nelson College today, after the southerners beat Wanganui Collegiate 30-7 on Monday.

Swedish odyssey lifts Molloy's performance

ORIENTEERING

SPENDING a year getting her bearings in the orienteering Mecca of Sweden has given Lara Molloy a taste of the sport's elite stage and made her hungry for more.

The 16-year-old Wellington Girls' College student went on a 10-month exchange to Umea, in the north of Sweden, during 2014.

"It was a school exchange but I wanted to go to Sweden because they have orienteering schools. I thought I'd like to go to one of them but I had no contacts over there so thought it would be really hard," she said.

"I got in touch with an exchange programme and when I was filling in the application I pretty much said I would like to be in an orienteering family to train as much as I can, and they sorted that out."

The trip saw her spend five months at an orienteering school and compete in the biggest orienteering event in the world: O-Ringen.

More than 23,000 competitors converged on Kristianstad in the south of the country for the fifth event, which will have its 50th running this year.

The winner of the elite competition took home almost NZ\$15,000, but Molloy said she was there for the experience.

"People go from all over Europe and even some from New Zealand and I think they have something like 200 different courses over there because it's so much more competitive, I think my best result was 56th in a grade of 180 or so but the experience was amazing."

Molloy returned to New Zealand at the end of last year and was quickly back into her stride in 2015, winning the under-18 Oceania Championships before taking out the Wellington secondary schools' competition with a round to spare.

The solid form saw her become the only Wellington athlete selected for the national secondary schools team, which she missed out on last year.

"When I was in year 9 and 10 I was selected for the junior national team, but I was in Sweden last year so wasn't in it but came back this year and was selected."



Lara Molloy's effort at the Oceania Championships in Tasmania in January helped earn her a spot on the New Zealand secondary schools team.

The team will compete at the Australian Orienteering Championships in Ballarat from September 26, while Molloy is also eyeing up a strong finish at the New Zealand Secondary Schools' champs on July 16.

For those who don't know much about orienteering, Molloy describes it as "extreme cross-country with navigation".

"It's generally quite high intensities, the short events are two to three kilometres, up to the longer distances for my grade, which are about six or seven kilometres.

"I quite like the competitiveness, the challenge of not just running but the physical and mental challenge of it."

She started in year 6 when one of her school teachers encouraged her to come along with her older sister.

"We were living in Churton Park at the time, there was a local event being run so we went to that and really enjoyed it and have been hooked since."

One day, she hopes to foot it with the best at O-Ringen, but knows it's a long road to get to there.

Hutt International Boys' duo hit hockey century

HOCKEY

IT'S rare to see a secondary school athlete bring up 100 caps in a sport such as hockey.

So when two Hutt International Boys' School (HIBS) players managed the feat just weeks apart it was cause for celebration.

Year 13s Troy Johnson and Deevan Rama have both played in the first XI since year 9, with Rama the first to bring up his ton in a 6-1 win against Paraparaumu College on June 12.

Johnson joined him in the 100 club last Friday, celebrating the achievement with four goals in a 7-0 romp against Rongotai College.

Johnson is no stranger to centuries, but normally he's hitting them on the cricket field as one of the brightest young talents in Wellington cricket.

He said it was satisfying to bring up the hockey hundred but, like much of his hockey career, it had come as a bit of a surprise.

"I started playing hockey in year 7 and ended up making the Wellington rep team even though I didn't know the rules. I managed to bluff my way in there and someone convinced them that I was good."

"Even when I made the First XI in year 9 I expected to sit on the bench the whole season, but I think I ended up starting every game - it was a bit bizarre, really. It was a good team back then, but we didn't have any year 13s as it was a really young side, which

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Troy Johnson



was probably why the window opened up for me and Deevan in the team."

