

St. Pius X College – Central Coast Grammar

ISA Round 4: 16/11/2019

(Home)

2nd XI Report

***D**rizzling rain and a dense cover of cloud couldn't put a dent in the dominance of the 2nd XI's season thus far, as they completed a comprehensive win against the only other previously undefeated team of the competition, Central Coast Grammar School.*

Brad Power won another toss as captain and sent Central Coast Grammar in to bat as the rain continued to drizzle and the pitch continued to soften. From the outset, SPX were on top, with opening bowlers Nick Ward (2/12) and Oscar MacDonald (2/10) wreaking havoc on the Central Coast batting order. Two spectacular run outs in the first ten overs from Kiefer O'Brien and Jude Boyle continued their incredible momentum, leaving their opposition reeling at 5/16. The first-change bowlers, Brad (2/14) and Kiefer (2/16), sustained the pressure, and Central Coast were bowled out for just 59 after only 24.1 overs.

Then just ten minutes later the SPX batsmen were out in the middle, since it was still too early for a lunch break in between. Immediately Jackson Carrall (29) and Joel Austin (14) went about chasing down Central Coast's total, and quickly made it known that they were not too keen to hang around, scoring a quick-fire 49-run partnership to put the game to bed as quickly as possible. A late flurry of wickets meant the openers, as well as batsmen Josh Overton (1) and Ben O'Reilly (4), got out late in the match but it was only a small consolation for Central Coast as Will Pavely (5*) hit the winning runs to secure a double bonus-point victory for SPX.

As mentioned before, only "dominant" could describe the effort from the 2nd XI on the weekend, as they asserted their supremacy on the competition, and consequently are now ten points clear at the top of the table. This dominance flowed right through to the post-match celebrations, as two whole cakes, one supplied by the amazing Mr. Listo and one baked by the versatile opening bowler Nick Ward, were comprehensively devoured in celebration of fellow opening bowler Oscar MacDonald's birthday on Saturday.

Poetic Correspondent: Nick Ward

Scorers on the day: Mr. Nigel Ward & Ms. Carla Austin

Coach: Mr. Matt Stearn

SPX Black

The SPX Black Saturday car rally took place under cool and overcast conditions as we navigated the backstreets of Balgowlah Heights. This week our destination was Tania Park, named in honour of former Miss Australia and Miss Universe winner Tania Verstak! The views over the harbour from the carpark really are quite spectacular, but the boys didn't seem to notice as they prepared to carry on their winning ways against a red hot Wakehurst team.

The groundsman had prepared a good firm pitch, with an even covering of green grass on top. The outfield was a rather eclectic patchwork of hardy Kikuyu which would give the fieldsman some challenging bounces. Riley Meares had the coin toss duties and called correctly, deciding to have a bowl and leading from the front with another miserly spell, keeping the ball well pitched up and getting some movement through the air. Sharing the new ball duties this week was Rueben Boulos. Having missed out with the ball in last weeks win, Rueben was keen to get among the wickets. The Wakehurst openers pounced on anything short and were scoring freely until Riley Collins took an unbelievable catch to get things started. 1-43 after six overs. There was something familiar about the batsman trudging off, they call him Changa, and he batted very nicely! It took another 18 overs to get our second wicket, and that was enough time for the Wakehurst bats to do plenty of damage. Our bowlers struggled to find a good length and gave too much width. With the score at 2-184 we needed something, and late wickets to Luke Jackson and Collins helped. Three run-outs showed that the SPX boys didn't give up in the field, but 6-231 seemed like a big number to chase.

