

ST MARY'S MAKE STATEMENT

St Mary's at home made a big statement on Saturday against Grovedale Black in Tennis Geelong Section 1 with a crushing 5 sets to 1 victory to be within one point of Grovedale Black 2nd and top side Newcomb on the ladder.

With the return of Peppe Scorpo and strong support from Peter Ficca, Carly McClelland and Melanie McClelland, the Saints dominated from the opening set to record a runaway win.

The Grove's only set in the match was the ladies doubles with Sara Earls and Lisa Sherwell defeating the McClellands. Overall St Mary's with a strong display won 5 sets 34 games to 1 set 22 games.

In the other game in Section 1, bottom side Grovedale Yellow played out a tight encounter with St Albans to win by two games in an entertaining match. The Grove's Lisa Graham, Matthew Squire, Jayde Glascott and Andrew Veenstra took out the first two mixed doubles and 3rd mixed, conceding 9 games in the process.

St Albans fought back hard with Clare Burns and Sharon Taylor winning the ladies doubles and Doug Hewson and Matthew Allen taking out the men's doubles and the Saints winning the last mixed of the day. However, they lost the match 3 sets 28 games to Grovedale Yellow 3 sets 30 games.

SECTION 1 LADDER - Newcomb 23 points, Grovedale Black 23, St Mary's 22, St Albans 17, Grovedale Yellow 11.

TOP SIDES PLAY OUT THRILLER

Top side Waurn Ponds at home played 2nd placed Lara on Saturday in Section 2 Tennis Geelong with The Ponds getting home in a thriller by 1 set and 1 game. Emily and Ben Rankin were standouts for The Ponds, winning their 3 sets for the afternoon and with strong support from Joanne and Nicole Mullen, proved too strong on the day.

For Lara, Daniel Peters, Cronin Jaorei, Jacqui Watson and Sandra Slade were in good form winning two of their 3 sets. However, The Ponds got home in a thriller 5 sets 46 games to 4 sets 45 games.

Ocean Grove 3rd were pushed all the way by 7th side Torquay at the Grove on Saturday and held out to win 5 sets 41 games to 4 sets 39 games. For Grove, Julie Allwood was in outstanding form winning her three sets in fine style and with Sally Hughes and Ashleigh Cooke, took out 2 of 3 ladies' doubles. Scott Bibby and Phillip Nash were also prominent for the Grove.

For Torquay Megan Hapgood, Sam Rogers and Leanne Beale were outstanding winning 2 of their 3 sets, but Grove too strong overall to just win.

Geelong East Uniting moved into 5th on the ladder with a strong win over Western Heights Uniting 7 sets to 2. East with strong men in Brad Verfurth, Robert Fraser and Sandy Cust all playing well to win their 3 sets and the men's doubles conceding only 4 games, dominated the match.

The Heights' ladies provided some resistance with Jessica Grother, Vicki Giblin and Carmel Addlem taking out the 1st and 2nd ladies' doubles and the Heights' only two sets for the day. Overall Geelong East 7 sets 47 games to 2 sets 26 games.

In the final game in Section 2 Grovedale, away to Bannockburn, moved to within 1 point of Bannockburn, and Geelong East with a strong win over Bannockburn 4th on Saturday 6 sets to 3.

The Grovedale men were impressive with James Headlam, Ben Hardy and Will Grose in excellent form taking out all 3 men's doubles in fine style, and with Donna Schoenmaekers and Linda Muratori, Hardy and Grose won their three sets for the afternoon.

For the Burn, Ida Durran was a standout winning her 3 sets and the Burn's only sets for the day. Jason Tournier for Burn was the best of the men, however Grovedale too strong winning 6 sets 41 games to 3 sets 34 games.

SECTION 2 LADDER – Waurn Ponds 57 points, Lara 47.5, Ocean Grove 40, Bannockburn 27, Geelong East Uniting 27, Grovedale 26, Torquay 25.5, Western Heights Uniting 14.