Boys Sport

The Sports program at Pembroke School aims to foster a sense of participation, enjoyment and skill development. At Pembroke we encourage all students, of whatever standard, to learn and enjoy competitive sport, to become a member of a team and to be aware of the responsibilities of being a team member. It has given me great pleasure to see such a large number of students embrace the Sports program on offer at the School.

Pembroke has not only been well represented in all the sports offered by the Sports Association of Adelaide Schools, but has also fielded squads in Sailing and Athletics.

The Cricket teams have been interrupted by wet weather but, despite this, their intensity and commitment at training have remained at a high standard. The First XI squad, led by captain Marsh, has continued to develop and improve their game following their successful tour of England in 2011. Overall, there have been healthy numbers in Cricket again this season, with eight teams nominated from Year 7 through to Year 12.

Tennis is a very popular summer sport choice and the staff members involved work tirelessly to select players in their appropriate teams. Nat Weber continues as the Head Tennis Coach and together with our team of coaches and staff managers, is the driving force behind Pembroke's Tennis program. The Drive team has performed well under the leadership of Eddie Dadds, winning all but two of their games thus far. The Tennis Association has modified the number of students in teams from 12 players in each team to 6 players for A teams, and 8 players for B and C teams. The new format has seemed to benefit our teams, with strong performances in all levels, in particular our two Middle A teams and our Senior A team.

Volleyball has continued to grow, with Pembroke fielding a Year 8 team, a Year 9 team and three Open teams. The Open As have gone through the season undefeated, finishing on top of the Division 1 table—a tremendous effort by the players! They have been led well by Captain Blewett and staff coach Mr Clark.

Pembroke has fielded four Badminton teams this season, three of which are in the Open Division. Led by Captain and state representative McCann, the Open A team has won the majority of its matches. We have been lucky to have ex-Pembroke staff member Mr Bawden coaching the squads again this year; together with old scholar Mr Davis, this has ensured that all boys have experienced some quality coaching this term.

Water Polo has been a popular choice among our students this season, with Pembroke fielding six teams, one more than in previous years. While the teams have experienced their share of victories and losses this season, it has been great to see their training sessions maintain a high level of intensity and enthusiasm.

Pembroke Swimmers have made improvements on an inconsistent 2011 season, highlighted by their inclusion in the SAAS final held at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre on Wednesday of Week 9. The boys also represented the school in the Teams Relay Championship held at the new Marion Swimming Centre. Staff members Mrs Crowhurst and Ms Rayson have been assisted by old scholars Miss Ash and Miss Ireland.

Athletes have been training hard on Haslam Oval in a myriad of athletic disciplines under the guidance of Mr Deane and Mr Duffy. The squad competed in the State Championships during 17–19 February, and many pleasing performances were made by Pembroke students. B. Smallwood-Simpson and G. Marshall were rewarded for their outstanding performances with state selection for the under-age National Championships.

Sailing has again been a very popular choice, so much so that we have had to split the season into two, with Mr Evan Shillabeer mentoring the Years 7, 8 and 12 students this term. The remaining students will have their opportunity to sail in Term 4.

As I write, a number of students are well into their pre-season preparations for various winter sports. The Open A Hockey team have begun earlier this year to ensure that they are at their peak for the upcoming Hockey Tour to Perth in the July holidays. Mr Roberts and Mr Holland have been instrumental in organising this tour. The senior Football teams began training in Week 2 of this term; their first trial game is at the end of Term 1 against St Peter’s College. The Senior Soccer and Rugby teams have also started their pre-season, and are both looking forward to the season proper.

Mr Reid
Director of Sport
Girls Sport

Participation in Girls Sports at Pembroke has been pleasing for Term 1. We have seen a growth in numbers in Middle School Volleyball and also in Softball, both gaining many new players this year. Pembroke has fielded teams in all sports that IGSSA offers, as well as competing in Water Polo and Touch run by the Catholic School competition.

Our Middle School Volleyball has three teams, which cater for a range of abilities. Teams have been competing well, with mixed results. The Senior sides have been working hard with new coach Mr Hocking to develop individual and team skills. The girls have jumped at the opportunity to try new drills and are progressing nicely in their respective teams.

For the last few years we have been able to fill only two Softball teams, so extra players have been greatly welcomed. The two sides are relatively young when you compare them with the A and B sides in our other sports, but are showing that they have the ability to match it with the other schools in the competition. Our A Grade team won the IGSSA shield in Term 4 last year and although we have lost a few Year 12s from last year the team has started the season well, losing only one game so far. It is fantastic to have old scholars Miss Lee and Miss Burch coaching the sides this season. They bring much experience and enthusiasm to our Pembroke Softball teams.

Pembroke has a large number of teams participating in the IGSSA Tennis competition. While it is a challenge to ensure that all teams have the appropriate level of competition, it is fantastic to see many of our girls involved in the sport. The Pembroke Tennis staff work hard behind the scenes to ensure that our internal rankings and teams are set to allow each girl to get the best possible outcome when competing against other schools.

Touch Football has entered four teams into this year’s competition and all have made promising starts to the season. The young but experienced A team has been undefeated in Term 1 and the players have looked fantastic wearing the new Pembroke Touch singlets. There are some new players to Touch this year and it has been a challenge for many to learn and play a new game. All players have done a great job improving their skills and cooperating as a team.

The Basketball players have been consistently improving and have produced some exciting wins in the last couple of weeks. Our Senior A team has performed well this term, beating some challenging opponents. The Senior C Basketball team has also played some challenging games with very good results. Our Middle School teams have performed well, often with only the minimum number of players. They have competed with enthusiasm and there have been some very close games.

Water Polo has seen steady numbers participating as it is always a popular mid-week sport during the warm weather of Term 1. Games have been competitive and exciting to watch and we hope to have some Pembroke teams finish on top of their division. The coaching staff—Mr Langusch; Mr Budenberg and G. Laparidis (Yr 12); and J. Budenberg (Yr 10)—have done a fantastic job preparing their teams and coaching them through games.

The IGSSA Swimming Carnival held halfway through Term 1 was a chance for our swimmers to compete against the best from other schools. We were competitive across all year levels. There were a number of noteworthy results and the Swimming team is to be commended for their performances during the season. Staff members Mrs Crowhurst and Ms Rayson have worked hard to ensure that our best swimmers represent Pembroke at all swim meets.

All students have completed their online nominations for winter sport. Week 10 saw girls being called out for trainings and trials. Some Senior teams have already begun their training, working hard to try and secure a position in a nominated team. I would like to thank all the girls that have worked hard and represented Pembroke well during their summer sports, and I look forward to seeing many also enjoying the winter sports on offer.

Mrs Martin
Director of Girls Sport