

Match Report, Saturday 17 October 2020
MWJCA Under 15 Division 1: Round 1
SPX Yellow vs Wakehurst Red
Nolans Reserve, North Manly

Wakehurst Red – 3 for 164 after 30 overs
SPX Yellow – all out for 85

Wakehurst Red win by 79 runs

Overcast skies greeted the commencement of the cricket season for the players and families of SPX Yellow, for its first match of the season at Nolans Reserve, North Manly. The opponents for this round 1 match were Wakehurst Red from the powerful Wakehurst club in the MWJCA, and a team that had been together for a number of years now.

For SPX Yellow this was a new season, with new players selected from three age groups across the college each with confidence and expectation for a strong start to the season, albeit with a player short to complete its roster. The toss was won by Wakehurst who choose to bat first on the usual flat synthetic pitches at Nolans, with the outfield a mixture of sand patches, gravel and grass. SPX Yellow weren't disappointed at bowling first as the general view was the ball may show early swing with the overcast skies.

SPX Yellow opened the bowling with Darcy Keenlyside, last season premier bowler in the division 2 competition and Nikolai Dimantha. Bowling was tight in those early overs with Darcy again showing his pedigree with a very tidy three over for 5 runs. The fall of the first wicket came early for Wakehurst courtesy of a brilliant piece of fielding by Eamon Boyle, who threw down the stumps from side-on for a run-out of the Wakehurst opener. Despite tight bowling and a number of close chances with balls landing only meters away from SPX fieldsmen, the next wicket to fall came with the score at 129 in the 21st over. The Wakehurst total of 165 at the end of the innings did not provide a true reflection of the quality of the SPX bowling and effort by the boys, rather it provided an early indication to the younger boys in the team of the quality of the batsmen they will encounter in Division 1. Darcy Keenlyside led the bowlers on the day, with Ben Vaccarella (0/13), Nikolai Dimantha (0/14) and Flynn Pavely receiving special mentions. Best bowling figures on the day came from the wicket takers for SPX Yellow, with Declan Carroll (1/15) and Antony DiMauro (1/16)

The SPX Yellow batting innings got off to a shaky start with the first wicket falling for 11, before a very good partnership steadied the run chase between Lachlan Jurcevic and Victor Mosmann. Both Lachlan and Victor showed patience, technique and the temperament to wait for the bad ball which, more often than not, was either dispatched to the boundary or over it. Lachlan takes the honours for the first six of the season with a lusty hit over mid-on. Unfortunately the fall of both Lachlan and Victor's wickets saw a middle order collapse and, with the tail-enders in search of quick runs and one batsmen short, the SPX innings came to an abrupt and unexpected end on 85 in the 22nd over.

Best of the batsmen were Lachlan Jurcevic with top score of 24, Victor Mosmann 19 and Eamon Boyle and Ben Vaccarella both with 10.

With plenty of batting practice to come at Thursday's training session for the middle order and, the cobwebs dusted off from the long break, the boys look forward to playing the other Wakehurst division 1 side for its next game.

Tony DiMauro
SPX Yellow Manager



Match Report
St Pius X Under 17 Purple
Collaroy Plateau Electric
Collaroy Plateau

Line one, paragraph one, page one - a play by Gideon Lawler, Ray's brother entitled 'The summer of the 17th roll'

Martha; George - what was that?

George; Hmm what? It's early Saturday morning. I was asleep Martha. You're hearing things

Martha; George- there it is again. If I'm not mistaken it sounds like the distinct sound of leather striking fine select English Willow....

Yes folks, were back - albeit with a few imposed changes that are affecting us all. The flannelled fools are yet again bounding about dodgy council ovals plying their trade, and yes, still with the uncanny knack of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, nothing apparently has changed there. It may be said that old traditions die hard but I have this feeling that things are going to alter significantly for the mighty Purples. By way of a hint, may I firstly welcome our new coach Mr Hartnett who just may be that conduit. We also welcome our new team members, and welcome back to our old warriors and we welcome our new members of the table of knowledge that frequent outside the boundaries, distancing socially mind you. There is already this palpable enthusiasm and expectation of another great season in the offing. Our coach seems to have a few rather wise ideas after seeing the lads operate for the first time today. Needless to say, he may have a bit of works to do. Stay determined coach. We're right behind you, we may be a few paces, dawdling about, kicking stones and the like, but we're there.

The season got off to a flying start at Collaroy Plateau. We won the toss. Something we haven't done for seasons. Electing to bat first, it was time to send in the new young guns, to test their metal. Yeh!. New to the team but by no means a debutant to the game is Tom Lough, who opened the batting. He stood tall and played straight and confident, taking the task to Collaroy. The opening pair put on 59 runs until Tom pick the wrong line to have his castle broken by one of the better deliveries on the day. The mighty

Purple' were definitely in uncharted waters with a score like that. Pat Frost looked a little hesitant as he convincingly smashed 3 boundaries of his first 3 deliveries, then he got his eye in for a well compiled single. Another mover on the day, Ben Purcell, talk about pizazz. He had a bit of a whinge to me in the morning stating he had a bone in his foot. He didn't do much running as he preferred to belt boundaries and remained 18 not at the end of 30 overs. Honours of the day belong with Liam Hunt who now has a fairly good average, well not yet as he drilled a 57 not and carried his bat for the innings, sort of! A good start as at the end of 30 overs SPX was 6 for 142. Definitely defensible even with 9 players.

Unfortunately, Collaroy, to their credit, rained on the parade. What was exposed was a serious soft and vulnerable underbelly of bowling that will require a knowledge tweak or two. The unit and skill is there, but, like the North-Connex tunnel, it just needs to be put all together to make it work.



Regarding fielding, there was some excellent work out there. Josh Dixon was magnificent in the field. He chased everything like a desperate cab driver. A very smart and tidy C&B from Ollie Clarke would have put a hole in us mere mortals. Very sharp. Ollie Hunt also with a superb high looping catch in the deep saw Collaroy lose 3 wickets prior to passing our total.

It is encouraging though to obtain a standard of this team so early in the season. Sure, it was the first time all this team has played together, and it shows promise. From our batting there was only one chance given in the 30 overs bowled. Only momentary lapses in concentration saw us lose wickets. Fielding was on song. Backing up, returns to the keeper were excellent. We caught all that was on offer. The support the lads showed each other during the match was better than my bacon and egg roll. If any

lesson can be taken from the game, is that the lads got a wee bit too confident with the batting total at the change of innings. Cocky could be the word, and that is a great leveller in cricket. It was stated by the 'table of knowledge' that it would be really unfortunate that this team should be pressured by the lack of numbers within the team. The team is a quality unit. Having minimal numbers in the field will create difficulties which these lads don't deserve. Any lad who is thinking about playing the season should, simple as that. It's a test. What could be better than spending the morning with your mates?

SPX Red Round 1

SPX Red had a close loss in Round 1 of the new season going down in a good contest. With the ball SPX Red bowled in good areas. In the field the boys took their chances with catches taken and run outs completed when opportunities presented. However, some good batting from St Augustine's meant they were able to post a competitive total of 6/131.

With the bat Max Lynn and Alessio Spillane got off to a great start, reaching 15 overs scoring 66 runs without the loss of any wickets, right on the required run rate. However, after Max and Alessio retired, SPX was unable to maintain this run rate. Some aggressive shots from Taj Nott and Matt Dixon found the boundary late in the innings, but unfortunately the chase fell 9 runs short.

