

COLLEGE SPORT



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Scots miss second straight national title

RUGBY

SCOTS COLLEGE'S quest for a second successive national secondary schools rugby title failed at the final hurdle.

They lost 36-27 to Rotorua Boys' High School in the final on Sunday, the home team finishing strongly in front of their fans despite ending the game with just 13 men.

Rotorua were leading 29-27 in the final 10 minutes when they had two brain explosions.

Second-five Waisea Nuimata-iwalu was sent off for a careless and dangerous tip tackle, before halfback Ra Whata was yellow carded for punching with just minutes on the clock.

However, after a series of breakdown turnovers, Rotorua No 8 Kaydis Hona bashed over to score the winning try – and was promptly swamped by pitch-invading Rotorua fans.

Rotorua first five-eighth Kaleb Trask kicked the conversion as the final hooter sounded, sparking a second pitch invasion.

It could have been very different for Scots, having gone up 22-19 early in the second half, after trailing 19-12 at halftime.

But they were unable to mount a second comeback late in the game.

Inspirational vice-captain Alex Fidow scored two tries in his final game for Scots, taking his career tally to 49 tries in 60 games.

The Umaga-Jensen twins, Peter and Thomas, have scored 58 tries between them in the past two seasons, but only Peter could get across the line on Sunday – a 90-metre runaway which gave his side that early second-half lead.

Scots coach Filo Tiatia said he was immensely proud of the way his team had played in the final.

"They fought back and made decisions on how they wanted to control the game – unfortunately we just couldn't get quite over the line.

"We were pretty disappointed, we prepared well to win it, but it just didn't work out that way."

The dramatic final had kept



Scots College's Henry Mexted can't hide his disappointment as Rotorua Boys' High School's James Tofa crosses in the corner.

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

everyone on their toes, he said.

"To use a boxing analogy, it was well-weighted and punch-for-punch, it was just one of those games that kept everyone on the edge of their seat, coaches included.

"Playing in Rotorua was always going to be a difficult task but the boys prepared well.

"They [Rotorua] had some dangerous players that we tried to contain and it was a

good game."

Tiatia said he felt the final should have been played on a neutral ground, but it wasn't the reason they lost.

"It's always going to be a strong home crowd when you're playing at Rotorua Boys' High.

"Maybe that's something that the school council and secondary schools rugby need to look at moving forward, when you're playing a team in the top four and it's not

a neutral ground.

"Fair credit to them though, taking nothing away from them, they won, they deserve it and they're national champions."

Tiatia said all the year 13s were expected to leave the team, including Fidow, the Umaga-Jensen twins, hooker Nu'u Haueia and locks Jarimar Schuster and Henry Mexted.

But the team faced a similar upheaval at the end of last season

after winning the national title, Tiatia said. "It was quite a different group this year, with the exception of the Umaga-Jensen twins, Alex Fidow, Henry Mexted and some of the year 13 boys it was a totally different group.

"We tried to grow a lot of young men, to get a bit of a taste of first XV rugby in year 10 and 11.

"We were very happy about how we developed and how we grew.

"It's always nice to become the national champions, second place is not a bad place but we had a focus on winning a few trophies and we managed to do that, so it was a pleasing season."

The team would retain a number of exciting talents for next season, he said.

"Connor Garden-Bachop missed the top-four with concussion, Malo Manuao had an exceptional season this year and Harry

THE FINAL

Rotorua Boys' High School 36
 (James Tofa 2, Issac Te Aute 2, Ra Whata, Kaydis Hona tries; Kaleb Trask 3 con, pen) **Scots College 27** (Alex Fidow 2, Jack Gray Peter Umaga-Jensen tries; Malo Manuao pen, 2 con). HT: 19-7.

AT A GLANCE

Wellington players selected for New Zealand Secondary Schools training squad: Alex Fidow, Peter Umaga-Jensen, Thomas Umaga-Jensen (Scots); Asafa Aumua, Josh Brown, Losi Filipo (St Pat's Silverstream); Kemara Hauti-Parapara (Wellington College); Xavia Numia (St Pat's Town); Ben Power (HIBS).

Saker will be back next year, as will Jack Loader.

"We'll have a number of players coming back which will give us a bit of a headstart and we'll have more players coming through in the younger ranks, but we'll look at that when we get there."

Meanwhile, nine players from Wellington schools have made the 53-man New Zealand Secondary Schools rugby wider training group, including Fidow and the Umaga-Jensens.

The other six are: Asafa Aumua, Josh Brown, Losi Filipo (St Pat's Silverstream); Kemara Hauti-Parapara (Wellington College); Xavia Numia (St Pat's Town); Ben Power (HIBS).

Surprisingly, none of Scots' conquerors from Rotorua made the squad.

Also, the St Pat's Silverstream under-15 team took out the junior Hurricanes tournament last week, beating Manukura 54-7 in the final.

Rongotai College finished fourth, having lost to Manukura in the semifinal.

Jenkins plunges himself into the record books

TIM BARTON

ANTON JENKINS achieved his target for the season in style.

The Rongotai College diver had set himself a goal of topping 500 points in the 3m springboard and did that and more at the national diving championships in Auckland.

Jenkins also set a national record when recording 536.45 points. The year 11 student broke the 16-18 year record previously held by Commonwealth Games representative Liam Stone.

Stone, who won the 3m open title at the nationals, recorded 527.55 points at the 2014 World Junior championships.

"I hadn't even been thinking about the record, because it was quite a high score," Jenkins said. "When the results came out, everyone was quite shocked.

"My aim for the competition had been to top 500 and that had been my goal all year."

Jenkins, who also finished third in the open 3m, rated his performances at the nationals as the best of his career.

