**Rugby league Week 7 wrap**

Marist College Ashgrove completed a perfect season across the rugby codes when they held off a valiant Iona College 22-6 to claim the inaugural AIC rugby league title.

Iona rattled Marist Ashgrove in a first half that lived up to the anticipation of two unbeaten teams playing off for an historic trophy in the final round hosted by St Laurence’s College at their Runcorn playing fields.

The AIC season was completed in excellent fashion, capping two months of hard-fought competition played in excellent spirit.

In the shadows of halftime last Saturday, the Chris McKenna-coached Iona had a 6-0 lead built on their enthusiasm from the first minute of the game.

But electric fullback Floyd Aubrey scored two minutes before halftime to bring Marist Ashgrove level at the break, setting up a gripping second half.

Aubrey was among the Marist Ashgrove players who featured in the unbeaten First XV rugby premiership earlier in the year before turning their hand to the inaugural league season.

“The rugby union season really helped us during the league competition because we were able to transfer some of the combinations,” Marist Ashgrove coach Ryan Apps said.

“Full credit to Iona because they were really good particularly in that first half. They came to play and their enthusiasm was really noticeable right from the start.

“We were able to get that try before halftime and then we got momentum in the second half but we know that we had to beat a good team to win today.”

Marist Ashgrove had shown its promised at the famous Confraternity Carnival in July when it was pipped in the quarter-finals by Marymount College, coached by former State of Origin and NRL star Matt Geyer.

Marist Ashgrove closed out the Confraternity Carnival with a win over Rockhampton Grammar before starting their six-game unbeaten streak through the AIC competition.

The league premiership did not have the dominance that Marist Ashgrove showed throughout the union season.

They were taken to the brink by Padua College last Saturday when their 18-0 first-half lead was whittled to a nailbiting 18-16 win.

That was the same score that Padua experienced in its loss to Iona in round one, reflecting the closeness of a competition that had plenty of positives.

Padua finished its season with a 62-14 win over St Edmund’s College, sealing third place on the table. Padua enjoyed a positive season including a Confraternity Carnival semi-final berth.

St Laurence’s College defeated Villanova College 42-20 in the other Round 7 match, completing an excellent AIC rugby league season.