

SPX Purple U17 Cricket Team smash 281 runs in a historic win

The U17 cricket team achieved the highest ever total for any U17 Purple team with a magnificent win against St Augustine's Green on the weekend. Under the able captaincy of Matt Dixon the team scored a phenomenal 282 runs off 30 overs, with 5 wickets in hand. The opposition could only muster 121 runs with all 8 wickets tumbling after 25 overs. Scintillating knocks from Ezra Hartnett (59 runs off 39 balls), Archie Wragge (67 runs off 35 balls) and a stylish 36 runs off 35 balls by Luke Jackson carried the team to the highest score by a SPX Purple team in the Manly Warringah Junior Cricket competition. Taj Nott as vice-captain scored a handy 21 runs off 21 balls to seal the deal. The team restricted the opposition with spectacular catches and impressive bowling figures. The bowlers ensured the fall of wickets at a regular interval with Callum Koruga claiming 2 wickets for a mere 8 runs and Archie Wragge with impressive figures of 2 wickets for just 16 runs.

SPX Purple showed great team spirit and were gracious in their victory, congratulating the opposition on their effort.



SPX U14 Green

What a game! Batting first, SPX Green found it tough going on a slow outfield. At drinks, the team was 5/37 and discussed the importance of setting a total that could be defended. Oscar Clubbe (20) and the lower order batted well, pushing the score to 95—one that gave them a chance.

With the ball, the team started strongly, reducing Seaforth to 5/34 at drinks—almost identical to where SPX Green had been earlier. It was clear that wickets were the key, but restricting runs was just as crucial. The game swung back and forth, with neither side able to take full control. After 22 overs, the equation stood at 27 runs needed from 48 balls with 3 wickets remaining. Captain Zac Chippendale turned to James Sykes (6-2-11-1) and Ali Fernandes (6-2-12-3), both of whom bowled outstandingly to build pressure at a critical stage.

With two overs remaining, Seaforth needed just six runs with one wicket in hand. Felix Keeler (1-0-2-0) delivered a composed over, keeping the pressure high. That left the final over—four runs required, one wicket in hand. Blake Sobey (5.5-0-17-1) was entrusted with the task and executed brilliantly, maintaining a tight line and length. On the fourth ball, the batsmen attempted a quick single, but Blake gathered the ball in his follow-through and ran it to the stumps at the non-striker's end, securing a thrilling victory.

The team always emphasises the importance of competing until the very end, and this match was a perfect example of that spirit. Congratulations on a fantastic win!

SPX U14/2 Red

St Pius X College U14 Red delivered a **clinical bowling performance** to defend their total of **5/98**, restricting their opponents to **8/82 in 25.4 overs**. A combination of **tight bowling, sharp fielding, and crucial breakthroughs** ensured a well-earned **16-run victory**, with captain **Oliver Pile leading from the front** in both disciplines.

Sent in to bat, St Pius posted a competitive **98 runs from their 30 overs**, thanks to a composed innings from **Luka Hilton (28 retired not out off 35 balls)**, who kept the scoreboard moving with well-timed strokes. **Edward Harkin (15 off 35)** and *Cameron Cheah (13 off 31)** provided crucial middle-order contributions, anchoring the innings under consistent bowling pressure.

While early wickets fell, the team **batted with patience and resilience**, ensuring they reached a defendable total. Extras also played a role, with 26 additional runs boosting the final score.

Defending 98, St Pius X showed **discipline and aggression with the ball**, ensuring regular wickets prevented the opposition from settling into the chase. **Captain Oliver Pile (2/6)** set the tone, claiming **the first breakthrough and later sealing the victory with the match-winning final wicket**.

Maximus Bower (2/2) delivered a game-changing spell, picking up two crucial wickets in quick succession, while **Edward Harkin (1/5)** and **Riley Silver (1/4)** also contributed with well-earned dismissals.

The **fielding effort was exceptional**, with **Oliver Pile involved in two key run-outs**, showcasing sharp reflexes and a strong arm to remove opposition batters. **Cameron Cheah and Riley Silver held onto vital catches**, ensuring no easy runs were given away.

Despite one batter offering resistance in the middle overs, **St Pius' relentless pressure with the ball** ensured the opposition could never take control of the chase. As wickets fell at regular intervals, the final breakthrough came fittingly from **captain Oliver Pile**, securing the **16-run victory** and capping off an excellent team performance.

A fantastic effort—**Well done, St Pius X College U14 Red!**

SPX U13 Black vs Seaforth Stars

SPX U13 Black faced top-of-the-table Seaforth Stars on Saturday in a closely contested match. Batting first, the top order showed excellent technique and patience against fast, accurate bowling, ensuring wickets were preserved early. Despite the challenge, the team posted a respectable total of 89 on a slow outfield.

With the ball, the strong form continued, as the bowlers maintained a tight and straight line. Seaforth's star batsman initially swung the momentum in their favour, but once he retired, the game shifted dramatically. A brilliant spell saw four quick wickets fall, putting the result back in the balance. In the end, Seaforth prevailed by a small margin, but it was a performance full of determination and teamwork.

A special mention to **Owen Hood, Dylan Milostic, and Oscar Haigh**, who were awarded **Players of the Match** for their efforts at the top of the order. Congratulations to the team on a fantastic effort!