"I was really happy with the way I dived."

He was also awarded the Benson Cup for the best male age group diver at the championships.

Jenkins, 15, has little opposition in his age group in New Zealand but has proved himself internationally and claimed two bronze medals, in the 16-18 age group, at the Australian elite junior championships in July.

He was a gold medalist at the elite championships last year, in



Rongotai College's Anton Jenkins competes at the New Zealand diving championships in Auckland.

the 14-15 age group, and recorded two top 10 placings at last year's world junior championships.

He has qualified for the open events at the Oceania championships, in Melbourne in December, as has St Catherine's diver Yu Qian Goh.

Goh also broke a New Zealand record in Auckland, in partnership with Auckland diver Lizzie Cui, in the 3m synchronised.

In the longer term, Goh and Jenkins will be aiming to compete at the 2016 junior world championships.

Wellington schools achieve mixed results

WINTER TOURNAMENTS

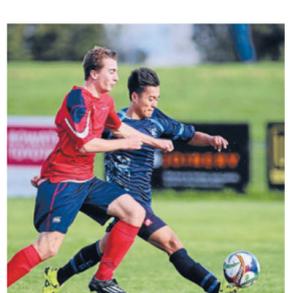
WELLINGTON COLLEGE might have missed out on Wellington football honours, but they finished the best of the teams from the capital at nationals.

The team were a creditable fifth at the national secondary schools premier tournament in Nelson last week. They finished top of their pool after a 1-1 draw with Hamilton Boys' High School, a 4-1 win over Napier Boys' High School and a 3-0 win over Mt Albert Grammar.

In their quarterfinal, they went down 1-0 to Auckland's Macleans College, before beating Westlake Boys' and Auckland Grammar to secure their top-five finish.

Wellington champions Hutt International Boys' School were unlucky to finish 11th after being drawn in the group of death.

They finished third in pool play, having lost to Nelson College (6-0) and Auckland's Sacred Heart (6-0) – both of those teams would later go on to contest the final,



Hutt International Boys' School, in red, were unfortunate to be drawn against eventual finalists, Nelson College, in blue, and Sacred Heart, in their pool.

with Nelson coming out on top. Wins against Tauranga Boys' (4-1) and Palmerston North Boys' (2-1) helped them recover to finish in the top 12.

Hutt Valley High School finished 19th, Scots College came 26th and Rongotai College were 31st.

St Pat's Town won the Trident

satellite tournament, while Kapiti College finished third at the Rex Dawkins.

At the girls' national tournament in Taupo, Hutt Valley High School were unable to follow up their fourth-place finish from last year, as they managed just one win, two draws and four losses in coming 16th. Wellington Girls' College were the best of the Wellington teams in 12th, while Wellington East finished 20th.

Three schools from the Wellington hockey competition were in the top 10 at the Rankin Cup in Auckland.

Wellington College and Wairarapa College both lost in the quarterfinals to Westlake Boys' and St Andrew's respectively.

They then met in the seventh and eighth playoff, with Wairarapa prevailing 2-1.

Scots College recovered from a 3-0 loss to Wellington College in pool play to finish in ninth.

HIBS had a torrid time, losing 6-1 to Wairarapa in pool play on their way to a 30th-place finish.

Paraparaumu College came third in the third-tier Federation Cup.

In the girls' national competition, Wairarapa came 10th in the Federation Cup, while Masterton-based St Matthew's College won the second-tier Mary Fry Trophy.

Queen Margaret College won the third-tier Audrey Timlin Memorial Cup in Invercargill.

Wellington East finished third at the fourth-tier Chica Gilmer, narrowly missing qualification for the Federation Cup by one place.

Tawa College won the fourth-tier Mary Clinton Cup, St Oran's were second at the fourth-tier Kate Trolove Cup, while St Mary's were first and Waituomata High's girls were third at the fourth-tier Rosemary O'Brien Cup.

In underwater hockey, Wellington College narrowly missed a national title, losing the senior boys' final to Mahurangi.

Wellington Girls' finished best of the Wellington schools at senior girls' nationals in fifth, while HIBS won the junior boys title.

Basketball and netball teams roll on to nationals

WELLINGTON GIRLS' COLLEGE and St Mary's College will be competing at both the netball and basketball nationals.

St Mary's won the lower North Island netball championship last week in Palmerston North, beating Wellington East Girls' College 29-27 in the final, and claimed the final nationals qualification spot when they came fifth at the zone three (lower North Island) basketball tournament, also in Palmerston North.

Wellington Girls' went undefeated in the zone three basketball,

including a 79-71 win over Napier Girls' High School in the final, while they finished fourth at the netball.

Wellington East will also be at the netball nationals thanks to their second at the lower North Island tournament and Hutt Valley High School's girls team will attend the basketball nationals after coming fourth at the zone three tournament.

However, Hutt Valley High School's boys team will not be joining them after they could manage only a seventh last week.

Wairarapa will be represented by Wellington College (sixth at zone three tournament) and Onslow College (third) at the boys' national basketball tournament.

Wellington regional basketball finalists Newlands College suffered a disappointing run at the zone three tournament, finishing last of the 16 teams after a loss to Tawa College in their final match.

Tawa were beaten finalists in the second division of Wellington's regional competition this year.

St Pat's Silverstream were eighth at the zone three tourna-

ment, while Scots College were 11th and St Pat's Town 12th.

The Rongotai College junior team provided the shining light for Wellington at the boys' zone three basketball competition, going undefeated through their six games at the under-15 tournament, including a 69-63 win over Palmerston North Boys' High in the final.

It capped an impressive season for the Wellington champions, who lost just one game all year, a 67-62 loss to Wellington College during the round robin stage of the local competition.

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