

# COLLEGE SPORT



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## Strong capital presence in NZ squad

RUGBY

WELLINGTON players make up nearly one-third of the New Zealand Schools rugby squad in the province's strongest representation in recent memory.

Eight players from five Wellington schools were named in the national squad this week, to be coached by former All Blacks prop Dave Hewett on their three-match tour of Australia.

The next best Wellington representation in the NZ Schools side in recent years was six in 2009, including future All Blacks TJ Perenara (Mana College) and Lima Sopoaga (Wellington College). The previous year, All Blacks wing Julian Savea (Rongotai College) was one of three Wellington players in the side.

Scots College prop Alex Fidow is back for a second year in the black jersey, joining schoolmates Peter and Thomas Umaga-Jensen from the side who lost narrowly to Rotorua Boys' High School in the national final. Scots are the only first XV in the country to have more than two players to the 26-strong squad.

St Pat's Silverstream contribute two players - hooker Asafo Aumua and wing Losi Filipo who was selected in NZ Barbarians Schools last year - while the others from the province are St Pat's Town prop Xavier Numia, Hutt International Boys' School hooker Ben Power and Wellington College halfback Kemara Hauiti-Parapara.

Hewett said he was pleased with the mix of experience and ability in the squad. "This year the calibre of talent across the College XV programme was particularly high, with consistent performances throughout making for the final selection for the team pretty difficult - which is what you want," he said. "Having such versatility across positions, along with the experience of 2014 returning players Alex Fidow, Isaia Walker-Leawere and Marino Mikaele-Tu'u, means we have a really well-balanced side that should perform well throughout the series."

NZ Schools play three matches in Brisbane, with the big one the trans-Tasman clash with Australia at Ballymore to end the tour on October 2. They also play Samoa Schools and Australian Barbarians Schools in the leadup. Their first match is against NZ Barbarians Schools, coached by Darren Larsen, in Palmerston North on Saturday.

One Wellington player was included in the Barbarians squad: St Pat's Silverstream loose forward Joshua Brown.



St Pat's Silverstream hooker Asafo Aumua, with ball, is one of eight Wellington players named in the New Zealand Schools squad to tour Australia.

Photo: HAGEN HOPKINS/FAIRFAX NZ

## QM storm back into top grade

HOCKEY  
ANNA WHYTE

QUEEN MARGARET COLLEGE went through hell and back in Invercargill to win promotion into the premier division of secondary schools hockey for 2016.

Queen Margaret College played spectacularly in the third-tier Audrey Timlin Memorial Cup, winning every game and having only two goals scored against them.

They were one of the two top teams from three tier-three tournaments to move up to the Federation Cup, with the bottom six dropping down to tier-three.

"It was a great all round performance and a good bunch of players," Queen Margaret coach Gail Donaldson said.

The final against Timaru Girls' High School, which finished 3-0 to Queen Margaret, was disrupted by a torrential hailstorm.

"The whole turf went white, then the whistle blew and I thought 'sanity prevails', but they just stopped to change the white ball to an orange one," Donaldson said.

Year 12 Matisse Ululelata gave a "comprehensive, polished performance" and year 11 Estelle Macadre was a "playmaker for the team", she said.

The Invercargill tournament allowed Queen Margaret to find form against teams from around the country, after struggling during the season in Wellington.

"Our team is much younger than a lot of the older more experienced teams [in Wellington], we had lots of draws," Donaldson said.

Three of the top five teams in the Federation Cup were from Christchurch, which Donaldson regarded as quite a feat after the earthquake smashed the city in 2011. Donaldson was hoping more Wellington teams would be in the Federation Cup in the future, with her side due to be the lone Wellington representatives in 2016.

Wellington East Girls' College missed out after they were third at the tier-three Chica Gilmer Trophy in Auckland, arguably a tougher tournament with 16 teams rather than the 11 in Invercargill.

Donaldson is looking forward to taking Queen Margaret hockey forward next year and is optimistic about the 2016 Federation Cup.

