

NEWCASTLE BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS' REPORT

SPEECH DAY, 1970

I present the report of sporting activities of Newcastle Boys' High School for the year 1969 to May, 1970.

The School Swimming Carnival was held under the divisional system and proved to be very popular with the boys, there being large entries in all events. The swimming was of a high standard with fourteen new records being established. The House Point Score was not decided till the finish of the last relay when Smith gained two places to snatch victory on 820 points from Shortland 800 points and Hannell 797 points.

The swimming squad led by Mr. Best performed splendidly at the Area Carnival to win by a large margin of points. Bruce Taggart's performance in winning seven out of eight events was outstanding. It was as a whole however a great team effort.

A special feature this year was our success in diving. After a period of intensive coaching by Mr. Donegan we were able to gain three firsts and three 2nds from seven events.

Life-saving has taken giant steps in the school since being made compulsory for all boys attending swimming. During third term 1969 and first term 1970 boys have gained 368 awards including 71 Bronze Medallions. I feel I must thank Mr. Burges for the thorough job he has done in organising and testing for life-saving awards and the staff at swimming for a job well done.

The 64th Annual Athletics Carnival was held in April under perfect weather conditions on a track Claude had taken a great deal of trouble to prepare. Once again the juniors of the school competed in strength with large entries in all events. It is noticeable that each year senior entries grow which is very pleasing. Field events also attracted much larger entries. It is hoped our carnival continues to grow so that more boys can experience the satisfaction of competing.

Distance events are still our strength due no doubt, to the effort put in by the boys in P.E. lessons and their training sessions on Waratah Oval during lunchtimes. Several of our senior boys are developing into good sprinters.

Twenty one records were broken or established during the carnival, the majority being over 400, 800 and 1500 metre distances.

Hunter House with strong performances by their seniors was Champion House ahead of Hannell, Smith and Shortland in that order. Smith Juniors performed very well to win the 12 and 13 years divisions.

The Zone B Carnival was again held early to take advantage of the excellent weather. Once again Maitland proved to be the strong Athletics School. However, we are hoping to put in some intensive training to narrow this gap at the Area Carnival.

In the summer months the boys choose their sport from swimming (life-saving), cricket, tennis, basketball, squash, golf, table tennis, and weight training. Some of these sports are restricted to senior years.

In winter the boys choose from rugby league, soccer, Australian rules, tennis, basketball and golf as inter-school or inter-house competitions and squash, table tennis and weight training. Each boy is so graded within his chosen sport that he competes against others of his own age and comparable ability.

Despite the pressure of study in the 6th year it was pleasing to see so many 6th Formers making significant and on some occasions outstanding contributions to school sport. It is also significant that their academic performances in the H.S.C., 1969 were not affected.

Once again a large number of boys from the school have been chosen in Area and State teams. 22 boys from the School have been chosen in state teams during the past twelve months. Some of these have moved into these teams directly from school sport while others have gained this honour with sport outside the school. These accomplishments will be tabled later in this report. The boys are warmly congratulated on reaching such a high standard, and it shows just reward for the time and effort they have put into their sport.

I feel I must mention four boys whose performances were exceptional. Gary Gilmour and Stephen Hatherall toured the West Indies with the Australian Schoolboys Cricket Team and performed splendidly. Greg Valentine was chosen in the State C.H.S. Cricket Team and was also Vice-Captain of the State C.H.S. Open Soccer Team. Robert Wilkinson was chosen in the C.H.S. Rugby League Squad and also the C.H.S. Cricket Team.

Our 1st Grade Rugby League team was an exceptionally big, fast team which played some outstanding football during the season. The team was beaten in the Northern Final of the University Shield by Tamworth, the eventual winners, and went on to gain third place in the Shield by defeating Riverstone 17-9. Six of the boys were chosen in the State League Squad and another three gained places in the State Under 18 Rugby Union side.

Our team this year is much smaller but we are hoping they too, will be successful. This will be a hard task but with solid training the team could develop.

Our Tasman Cup Soccer Team never played to the ability I feel they possessed and were defeated in the Fourth Round of the Cup. The team this year starts off the season much keener and are training well. We have great hopes of doing well this year.

The Shell Cup Basketball Team was defeated in the semi-final by the strong Meadowbank Team, which eventually won the Cup comfortably. The team was placed fourth in the Shell Cup Competition and won the local 2KO Knockout Competition and the Zone Competition in each of the three terms. With the same players available this year our hopes are high that we will do even better.

