

St. Joseph's First XVIII has claimed a memorable win in round five of the ACC competition, defeating Parade, 20.9 (129) to 5.4 (34).

The win, whilst being a solid team effort, was highlighted by a 10-goal haul from Guy Hardiman, an ACC record for goals kicked in a match.

Due to the big out of key forward Darby Schilder, Hardiman found himself playing full forward and reaped the rewards being the main target.

The first quarter was the beginning of Hardiman's big day out as he kicked five goals in an astonishing display of accuracy. Captain David McNeel can claim an assist on one of those goals, whilst kicking a goal himself in Joeys' seven-goal opening term.

Parade kicked their first goal of the match to start the second term but it would be short lived success as St. Joseph's kicked the next four to run into half time with a 61-point lead. Nick Connors was dominant in the second term whilst Hardiman took his tally to six for the match.

The third term followed a similar pattern to the second with Joeys kicking five goals to one, including two from Hardiman. Raven Marika also chipped in with two goals but it was the defensive unit that set up the strong quarter. The likes of Liam Cogan and Harry Walker completely shut down their opponents and were also able to set up numerous attacks, helping the home side to an 88-point advantage at the final break.

Despite Parade kicking three goals in the final term, the three majors kicked by St. Joseph's were arguably all worthy of being on a highlight reel. Marika started the quarter off with his third exciting goal of the match before Sam Bucovaz kicked a contender for goal of the year.

In what had been a quiet day for the self-proclaimed 'Big Bad Buc', he found himself in a tight spot in the forward pocket being chased by two Parade defenders. Bucovaz ignored Hardiman open in the square and kicked a left foot snap to remember from the impossible angle. He then took the liberty of celebrating all the way to the bench.

The third and final goal of the term and ultimately the match, fittingly went to Hardiman. A dubious mark and snap late in the quarter sparked wild celebrations as his tenth goal sailed through the big sticks.

Hardiman was appropriately judged best afield finishing with 17 possessions, 14 marks, six hitouts and the record-breaking 10 goals. Coach Chris Lynch was full of praise for Hardiman after the game.

"The day was a perfect day for (Hardiman). He wants to play on the wing and wants to play half-back but his hands are clearly the best hands in the team." Lynch said.

"He came in a bit unsure, but will take some confidence from it"

Coach Jono Holt was also ecstatic for Hardiman but made sure the boys knew it was a team effort to get the win over a side that they saw as a tough fixture coming into the game.

"He probably owes the blokes up the field a can of coke." He said.

"But we saw Parade as a target and to get the result we did today, is fantastic. Very proud of the effort of what was achieved today."

The midfield was one of the key assets of the win for St. Joseph's, with debutant Spiro Alesios dominant in the ruck. Paddy Kelleher was also one of Joeys' best with his hard running and elite skills having a major impact on the final score.

Skipper McNeel and Ben McNamara were also outstanding, both putting together four-quarter performances and ensuring Parade got nothing easy. Holt praised the team as a whole after the game.

"Our guys in the midfield were exceptional, they set the standard for the day, busting the game open the way they did." He said.

"I thought our drive off half back was brilliant, the way the guys defended was great."

SJC travel to De La Salle next Wednesday it what will be another exciting encounter.

Round 4 – Wednesday 13th May

SJC 20.9 (129) def Parade 5.4 (34)

GOALS: Guy Hardiman 10, Raven Marika 3, Patrick Dowling 2, Sam Bucovaz 2, Patrick Kelleher 1, David McNeel 1, Jack Walters 1

BEST: Guy Hardiman, Patrick Kelleher, Spiro Alesios, Ben McNamara, David McNeel, Nick Connors

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