

Issue

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"Great Shot!"

Basketball at Scotch College

Distribution: Principal, Vice Principal, Heads of Year, Head of Sport, Coaches, Players and Parents

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From Ben Rush



Friday May 7th 7C2 vs 7C3, Glenn Centre, Scotch College.

Submissions Do you have access to a digital camera? Do you want to see all the action **from your team** pictured in the 'Great Shot!'. Send jpeg images to:
eadie@bigpond.net.au.

Basketball at Scotch



Each week new photos will be posted onto the Scotch Basketball Notice Board. Don't forget to look! (**below**; Saturday MSAC, Tip Off for the Open 6ths)



The latest edition of the 'Great Shot!' newsletter is available in **full colour** as a pdf downloadable file on the Scotch College website Basketball page. You will also find archived editions from last week and last year. Visit the page
<http://www.scotch.vic.edu.au/Sport/Bball/Bball.htm>

Game Reports for May 8th

Scotch 1sts do it the hard way v MGS.

Scotch 45pts - MGS 25.

There is a sometimes a tendency to underestimate an opponent's will to fight, and it is possible that some Scotch players did just this before they met a tenacious and eager foe in MGS, a team that has not won a game yet this season but who, on Saturday's performance, should prove to be more than a thorn in the side of unprepared teams.

The first half was a scrapping, wrangling affair with teams trading baskets, turnovers, and occasional sharp passages of play. **Ed Cowan** suggested during a time out that the teams were *'as two spent swimmers that do choke their art'*, and the coach agreed. Scotch allowed MGS far too much latitude in defence, and made some poor decisions in offence (particularly shot selection and passing). It was more a case of good luck than good management on our part that MGS was not leading at the break. As it was, Scotch nailed some hoops late in the half to lead by 4 points.

Two five minute periods in the second half made all the difference. Tight marking and some very effective trapping saw MGS guards lose possession close to our basket, and our big men, led by **Wes Cowan (9pts)** and **Ed Cowan (8pts)** worked on the boards at both ends. **Nick Thomas (6pts)** was reasonably quiet – unusual for Nick – but used the baseline to advantage. At the front, newcomer **Hugh Wilson** made some excellent baseline penetration, and skipper **Angus Gray (13pts)** led like Caesar at the Rubicon. **Chris Anderson (6pts)** moved well inside. In the end, Scotch restricted MGS's avenues to the basket and ran out comfortable winners.

The fact that we had players out (**Troy Sandley & Chula Na Ranong**) does not explain or excuse the fairly lethargic effort in the first half. When players come to play, they will always take the fight to their opponents, and MGS did so very well for half a game. Disciplined offence, transition baskets, and hard, tenacious defence are the best tools we have to secure future victories, and it is clear that we need to master these elements before we can expect things to fall our way. Next week we play Xavier who sit in fourth spot after a good win over Wesley. This should be another hard contest, but they are the ones worth winning. Aren't they?

Mr. Rob Hortin
Scotch 1^{sts} Coach



2nds 49 defeated Melbourne Grammar 21
The 2^{nds} took a big step forward this weekend and are showing much improvement. The boys are working well together and some recent changes in the roster have given us some greatly needed speed. **Michael Frame**

led the scoring in the first half and **Simon Booth (right)** in the second. Overall, the plays are being run well, but will improve as they work together more. *Report by coach Dan Belluz.* ; Against an easier opponent compared to the last few weeks Scotch 2^{nds} played with intensity and opened the game up early going up 6 nothing in the opening minutes of the game. The easier opponent allowed us to run our offensive and defensive plays for the



first time in a game situation. Scotch worked well in transition with numerous baskets scored while Melbourne Grammar was getting back on defence. **Simon Booth** dominated inside in the second half while **Daniel Lee** was a welcome return to the side. This being said the Scotch 2^{nds} are starting to play as a team and only look to improve from here with another win next week. *Comments from player Micheal Frame*

3rds 28 defeated Haileybury 11

We successfully played man on man throughout the first half of the game. When we went to a zone defence in the second half we initially let the opponents into the key, however our defence improved to keep Scotch ahead. We had trouble penetrating

against the oppositions zone defence and need to work on moving players and the ball around more. Big team effort, no real standouts, but the rebounding and shooting of **Ben Elliot** and the successful lay ups by **Alex Zielke** were highlights. A Great effort.



Report by Coach Mr. Stephen Pallot "Good rebounding, in parts. Need to

improve fitness and watch fouls." commented **Alex Bialecki**.