Our cricketers again showed their strength by winning the local 1st Grade Competition. Five boys gained selection through the year in the State C.H.S. Open Cricket Team and two others played with the C.H.S. Seconds. Gary Gilmour was awarded a C.H.S. Blue for cricket, the highest honour a boy can gain in school cricket.

I feel our greatest achievement during the year was gaining the full support of the school in two big sporting matches. Firstly, with our 1st Soccer team down 3 - 1 to Manly the school to a boy urged them on. The cheering and the singing of the school song lifted the efforts of the team to snatch victory.

Then on the occasion of the Northern Final of the University Shield played on a Saturday. Most of the School was present to give the necessary support to their team. It made the whole year of sport well worth while.

Four students have been awarded "Blues", the school's highest sporting honour. These boys are congratulated for the time and dedication they have given to their chosen sport.

House sport has developed into strong well organised competitions. House cricket in particular has grown from a four team competition to eight; catering for juniors and seniors. Much of the credit for this must go to Mr. Caldwell who has moved

from the school but whose interest and enthusiasm has attracted the boys to House Cricket.

House basketball under Mr. Best and Mr. Davies has also caught the interest of the boys and strong competition has developed. To these teachers I offer my thanks for a difficult job well done.

The wide variety of sporting activities available to the boys of the school necessitates the provision of adequate sporting equipment. Such equipment must be constantly maintained, and with the purchase of new material at regular intervals the needs of the school are well provided for.

This year a considerable sum of money has again been spent on clothing grade teams. With all the teams correctly attired, the teams play as a unit and represent the school with great team spirit.

The school extends its thanks to the many sporting associations which have assisted us with donations of sporting material. Such equipment has been put to good use and is very much appreciated. We would particularly like to thank the Newcastle Rugby League for their continued interest and support.

Our thanks also are offered to those officials, umpires and administrators who have helped to foster sport in our school; to the Principal, Staff and Students of neighbouring schools and those further afield whom we have engaged in competition.

We are indebted to the many parents and friends of the school who have billeted our guests during sporting commitments and to those who offered such warm hospitality to our own students engaged in similar fixtures away from home.

We thank members of Staff who have coached our teams and prepared them for competition.

The thanks of the whole school go to the Newcastle City Council for the use of the sporting fields. To the Parks and Gardens Staff under Mr. Bob Garside and in our own particular case to Claude Sharpe, the Curator at Waratah Oval.

The following page lists the record of achievements of the boys of the school during 1969 and 1970, other than those which appear on the Programme.

The following boys were outstanding in sport and were chosen in Newcastle Area Representative Teams.

Open Area Cricket - G. Gilmour, S. Hatherall, R. Wilkinson,
G. Valentine, D. Pitt, G. Cousins, W. Luck.

Open Rugby League - P. Howlett, R. Wilkinson, J. Shield,
J. Garis, B. Williamson, D. Parker, R. Worth,
P. Hawkins.

Australian Rules - P. Percy.

Athletics - P. Grivas.

Swimming - G. Blundell, J. Buxton, S. Rounsley,
M. Schubert, R. Martin, C. Pink.

Basketball - W. Taggart, T. Antcliffe, G. Mayo.

The following boys were chosen in State Teams.

C.H.S. Open Soccer - G. Valentine - Vice-Captain.

C.H.S. No. 1 Rugby League - P. Howlett.

C.H.S. No. 2 Rugby League - J. Shield, J. Garis, R. Wilkinson,
D. Parker, R. Worth.

C.H.S. Cricket - G. Gilmour, S. Hatherall, R. Wilkinson,
D. Pitt, G. Valentine,

C.H.S. Basketball 16 yrs. T. Antcliffe.

C.H.S. Basketball Open - P. Idstein.

C.H.S. Baseball - M. Daley.

C.H.S. Australian Rules - P. Percy.

Surfing - G. Price - State Junior Surf Champion, 2nd Australian title.

Cycling - R. Hadley - 3rd Australian Titles.

State Under 18 Rugby Union - P. Clark, S. Bland, P. Hawkins.

C.H.S. Rugby Union - P. Clark

G. Gilmour was awarded a C.H.S. Cricket Blue.