Ollie Freeman was joined by Jackson to open, but it wasn't quite the start we were looking for as Jackson was back in the sheds in the first over and his replacement Collins followed him in the next over. Lachie Jurcevic joined Freeman and they were both scoring positively, before Freeman was run-out. Lachie Mitchell strode to the centre and batted defiantly, supporting Jurcevic as he unleashed on the Wakehurst attack. Disaster struck with Mitchell run-out. 4-75 and three were run-outs. The big hits from Jurcevic continued with a towering six over mid wicket bringing up his 50 off just 30 balls. Josh Baker turned in a very impressive 20 no, with good support by Max Lynn who did well to hold up an end. Conner Jory was the unlucky recipient of a diamond duck, as we racked up our fourth and final run-out of the innings, no lucky throws hitting the stumps, just very poor cricket. There is no doubt that Connor can turn things around over the next few weeks and get amongst the runs. Jurcevic took up where he left off, when he rejoined Baker in the middle at 7-106, but the task was a bit too much in the end with Jurcevic (76) the last to fall, all out for 134 in the last over.

365 runs scored in 60 overs.

No batsman for either side dismissed bowled. Pitch it up on the stumps, they miss, you hit!!
Seven run-outs.

Time now to pick ourselves up and move on, as we head off this Saturday to take on Collaroy.

The match of the season is looming in round 11 with SPX Black taking on SPX Red on December 7th in what is certain to be an exciting game.

Tickets might be available from December 3rd on the Trybooking Link www.trybooking.com/REDOVSBLK or from a dodgy looking scalper at the gate!

SPX Yellow - match report.

Two day Match (50 overs) 9 & 16th Nov 19

St.Pius batting first 9/160 in 50 overs def by Wakehurst 8/161 in 49.1 overs at Kitchener Park.

Can a premonition give rise to a déjà vu moment, that then leads to an acceptance of history repeating itself?

This is how it felt over the last two Saturdays at Kitchener Park for our Round 7 clash against Wakehurst.

Wakehurst inflicted our first loss of the season, and over the last two Saturdays they have delivered us another.

This latest encounter was pretty much a replica of our previous game against them.

We batted first and despite losing an early wicket, we recovered to be 3/94 at the 25 over.

Keelan (38 runs) was building another fine knock before a sharp caught and bowled saw him depart. Tom Lough promoted from the 15-2's came in at no.3 and produced a really well-crafted 40 runs, top scoring alongside our dear friend 'extras'.

It was certainly a busy day for the arm flapping umpires, with wides & no balls aplenty.

Patrick also chipped in with a valuable 27 runs before falling in the final overs.

As has been the case this season, our run rate fell away in the second half of the innings.

At the end of our 50 overs we had reached 9-160, a sense of déjà vu creeping in as we had been here before with a score that might not be enough against a quality opposition.

Ultimately too many runs were left untaken, cautious shot making and hesitant run taking.

The boys could really do with some centre wicket training on Tuesdays to improve their running between the wickets, game awareness and fielding... hint hint Cricket Academy!

The following Saturday, greeted us with more sunshine and a well mown outfield.

Our opening bowlers Gus and Mitch bowled fast, accurately and unfortunately... unluckily.

There were lots of "plays and misses" by both openers but to no avail.

The first bowling change eventually produced a wicket with Josh cramping a batsman for space and Declan taking a good catch. The next delivery Josh helped produce a run out and maybe our fortunes were about to change.

However our spinners, Cormac and Patrick, couldn't slow the scoring. A steady flow of well taken singles, and the occasional boundary kept Wakehurst on target.

Their running between wickets and confidence in their calling is a feature of Wakehurst's game and highlights the major difference between the two teams.

Pick of the bowlers were Keelan 1-5 off 4, Tom 1/8 off 4 overs, Josh 1-5 off 2, Mitch 1-13 off 6 and Jaiden 1-17 off 4.

The opposition's positive running between the wickets also put us under pressure in the field. Sadly, 6 or 7 catchable catches went down, a couple of miss stumpings, a few overthrows, and a number of general misfields.

So, unfortunately history can and does repeat itself, there was a sense of déjà vu about the game, and you didn't need to be Nostradamus and his bag of premonitions to know what was going to unfold.

In another time, hopefully not in a parallel universe, we will be victorious against them.

Till next time.