"That level up is much, much harder."

"We'd like to survive, we'd like to be competitive and step up and stay in the tournament."

## SCHOOLS RUGBY AT A GLANCE

### New Zealand Schools

**Fullback:** Joshua Buchan (Otago BHS).  
**Wings:** Caleb Clarke (Mt Albert Grammar), Losi Filipo (St Pat's Silverstream), Sevuloni Reece (Hamilton BHS), TJ Vaega (Kelston BHS).  
**Midfielders:** Peter Umaga-Jensen (Scots), Thomas Umaga-Jensen (Scots).  
**First-fives:** Wiseguy Faiane (Auckland Grammar), Joshua McKay (Christchurch BHS).  
**Halfbacks:** Kemara Hauiti-

Parapara (Wellington College), Tim Hogan (Otago BHS).  
**Loose forwards:** Liam Giltrap (Palmerston North BHS), Slade McDowall (Otago BHS), Marino Mikaele-Tu'u (Hastings BHS), Dalton Papali'i (St Kentigern).  
**Locks:** Tom Florence (New Plymouth BHS), Samuel Slade (Mt Albert Grammar), William Tucker (St Bede's), Isaia Walker-Leawere (Gisborne BHS).  
**Props:** Halex Allan (St Andrew's), Alex Fidow (Scots), Xavier Numia (St Pat's Town),

Takaji Young Yen (King's).  
**Hookers:** Asafo Aumua (St Pat's Silverstream), Brodie McAlister (Shirley BHS), Ben Power (Hutt International).  
**Itinerary:** Saturday v NZ Barbarians Schools, Palmerston North; Sept 24 v Samoa Schools, Brisbane; Sept 28 v Australian Barbarians Schools, Brisbane; Oct 2 v Australia Schools, Brisbane.  
**Recent Wellington representation in NZ Schools squad:**  
**2014:** Lui Okeamoia-Luamanu (St

Pat's Silverstream), TJ Va'a (Scots), Malo Tuitama (Scots), Alex Fidow (Scots).  
**2013:** Leni Apisai (Wellington College), Wes Goosen (Wellington College).  
**2012:** Jackson Garden-Bachop (Scots), Eti Sului (Wellington College), Vince Sakaria (Wellington College).  
**2011:** Ardie Savea (Rongotai College).  
**2010:** Joe Latta (Wellington College), Ope Peleseuma (Silverstream), TJ Perenara (Mana

College), Matt Proctor (St Pat's Town), Tupou Sopoaga (Wellington College).  
**2009:** Hanipale Galo (Wellington College), Reg Goodes (Wellington College), Ope Peleseuma (St Pat's Silverstream), TJ Perenara (Mana College), Solomona Sakalia (Wellington College), Lima Sopoaga (Wellington College).  
**2008:** Jeff Toomaga-Allen (Wellington College), Reg Goodes (Wellington College), Julian Savea (Rongotai).

## Played 21, won 20, 1 draw - and 100 goals

FOOTBALL

WELLINGTON College look to be in for a purple patch on the football field.

While their first XI was off finishing fifth at the national championships in Nelson earlier this month, their under-15 side was winning a high-level competition of their own and completing an undefeated season.

Their season record ended with 20 wins, one draw, no losses, 100 goals scored and just 19 conceded, with an Auckland invitational tournament added to their Wellington title.

At that Auckland tournament two weeks ago they got the better of 10 of Auckland's most prestigious sporting schools, including Mount Albert Grammar, Westlake Boys' High School, Auckland Grammar and Sacred Heart.

They beat the latter in the final, with their captain, Stefan Cordwell, saying the Auckland teams weren't used to being behind in games.

"We'd just score a goal and they would drop their heads, I don't think they were used to conceding a few goals when playing in Auckland."



The Wellington College under-15 football team celebrate their win at an Auckland invitational tournament. Photo: GRAHAM ASHWORTH

"We played the final against Sacred Heart and clean swept them 3-1. They were really pumped up at the start but after our second goal they just dropped their heads and weren't into it and we capitalised on that again."

