



Match Report
St Pius X Under 16
Forest Maroons
Melwood Oval 7-3-2020

So the 2019-2020 cricket season dribbles, in a scorebook fashion, out to an underwhelming fizz, I find it amazing what change can occur over 5 month period. Great Britain had a recent new Prime Minister, we didn't have any lawn, looking out of my windscreen was an OH&S issue and Warragamba Dam – well it was in serious trouble as were the people of Sydney. Covid 19 sounded like the Hyundai' answer to the Tesla [If they can name a car a Terracan- anything is liable. Why would you get into one of them? That must have been some lunch when they decided on that one!!!], and on this International day of Women, as every day should be- the Minister for Sports and Recreation was a woman. We even had a town called Cobargo. Oh those heady days of change. But like my last report stated, St Pius Purple, ever consistent, continued in that staunch and unyielding methodology of 'If we're on a good thing, let's stick to it'. Superb thinking. Great brotherhood. The bond of a Team.

A cold and wet morning greeted us at Melwood oval. Cloudy overcast, windy conditions would generally see ample swing, cut, deviation, dip and bounce. Half that trouble was that the lads weren't told of the dangers of cool, overcast days- well today anyway. Last week, yes, but like most adolescent teenage lads of the same era, need I say more. On the plastic surface that is Melwood Oval, puddling and pooling was not an issue. It's an artificial version of Watkins Oval with an aluminium picket fence. Not traditional but kind of a plastic swish. It's a bit like brandishing MacDonald's with a Michelin Hat. Winning the toss, we were going to set a suitable target, we hoped. Riley Kennedy and David Mooney opened the batting, and got off to a solid start. We were 0-23 in the eighth over and in very much uncharted waters and it all seemed that these two had played themselves out of a slump. Yipppeeee. Well, it all kinda ended there. Wickets fell faster than Sorbent off a Woollies shelf. There was some consolidation in the lower middle order, but this was all but saving face in the hope that we could bat out the 30 overs. Runs were drier than Tom Miles' one liners. Some spirited hitting out by Liam Hunt [29 retired] but even his forced retirement rubbed a little bit of salt in our eye.



Liam Hunt finding form in the late season.

Bowling- Hats off to our bowlers. There was some very tight bowling in the first hour with Blake Hoolahan and Sam Waters bowling in that 'avenue of apprehension' [David T- there it is. I got it in]. All the bowlers tried valiantly in their toil, but clearly the Forest Maroon fellas [and girls] were getting cold, or board or both. They just took the long handle to us, and bludgeoned. Of course it doesn't help grassing a few sharp tricky chances. The damage was done. Forest passed our meagre total after 16 overs were bowled.

Again, we just didn't score enough runs. The pressure on all our bowlers to keep inspiring and saving the day is a unfair burden. With one match to go in the season, it would be great to see a win, or even a close loss. Consistency in this situation, lads, can be broken. Break the tradition lads. Change is good. I have a lawn now. It is all OK

On another sadder matter, we say goodbye to a few new found friends and team mates. Firstly, our opening bowler Sam Waters has had his last game with the Mighty Purples. I reckon he may be delighted with that as he has dug us out of a few holes in his time. Sam came to us early-ish in the season and has been integral and rock wall solid part of our game, both batting and bowling. Mate good luck for the future. We sincerely wish you all the very best for this year and those that follow. Grab life with both hands and hang on. It's a great ride. Please keep the cricket faith. It has been an absolute pleasure.

And speaking of grabbing life with both hands, our coach, Mark [Champo] Clarebrough, will boom his voice at the lads for the last time next Saturday. That infectious smile, the banter with the lads and that classic stance with hands on hips with the shaking head, letting all know that the line is

being approached. Don't cross it 'look'. The lads and Mark worked very well together. We thank him for his time and knowledge and of course the stories. Thanks mate. Great fun.



Sam Waters 'in the avenue'

Stats

SPX purple 10/87 [30 overs] defeated by Forest Maroon 1-89 off 16 overs

Bowlers

Sam Waters 4O, 0M, 0-16

Blake Hoolahan-4O, 0M, 0-26

Tom Miles -4O, 0M, 1-9

Tom Kennedy- 3O, 0M, 0-23

Batting

Liam Hunt 29 [Forced Ret Not Out]

Peter Sundry 42