4ths 32 defeated Haileybury 25

"Scotch played a good game against Haileybury. In the first half it was a closely fought game with Scotch missing some unlucky shots. However in the second half, after a slow start, our shooting began to tell and we took the game with a commanding 32-25 win" said **Justin Singh**. The team combined well and there were many excellent passages of play. While shooting had improved (particularly free throws) since last match, it still let us down and allowed the opposition to remain in touch for most of the game. **Myles McWinney** played close to the basket and drove and rebounded relentlessly. **Aseem Batra** was everywhere and was particularly strong in defence. Report by Mr. S Pallot



5ths 17 defeated Melbourne Grammar 10

Last Saturday the Scotch 5^{ths} team continued its strong performance to the start of the season with a 17-10 victory which was characterized by the team's strong aggressive defence. **Tom Barton**, **David Chu** (Captain), and **Geoff Lee** protected the paint, while on the offensive end, second gamer **Joshuan Yam** attacked constantly and led the team with 6 points. **Henry Wang** provided some extra hustle in a great win. Report by Gary Li



6ths 29 defeated Melbourne Grammar 15

With a strong field, including some players not playing in upper teams, the 6^{ths} dominated the field. **Francis Leung**, **Xavier Murtagh**, **Matt Cameron**, **Campbell Robertson-Smith**, and **Kris Pachauri**, are all potential great players who added weight, height, skill and polish to the 6th this weekend. **Xavier** scored an impressive 16 points and **Francis** with his inimitable flare, scored 6 points. The extra skill of these players helped some regular 6^{ths} with **Ben Phua**, **Bob Zhou**, **Andrew Currie**, maintaining the lead. **Phillip Fowler** shows great promise. **Cecil Chow** showed great character to score for us, but it was disappointing that **Michael Underwood** and **Karl Kimberley** were no shows although they had confirmed playing on Friday. Report by Coach Peter Riley

10A 58 defeated Melbourne Grammar 5

10B 75 defeated Melbourne Grammar 5

With a bye last week the year 10's were keen to get started. From the first few minutes it was obvious that Scotch would completely out class their opposition. The B's started the game well scoring easily. They won their game 75 to 5. Best players **Joshua Houghton 24 points**, **Quentin Hanley 12 points**, **Nicholas Mollison 12 points**, **Steve Kimber 8 points**, **Matthew Brigs** and **Andrew Trinh**. In an excellent display the A's won 58 to 5. Best players were **Matt Danos 14**, **Nick Allen**, **Simon Teo**, **Jake Copper** and **Oliver Baxter**. It was a good

opportunity for both teams to try some new offensive drills that they had been learning at training. With some important games coming up against Xavier and St Kevin's we need to work hard this week on our defense. Overall a great performance. All players are working hard. Report by Coach Mark Mason

10C1 14 lost to St Kevin's 43

The game was played at MLC on the newly re-surfaced court. **Jason Jando** was top in scoring. "We have the height in the team but we need to use it more to our advantage" said Coach **Glen Robins**.

10C2 10 lost to Carey 22

Scotch defended well, but was unable to hold out a Carey side with a significant size advantage in the middle. The dominant presence of the opposition centre also made scoring difficult, although **Byron Fiske** managed to score 6 points with some good moves to the basket, and **Jamie Robertson** scored 4. The team fought hard, and switching to full court pressure in the final minutes paid some dividends, but they were unable to close the gap. After defending tenaciously throughout the game, guard **Andrew Black** commented "What though the field be lost? all is not lost." The team looks forward to carrying this sentiment on to the next game. Report by Ccoach Blair Mahoney

9A 33 defeated Caulfield 27

An interesting and more challenging match this week. **James Ralston** (8 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist and 2 steals) racked up 4 fouls in the first 15 minutes but managed to play out the rest of the match and was awarded the teams MVP. Good contributions from most other players but footwork in defence, as well as general fitness needs some attention. Report by Coach Keith Oatley

9B BYE

9C1 47 defeated St Kevin's 17

A strong 9C1 team won its second victory for the season. After an overwhelming victory the week before over Xavier, last Saturday we convincingly defeated St. Kevins 47- 17. While both were relatively easy wins, the second win was notable for the better team play, and all players contributed very well to the final victory. There were some 'standout performances' again however, and we hope that there will be some promotion/rotation of several players to the Bs or better in the near future. Report by Coach Ron Anderson

9C2 15 lost to Carey 38

8A 36 defeated Caulfield 29

8A's hosted a strong Caulfield side at the Glen Centre on Saturday. In a low scoring match, points were at a premium and **Richard Allen** and **Jimmy Mollison** led the team with 15 points apiece. However, Scotch's best player on the day was **Tom Matthews** who only scored 2 points but played almost to exhaustion to shut Caulfield's dominant player down after he had threatened to run away with the match in the first half. After an even first half, Scotch's defence in the second half, with many of our smaller players playing big defensive roles, wore down Caulfield and gave Scotch a 36 to 29 victory. *Report by Coach Stu Pirie*

8B 19 lost to Caulfield 20

In another low scoring match, Scotch seemed to have the match won when a huge 3 by **Callum** with 4 minutes to go put us ahead 19 to 16. Unfortunately, the players seemed to think this too and weren't able to deliver the knockout blow. An increased defensive effort by Caulfield created a turnover and a quick 2 to pull within 1 with about a minute remaining, before another turnover in the dying seconds gave Caulfield a final chance. Caulfield rushed the ball up court and forced up a shot with 3 seconds remaining which fell in, giving Caulfield a 1 point win. **Steven** and **Jack Naughton** led the team well, although the entire team contributed to almost pulling off the win. *Report by coach Stu Pirie*