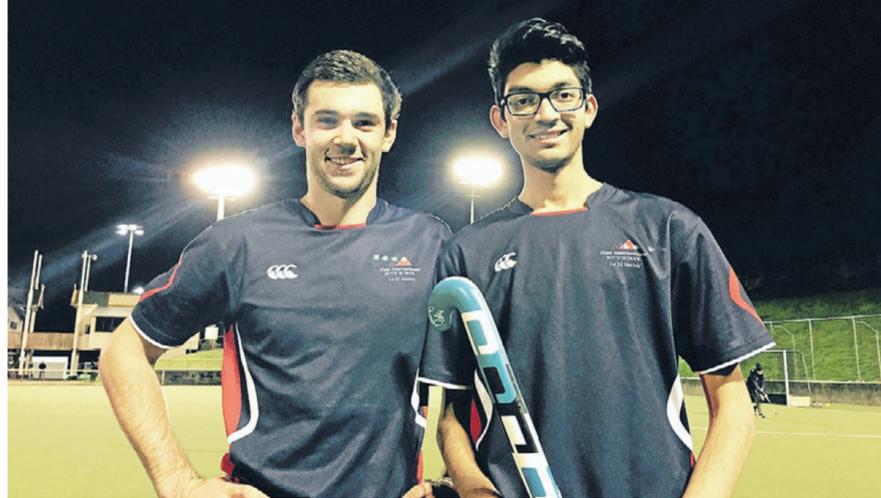
Rama also expressed his surprise at being told about the achievement, considering only games in the Wellington competition and national tournament were included in the figure.

"We've been away to places like China and Malaysia over the years but those games didn't count so I didn't think I'd be at 100."

Rama, who has a brother and a cousin in the first XI, said he was looking to go out on a high in what could be his last year of competitive hockey for quite some time.

"We're looking strong so it should be our year this year, hopefully. There are quite a few strong teams but we've got experience on our side with quite a few seniors in the team.

"Troy and I have decided not to play reps or club this year. I



Hutt International Boys' School hockey players Troy Johnson, left, and Deevan Rama both brought up 100 games for the school's first XI in recent weeks.

wanted to focus on my schooling a lot more this year. I'm taking on engineering next year, hopefully at Auckland [University], so I probably won't have time for really competitive hockey."

Johnson, who captains the team, said he was keen to get over the heartbreak of losing the 2012 final 2-1 to Wellington College.

"I remember that final pretty vividly, it was a gutting experience losing by a goal and having a

shot in the last minute which came off the crossbar.

"We weren't far off, we had a really good team but I think this year's team is good enough to do it."

Johnson is also unlikely to continue with hockey next year but will be keen to continue with it down the track.

"I focus most of my time on cricket but I've always really enjoyed my hockey and it cer-

tainly keeps me fit over the winter, which is a big bonus.

"I'd be quite keen to keep going with it but it's about what happens with cricket in the off-season.

"I'm looking to go to England over our winter next year so that would be the winter season gone, but I'm sure I'll play again at some point.

"I'll look to give my cricket a good go for the next 12 months and see where that takes me."

BRIEFS

BADMINTON Junior champs crowned

The top seeds reigned supreme at the Wellington college badminton championships last week. HIBS' Jake Naylor beat Wellington College's Muhammad Naufalino in the boys final, while Wellington East's Chrissalena Sak toppled Wellington Girls' Yashica Mohan in the girls competition. The Hutt High pair of Jaryl Loo and Shine Wu won the boys doubles and the Paraparaumu College pair of Nicole Brown and Emily Dine won the girls doubles.

BASKETBALL Newlands on top

The Piliiti triplets (Lalen, Natasha and Tearii) continue to lead the Newlands College girls in the Sharp Cup. All three are in the top six scorers in the league and the team have a perfect 5-0 record which sees them two points clear at the top of the table. The Newlands boys are also doing well, manufacturing a 4-1 record which sees them in a four-way tie at the top of the Pohlen Cup with Hutt High, Wellington College and Onslow College. The latter caused a real boiwover last Friday when they beat the previously undefeated Wellington College 72-50.

FOOTBALL HIBS unbeaten

HIBS continued their strong form in premier boys football with a 1-0 win over Wellington College. Benjamin Sears nabbed the lone goal which sees

LACROSSE Title claimed

Wellington Girls' College won the Wellington secondary schools' lacrosse final against St Mary's on Saturday. The game was evenly poised at 3-2 at halftime, but six second-half goals saw Wellington Girls' cruise to victory. The team lost just one game all year, going down 6-5 to Samuel Marsden in a thrilling game on May 23.

INDOOR BOWLS Record entries

The College Sport Wellington indoor bowls champs has attracted a record number of entries. The tournament will be held tomorrow at North Wellington Indoor Bowls Club and will see 90 bowlers competing.

SWIMMING On your marks

The Wellington secondary school swimming championships take place in Naenae tomorrow. The competition has attracted 120 of the best swimmers from around the Wellington region.

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