Cordwell said the win was about as close as you could get to a national title in the junior division.

"They were the Auckland winners, I wouldn't say we were

national champions winning up there, but I would say it's the closest thing to it because if there was a national [under-15] tournament this year then that would have been the tournament."

The team's undefeated season was built on the back of solid defence, Cordwell said.

"It was mostly because of our defence, we had a good keeper, Zac Jones, and our left and right backs were really solid, so it was hard

### AT A GLANCE

**Wellington College under-15 football team:**  
**Record:** 21 games played, 20 wins, one draw, no losses; 100 goals scored, 19 conceded.  
**Squad:** Zac Jones, Ollie Petersen, Harry Cook, Tim Shepherd, James Kent-Wilson, Stefan Cordwell (captain), Matthew Wong, Will Forrest, Rowan Blaikie, Thomas Millar, Seth Ward, James Knott, Michael Plim and Alex Johnston.

for other teams to break us down." Left back Harry Cook said coach Charlie Morris had worked on their communication to make them a better defensive unit.

"Charlie [Morris] has helped us, we've kept a really good backline and had a really strong, solid defence.

"We've kept the communication up, which has allowed us to know where everyone is and worked together to stop getting the ball through."

Five of the top performers in the team had trained with the first XI throughout the season, with a few seeing game time, something

which Cook said was vital for the future of Wellington College football.

"The guys who train with them bring back some of the things from those trainings back to our trainings, so that helps and we know what style they play with."

The closest games they had all season were against Onslow College during the Wellington school season, with Onslow the only team to take points off them.

In one game, Wellington College had to battle back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2, while the Wellington final went to penalties before Wellington College prevailed 3-1.

There's an old adage which says a good team will beat an outstanding group of individuals.

Well in this team, they have both.

"We're a great bunch of lads, we go around to each other's houses and play football, we're close and have good fun," Cook said.

"That's really important because it means we communicate well and are really positive around each other and encourage everyone, which keeps the team performance and morale up."

### COLLEGE SPORT BRIEFS

ATHLETICS

#### East dominate road race

Wellington East Girls' College narrowly missed out on a clean sweep at the College Sport Wellington Road Race Championships. Kelsey Forman won the under-19 four-kilometre race and Tessa Hunt won the under-16 3km race, but Kirstie Rae was unable to peg back Hutt Valley High School's Phoebe McKnight in the year nine and under 3km race. On the boys' side, St Pat's Silverstream's William Adams won the year nine and under 3km race, one second separated under-16 4km race winner Max Karamanolis from his St Pat's Town team-mate Liam Chesney and Scots College's James Preston beat Paraparau College's Stefan Przychodzko by three seconds in the under-19 6km race. Emma Flintoff from Onslow College won the athletes with disabilities 1.5km race, while Paraparau's Cole Bailey won the boys' 1.5km.

SWIMMING

#### On the podium

Wellington College recorded a creditable third in the national swimming championships in Hamilton at the weekend, but were well adrift of

Auckland powerhouses Westlake Boys' High School and Auckland Grammar. They competed well in the relays to finish ahead of Lindisfarne College in fourth. Tawa College's Joel Crampton won two individual gold medals in the 100m and 200m 13-year-old boys butterfly.

WEIGHTLIFTING

#### Records broken

Wellington Girls' College's Kelsea Elkington broke three national records in the under-15 youth women's division and under-63kg class on September six. She lifted 50kg in the snatch and 63kg in the clean and jerk, totalling 113kg to break all of her previous records. She has also qualified for the national junior and senior champs. Elkington recently represented New Zealand at the Pacific games in Papua New Guinea, finishing fifth.

HOCKEY

#### Friday feature

Wellington College will play Wairarapa College in the first XI final on Friday night. Wairarapa beat HIBS 4-0 last Friday to leapfrog them into the deciding match. It will be an all-Wairarapa affair in the girls' final, as St Matthew's Collegiate take on Wairarapa College tonight.

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