8C1 39 defeated 8C3 20

As the score suggests it was a rather one sided game. The top scorers for the C1s

were; **A. Wan** with 14 points, **P. Goles** with 12, and **L. White** with 9. The 8C teams look forward to consolidating their positions so that the boys can develop their team identity. *Report by coach Linda Fiske*

8C2 16 lost to Caulfield 39

The Caulfield team had a distinct height advantaged and used it tactfully to rebound shots at both ends of the court. They lead the whole match despite some improved defensive efforts from the Scotch team. **Lachlan White** was the best on court for the team for the second week scoring 10 points. **Simon Black** scored 4 and Andy Wang 2. We'll need to improve our confidence and shooting skills. *Report by Coach Ms. Donna del Porto*

8C3 20 lost to 8C1 39

he 8C1s were clearly the stronger team, but the 8C3s put in a great effort and fought well. Very good team effort. **Simon Black** and **Don Khoo** shared top scoring position. *Report by Coach Zeljke Hamza*

7A 27. lost to Caulfield 65. We made a very slow start against a very strong Caulfield defense. The boys lifted in the Second Half, with most of the team scoring, but it was still not enough. A special thanks to all the boys for really 'putting in' right through to the final siren. *Report by Coach: Jeff Watson*

7B 24 lost to Caulfield 27

This was the first proper game of the season for these boys. The half time score of 2 to 17 points reflected our slow, hesitant start. However, I told the boys to treat the second half as a new game. The result was a huge

and focused effort by everyone, which brought us to within one point, with one minute remaining. **Charlie Ralston** scored 12 points with excellent support from team members. The boys can be very proud of their second half recovery. *Report by Coach Jeff Watson*

7C1 50 defeated Caulfield 20



7C2 4 lost to 7C3 29

The 7C3 team convincingly defeated the 7C2s, with the final score being 29 to 4. A zone defense restriction was imposed on the 7C3s in light of their large lead, and the boys need to remember that this restriction comes into play whenever the opposition takes control of the ball. There was some excellent teamwork all round, and particularly strong efforts were made by: **Cameron Newnham (7C2)**, **Andrew Lim**, **Nick Wilson**, **Alex Thomas** and **David Signorino (7C3)**. The boys are learning the importance of clearly communicating and enforcing their defense strategy (whether it's a zone defense or man-on-man), and are displaying good sportsmanship and a lot of enthusiasm – great work! *Report by Coaches Ryan Johnstone (7C3 Coach), Narelle Sheezel (7C2 coach)*

★★★ Player Profile ★★★ Simon Booth ★★★



Hi, I'm Simon. I have been playing basketball since I was about 8 years old. I am currently playing in the Scotch Seconds. I also play for Hawthorn Magic on Friday nights, in the seconds as well. I rowed in the 1st VIII this year and also athletics in the spring. The tuck shop is a key part of my fitness regime and it seems to be working well so far. In the past I have played in all 1sts teams since year 7, and have only lost a few games. Hopefully the seconds will have a great season and it is looking good so far.

Contribution from Ben Rush - Director of Basketball Coaching

Hello to all Scotch basketballers, coaches, families and supporters. Welcome to the 2004 basketball season!

The enthusiasm and effort by the teams I have seen so far in the early part of our season has been pleasing to see. From the game I have witnessed, there are some common areas that we can work on.

Lack of vision is a theme I wrote about in Great Shot early in the 2003 APS competition, and it is a trait being exhibited again in games this year. Too often players receiving the ball put it directly to the floor for a dribble before looking to see what the best action to take is (and to make matters worse, are dribbling with their eyes down on the ball, not seeing team mates, opposition and even the out-of-bounds lines).

Players should **always** be looking for and passing to a team mate in a better position. If we move the ball in this way, we create better opportunities to score and a greater sense of “team” as all members feel a part of the game. Keep in mind - it is also important to see the opposition defenders before making a pass or drive, not just your team mates.

When is the dribble used? It is used to attack the basket or get out of trouble. Using the dribble before you need to will often put you under pressure by the defence (especially if you are not a confident dribbler).

When going to dribble you must see which direction is the most appropriate to go and drive that way, not try to force to an area we feel most comfortable dribbling (this is usually seen when a drive on our weak hand side is open, but we force to our strong hand side).

Some less-confident players are tending to pass when they have an opportunity to shoot or drive. If this happens after the team has worked to gain the opening, and instead the player takes the “easy” option of passing to someone else to take the shot or drive, we often lose the chance to score and end up having to work longer for another chance.

Sizing up what is happening on court should not be a slow action, instead catch, look and make a quick decision (pass, dribble or shoot). Keep in mind this famous quote from one of the finest coach’s and teachers in basketball history, former UCLA Coach John Wooden:

“Be quick, but don’t hurry!”

Remember: when you catch the ball, look to find a teammate in a better position and to see where the defenders are before making a pass, using your dribble or shooting.

Enjoy your basketball!