**AIC Basketball – Round 6 preview**

Villanova College faces another First V basketball test tomorrow as they try to extend their unbeaten run into Round 6 of the AIC season.

Villanova will travel to St Patrick’s College to meet a team that landed a giant win against Marist College Ashgrove before taking championship aspirants St Edmund’s College into overtime.

Those performances will ensure Villanova remains focused as they try to bring the First V trophy to Goold Hall for the first time in six years.

The Wildcats took another huge step towards that goal last week with a strong 65-54 away win over Marist Ashgrove, ending that team’s hopes of a fourth consecutive First V title.

Villanova delivered another strong defensive effort at Ashgrove, complementing their impressive attack.

They raced out of the blocks with a 20-point lead that was held until Marist Ashgrove began to make ground in the final quarter.

Tomorrow’s clash between Villanova and St Patrick’s presents some exciting attacking options.

“St Patrick’s are sitting in third position right now and have won two in a row so have some really good momentum,” Villanova Director of Basketball Sean O’Neill said.

“They have some very fast, attacking guards so they’re going to present a real challenge for us.”

Last weekend. St Patrick’s put on an exciting offensive display at Kedron to down Padua College, 92-49.

That was the highest score for St Patrick’s in over three seasons, providing a surge of confidence for them as they take on the frontrunners on Saturday.

Padua will travel to Ashgrove on Saturday in what may turn out to be a very exciting match.

The northern rivalry is strong with a large turnout from both expected at the Champagnat Centre.

Marist Ashgrove has lost its last two matches and will be determined to play well their last home game for 2019.

Iona College hosts St Edmund’s College tomorrow buoyed by a four-point win over St Laurence’s College last Saturday.

Iona stretched the lead to 12 but the margin was reined in by St Laurence’s late in the match. That result kept Iona’s season alive leading into the important clash with St Edmund’s.

St Edmund’s must win if they’re to stay in contention for the title. Whilst their fate rests with results in the last two games, victory tomorrow will at very least sure up second place for the side.

St Peter’s Lutheran College will host St Laurence’s tomorrow, taking confidence from a close loss to St Edmund’s last weekend. St Peter’s last two games have provided their two best offensive efforts for the season and they will hope to add to that string of performances this week.