

ISA Cricket Round 5: Oxford Falls 6/03/2021

St. Augustine's College – St. Pius X College

Last Saturday had the Pius 2nd XI welcomed to our very own home ground, by the home team St Augs, the luxury of playing at home proved calming, despite the fact we were stuck on the bottom oval. Although classified as the last round game for the season, it had the outcome of a semi-final, with the winners moving on to next week's grand final. The toss was won by the Brookvale boys and they elected to bat.

Opening quick Spida McConnell continues the phenomenal form he's been in this season, bowling out the young opening batsman in his first over of the day. With the 30m boundaries working with the batting teams' favour, taking wickets became more of a challenge than in recent times. Young debutant Jesse 'Squeaks' Mansbridge was one of only who felt comfortable on the concrete wicket, as he was dangerous with ball in hand, taking two important poles, one being the skipper of the Augustine's side. With Squeaks in hot form at one end, SOK Dixon came on to form a bowling partnership to put fear in the Brookvale boys' eyes. SOK struck three times, finishing with figures of 3/43 after 10 full overs. Along with a run out from the Ponting like fieldsman Oscar MacDonald, the rest of the wickets were spread amongst the bowling cartel, with no-one going away without a treat in their back pocket.

With Auggies being bowled out for 180 in the 47th over, a target which was definitely possible to score had openers Josh Overton and Ben O'Reilly excited, knowing the Pius boys had to score the runs within 25 overs for a home grand final next weekend. The Pius cricket motto which all players live by is Strike Hard, this was on the forefront of Josh's and Benno's minds, with them both taking the wheel and steering it from the beaches to the north shore. Josh brought up his career maiden ton, in the 17th over of the match. To put his playing style into your head, if he saw the ball, it was sent to the boundary, with a new paintjob being required on the Treacy Centre exterior walls. He hit eleven 4s and six 6s. Benno at the other end pulled his weight also, scoring 74* with seven 4s and five 6s pinging off his Puma stick. With Josh chancing his arm one too many times, he was caught on the boundary on 101, an innings which showed complete dominance, with the opening partnership breaking after 163 runs were on the board, a new 2nd XI opening stance record. Benno finished the game with a few maximums in the last over, seeing the Pius boys win during the 20th over.

With the two bonus points being added from the win, the mighty 2nd XI finished the home and away season as Minor Premiers, for the second time this summer, and will host St Andrews at Fortress Falls next weekend. Bring a mate along with another to get around the Pius Boys, as many of the players will be playing their final game of Pius cricket, support is always welcomed.

Correspondent: Oliver Fitzroy

Scorer: Mrs. Kate Aylmer