

Australian Jesuit Basketball Carnival - Xavier College, Kew

The Australian Jesuit Basketball Carnival held at Xavier College in Kew, Melbourne was a thrilling and competitive showcase of talent, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

A standout feature of this year's Australian Jesuit Basketball Carnival was the remarkable performance of Noah McDonald. A huge congratulations to Noah for his exceptional talent on the court, which earned him the well-deserved title of Player of the Carnival. Also, a huge congratulations go out to Angus Crosby, Hayden Kerley and Noah McDonald, who were selected in the Team of the Carnival.

Game 1 Xavier College - This was our first game of the tournament and we didn't know what to expect coming in. We came out with a lot of energy and opened up a lead which continued to grow throughout the game. Our defensive pressure was excellent and created a lot of turnovers leading to scores in transition. We ended up with a commanding win 88-40, giving us a good confidence boost heading into our next game against St Aloysius College.

Game 2 St Aloysius College - This looked to be our toughest game of the tournament against a side who had convincingly beat Riverview. We quickly identified the main threats and shut them down defensively. This seemed to rattle the opposing team and allowed us to create scores from our defence. Once we opened up our lead, we continue to maintain it. We ended up winning 81-56.

Game 3 St Ignatius' College, Riverview - After beating Aloysius and seeing Aloysius beat Riverview, this appeared to be a comfortable win. However, Riverview came out fast and began to beat us at our own game, creating turnovers and scoring in transition. Riverview were a very fast and athletic team which caused us a lot of troubles in the rebounding department. This game came down to a nail-biting finish with Riverview coming away with a 60-59 win, after scoring a couple of free throws after the buzzer.

Game 4 Grand Final St Aloysius College - Despite the tough loss in the previous game, we were in high spirits having made the grand final up against a team we had beaten previously. We continued on the same trajectory as the last game, opening up a 10 point lead in the first quarter. However, St Aloysius clawed it back during the second. From then on, the game was very close with multiple lead changes. Unfortunately, we were unable to get on top, losing 60-55. We had some major problems in the rebounding department once again, allowing St Aloysius numerous extra opportunities to score. It looked very easy at time for St Aloysius to score but we had to work very hard for every score.

We seemed to play very well when we are maintaining a lead, however we struggle to come from behind at times. Throughout the entire tournament, we also struggled with our

outside shooting which was very consistent during the season. Despite the disappointing end result, the boys gave it their all and I couldn't have asked anymore from them. It was a pleasure coaching the boys this year and I enjoyed every moment.

I would also like to thank Serena Slade, Andrew Dodson and Matt Panos for ensuring everything went smoothly and the boys for all the efforts they put in.

Mason Manning

Coach