



College Oz-Taggers Have Nerves of Steel

Another trophy for St Mark's Coptic Orthodox College's Trophy cabinet!

As a school that values the balanced development of its students, sport plays an important part in that development. A recent victory was an excellent example of the many benefits taking part in sport bestows upon the student. On Wednesday the 16th of September, St Mark's Year 5/6 Oz Tag team were crowned IPSSO champions of 2009. Having gone through the zone phase undefeated against schools like **Thomas Hassall Anglican College, William Carey Christian School** and St Mark's archrivals, **All Saint's Greek Orthodox Grammar School** the team went to the finals phase. Here is part of the report from their proud coach, Mr Nicola (full report available at www.stmarks.nsw.edu.au):



The triumphant 2009 team with their trophies and medals. Such activities provide many benefits for our children. They learn to work as a team and the value of cooperation. They develop a life-long habit of healthy exercise and they build the skill of putting in one's best effort towards achieving a goal. They also meet and interact with students from other schools of many different backgrounds and cultures. It is also a chance for students who may not be very gifted academically to excel in an area where they are gifted.

Our semi-final match was against **Macarthur Anglican College**. We started off the game in emphatic fashion with a score of 4-0 at quarter time. However, just before the end of the quarter a bizarre accident happened when Angelique Assad tried to intercept the ball. This resulted in her thumb being dislocated and she was rushed off to hospital. This dampened the mood of the other players as they were concerned for her well being. By three quarter time Macarthur crept into the game and narrowed our lead to 5 tries to 4. After the three

quarter time break, and a talk with the team, the students gave it a hundred and ten percent till the end of the game to win by 7 tries to 5.

In the final we played against **Wollondilly Anglican College**. The nerves of the players were evident as this was an occasion that will always be remembered by the players as they were about to create history. In the opening minutes of the match we tumbled the ball, which resulted in a turnover and placed us under pressure by the opposing team. We defended well the set of six and this seemed to settle the players' nerves. The ball was back in our possession and was given to Albert Abdelsayed by dummy half who managed to find a gap as he side stepped a couple of players, which led to the first try of the day. By half time we were leading the game by 3 tries to 2. Our students were tired from the previous game and this was beginning to show towards the end of the third quarter with the score at 4 tries to 3 our way. At the break the team was encouraging one another and saying to each other that there was only 10 minutes to play, and we needed to be focused to win the trophy. This was the case as we were victorious and won the match by 6 tries to 3. I am very proud of our students' achievement, determination, sportsmanship and Christian behaviour at all matches played. Congratulations to the 5/6 Oz-Tag team Champions of 2009.