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 amount of students embrace the Sports program on offer at Pembroke School.

The Summer sports season is well under way, albeit with an interrupted start due to the initial bout of wet weather causing the cancellation of Cricket matches and some Tennis fixtures. Teams have been representing the School in Athletics, Badminton, Cricket, Sailing, Swimming, Tennis, Volleyball and Water Polo.

The Cricket season has been interrupted on several occasions due to the wet weather; despite this our cricketers have continued to train with purpose and intensity. The First XI squad, led by Captain Alex, has been developing its games in preparation for its tour to England in June and July this year. Our Junior cricketers have performed well - in particular our two Year 8 teams have been so strong that we have had to enter two teams into the 8A division.

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 blooded some younger students this year and their performances have been very promising. Our Senior and Middle School teams have been consistent and reliable at both trainings and matches.

Volleyball has increased in numbers again this year, with Pembroke fielding two Year 8 teams and two Open teams. The Open As lost the first match of the season, but since then has only dropped one match for the remainder of the season. Mr. Ian Hilditch has been working with the Year 8 students and in a few years’ time, we should see them develop into a strong Open side.

Badminton continues to be a popular choice, with over 35 boys choosing to play Badminton. The association trialled a finals system this term in the Open A division and Pembroke came 2nd in their pool, 3rd overall. Old Scholar Mitchell Davis has returned to Pembroke as a coach, and together with the more experienced coaches Dennis Bawden, Mr Daryl McCann and Mr Jim Derrington, has ensured all boys experience some quality coaching this term.

Water Polo teams continue to do well, with good numbers in the Junior ranks suggesting that the Senior teams will remain competitive for the years to come. Unfortunately the season for the Senior teams and Year 9s was cut short due to the unavailability of the Aquatic Centre due to maintenance works.

Pembroke Swimmers have had an inconsistent season, with some high quality performance on occasions and mediocre ones at other times. Staff members Mrs Elizabeth Crowhurst and Ms Kathryn Rutherford have been assisted by Old Scholar and four-time Pembroke School record holder Nicholas Clarke. Unfortunately injury, illness, vacations and other commitments have depleted our squad on occasions. The SASSA A Grade carnival was held on the evening of Wednesday 9 March at the Aquatic Centre. The boys swam well to be placed 3rd overall and the girls 8th.

Athletes have been training hard on Haslam Oval in a myriad of athletic disciplines under the guidance of Mr Peter Deane and Mr Graham Duffy. Our athletes have performed well at meets thus far, with Sam, Ashlee and Ryan all recording victories in the State Open Championships recently to name just a few.

Mr Evan Shillabeer has been overwhelmed by the number of students interested in learning to sail. Due to these large numbers we have had to postpone the Junior Sailing until Term 4, with the Senior students undertaking their Sailing course during Term 1. Specialist instructors and highly skilled students have been developing the new students’ skills in reading weather conditions and the basics of Sailing.

As I write, a number of students are well into their pre-season preparations for various Winter sports. The Senior Football teams began training in Week 2 of this term, Open Soccer has begun training and the Basketball, Squash and Hockey teams are holding selection trials or trainings in the upcoming week. The full Winter training program begins in Week 11 of Term 1 in preparation for fixtures Week 1 of Term 2.

Mark Reid
Director of Sport