



Queensland Independent Secondary Schools Rugby League Confraternity Carnival



Left: St Brendan's Man of the Match against St Mary's Sam Strohfeldt and (right) Players of the Match Jake Bonus (Shalom) and Brayden Ross (Marist Emerald) with State Selector Trevor Johnson

ST BRENDAN'S BACK IN MIX

AFTER missing the Queensland Independent Secondary Schools Rugby League Confraternity Shield finals for the first time in memory in Charters Towers 12 months ago, traditional heavyweights St Brendan's College Yeppoon virtually sealed a spot in the top tier by winning their first two matches of the 2019 Carnival hosted by Shalom College at The Waves Sports Complex yesterday.

They defeated St Augustine's Cairns first-up 28-8 before having to pull out all stops to edge out 2018 champions St Mary's College Toowoomba 6-4.

They will be expected to down Iona College to secure No. 1 in Pool A prior to this afternoon's quarter-finals, while St Mary's should also defeat the win-less St Augustine to advance to the play-offs and keep their title defence alive.

Marist College Ashgrove, who were thumped by St Brendan's in last year's Second Division Bob Lindner Trophy final, should also book their place in the Shield after also starting with twin wins, against Rockhampton Grammar 26-16 and 16-10 at the expense of last year's runners-up St Peter Claver, who will battle it out with Rockhampton Grammar at 11am today for second place in Pool B and right of passage to Shield action.

Marymount and Ignatius Park Colleges have two wins each in Pool C and should both progress regardless of the outcome of their Pool showdown this morning, while in Pool D, The Cathedral College Rockhampton are the only team with a perfect record after they outgunned Padua College and St Teresa's College Abergowrie by identical 22-6 score-lines.

Five-eighth Laish Salam was St Brendan's Man of the Match against St Augustine but while powerhouse lock Sam Strohfeldt picked up the the award against St Mary's, it was a second-half try to second rower Bill Gunning and conversion by Peyton Jenkins which secured them the points.

Henry Adler hit back for St Mary's but they were unable to convert, and the battle went right down to the wire with both sides creating many more great attacking raids but both teams defending magnificently.

In a fast end-to-end game, St Brendan's master-coach Terry Hansen praised the defence of both sides and agreed with the selector's choice for Man of the Match "100%".

"I thought Sam won it easily, our seven (Jenkins) was good though, as was front rower Jake Bagrie and our two back rowers Chase Demaine-Beale and Bill Gunning were also brilliant," Hansen said.

While his team stamped themselves as genuine contenders to add to their 13 Shield titles in the Carnival's 40-year history, Hansen is not thinking too far ahead.

"We will keep taking one game at a time – that's what we do," he said.

Five-eighth Preston Weatherall was St Mary's Man of the Match but halfback Ben Moore, centre Sam Alara and front rower Klynn Kaiser were also stand-outs.

Adler had notched a double in their 26-0 white-wash of Iona earlier in the day when their other front rower Cooper Tate-Roche claimed the Man of the Match.

Marymount were also defensively outstanding in not conceding a point in shutting out two St Patrick's sides, Mackay and Shorncliffe, 18-0 and 16-0 respectively.

St Patrick's Shorncliffe had also been beaten by the same 16-0 score-line by Ignatius Park, for whom their Queensland Schools Open representative front rower Isaiah Vailalo snared a try but was beaten for the Match award by turbo-charged lock Tai Laidlow.

Ignatius Park were also forced to work hard to overcome St Patrick's Mackay 14-4 in their evening game.

Lethal lock Riley Boaza was Cathedral's Man of the Match against Padua, while he was also among the tries against St Teresa's where centre Carsen Huth bagged a double but five-eighth Thallon Peters was Player of the Match.

Emma College, of Rockhampton, lost both of their games against St Peter Claver 20-18 and their city rivals Rockhampton Grammar 14-6, but in the former, five-eighth Harry Barham was a shining light, posting all of their points with three tries and three conversions in a Man of the Match performance.

Hosts Shalom College made a great start in Division 2 with brilliant first half tries by flying winger Rylee Johnson and livewire five-eighth Brendan Grills laying the platform to a 16-6 win over St Edmund's Ipswich but Grills was pipped for the Man of the Match award by his halves partner Brad Clarke.

Shalom also made a perfect start to their night game against Marist Emerald with fullback Jake Bonus, who has been a revelation for the unbeaten Brothers in Bundaberg A Grade, scoring with a line-break and 50m run on just the third tackle, but the teams split the first half points with scores locked at 6-all at oranges after an end-to-end duel.

Bonus, who later picked up their Man of the Match award, also scored a great try early on in the second stanza, but from there they were unable to add to their account, and ultimately Marist sealed a 12-10 victory with a second try to their lock and Man of the Match Brayden Ross in the 38th minute and conversion to Brad Anderson.

Marist Emerald had accounted for Columba College 14-6 earlier in the afternoon and are now assured of a spot in the Plate finals, while Shalom will have to beat Columba this morning to book a place.

St Thomas More, Clairvaux Mackillop and St Laurence's top the other Division 2 pools also after each winning their first two encounters yesterday. St Thomas More disposed of Blackheath and Thornburgh 24-16 and St Joseph's Toowoomba 12-4, while Clairvaux shut out Trinity 10-0 and St Columban's 24-4, and St Laurence's upstaged All Souls St Gabriels 16-4 and Ryan College Townsville 24-14.

The two Confraternity debutant sides, Unity College Caloundra and Ambrose Treacy College Indooroopilly both played their hearts out but neither was able to taste victory in Division 3 with the former going down to Chanel College Gladstone 16-0 and Gilroy Santa Maria 8-4, and the latter beaten by Our Lady of the Southern Cross Dalby 14-0 and St James/Chisholm 26-10.

Chanel had four individual try scorers against Unity but they were fired by a double to centre Jet Cavanagh in a 32-0 blitz of St Anthony's Townsville in the afternoon after Cavanagh had scored the first try of the 2019 early on against

Unity, Gilroy, Our Lady of the Southern Cross and St James/Chisholm are three of the other five Division 3 teams which opened their campaign with two wins, the others being Xavier College Hervey Bay and Holy Spirit Mackay.

Xavier outclassed St Mary's Woree 32-10 to start their day with front rower Jaiden Davis notching a double and captain and dynamic centre Casey Russell, who has been in great form for Hervey Bay Seagulls all season in the Bundaberg A Grade, also among the tries, while crafty halfback Patrick Hoult was their Man of the Match in a 28-8 triumph over St John's Roma, where flashy fullback Dylan Crockford amassed 14 points with two tries and three goals.



Unity College line up before their Confraternity debut



Ambrose Treacy College were also welcomed to the Confraternity fold