

SPX CRICKET MATCH REPORTS

Round 1 SPX Black (105) defeated by Forest White (7/106)

The start of the season couldn't come soon enough for the U13 SPX Black team. Warringah Council had done an excellent job preparing a pitch that was very firm with an even covering of green grass. Captain Max Lynn won the toss and decided to have a bat. Jaydon Akouri (18) & Lachlan Richmond (35NO) got the innings off to a good start with Oliver Freeman (13) and Lachlan Mitchell (17) also getting among the runs. With a competitive total of 105 on the board when the last wicket fell, we knew we had to bowl very well.

Some very tight bowling was backed up by smart fielding, leaving Forest at 0-25 after 10 overs, but we needed wickets. Lachlan Richmond (3-21) struck with his very first ball. More wickets to Connor Jory and Lachlan Mitchell but the Forest team were looking solid at 5-92. Having opened the bowling, Riley Meares (2-7) struck in the 26th over with a sharp catch to Max at point before cartwheeling the middle stump of the new batsmen, 7-93 after 26 overs. The Forest boys clawed their way back into it and with the scores all tied, traffic on Warringah Rd had stopped as people tried to watch the last few balls. A massive appeal for LBW was turned down before the batsmen scampered through for the winning run with an over to spare!

Round 2 SPX Black (4/136) defeated Peninsula Kingfishers (5/134)

Round two saw the SPX Black team heading to Warriewood to take on the Peninsula Kingfishers. We arrived early to find the groundsman working hard on the bowlers run ups with the super sopper! Some moisture had got under the covers overnight and the boundary at the northern end of the ground was particularly damp, as it was under about a metre of water!! Despite all this we started on time at 8am. Having lost the toss, the SPX bowlers were marking out their run ups. Our opening pace barrage wasn't worrying the Peninsular batsmen until Lachlan Jurcevic struck with the last ball of his opening spell. Riley Collins then struck twice in his opening over but the Peninsular boys kept the scoreboard ticking over. Late wickets to Ollie Freeman and Luke Jackson saw the Peninsular team held to 5/135 off their 30 overs.

The SPX boys were looking a little worse for wear after 30 overs fielding on a rather soft outfield, but nothing that Napisan can't fix.....hopefully!

Our openers, Max Lynn(13) & Riley Collins(15) got us off to a very positive start and Luke Jackson(11ret) and Oliver Freeman (26ret) kept the momentum going, with Freeman doing an excellent job of picking the bad ball to dispatch to the rope. The arrival of Jurcevic saw the tempo lift as he took 35 runs including 6 boundaries off 27 balls. Lachlan Richmond (11no) kept the captain company, and launched a tower 6 as they took 13 runs off the 27th over to pass the target with only 4 wickets down.

Round 2 SPX Blue (89) defeated by Peninsula Heat (6/90)

SPX won the toss and elected to bat. A good foundation was set by our openers Noah Marshall (not out 12) and Sean O'Donnell (14) and we raced away to 0/30. Some great bowling by the opposition made the going tough in the middle order and it took a strong partnership of Rhys Bourke (16) and Lucas Gleeson (20) to reach the total of 8/89. This felt a little below par and the boys knew we had to put in a strong bowling and fielding performance. The 2nd innings mirrored the first with SPX bringing themselves back into the game taking wickets steadily. In the end Peninsula reached the target with 2 wickets in hand. A few missed chances and the result could have easily gone the other way. Man of the match went to Lucas Gleeson for his top score with the bat 20 and best bowling figures 2/9 from 3 overs.

Round 2 SPX Orange match abandoned

Unfortunately the match was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to the waterlogged nature of the

Pitch and outfield.

With a scheduled Bye for round 3 next week, the next match for SPX Orange will be on Saturday 19 October against St Augustine's Green.

A safe and restful school holiday break for all the players, coach and parents.

With Kind Regards,

Tony DiMauro - 0412 196328

Round 2 SPX Purple (8/112 off 30 overs) defeated by Forest White (1/114 off 23.3 overs)

Cricket is an amazingly superstitious game. Test players are always keen to keep items of apparel just right, to move through a series of twitches and jiggles prior to taking guard. These can range from red handkerchiefs, socks, placing the kit in the right location and a world of other lucky talismanic mannerisms. Steve Smith has them. Even the great 'Don' had them. Failure to do this will mean certain failure at the crease. As it happened, we had much the same trauma even prior to the toss, which was an enormous omen to what was about to transpire. The mallet handle separated from the head before stumps were set. To the cricket tragic, this was worse than root canal surgery. The coach gave me that 'knowing look and thoughtful nod' when the issue was discovered. That look to the knowing cricketer, that of concern and fear of the darkest art of cricket superstition. The matter was not discussed again.

The match got off to a good start, with our skipper winning the toss. The oval was synthetic grass, and clearly unaffected by the weeks rain deluge. We settle down to Forest White bowling a series of tight overs, but our openers rode the storm well. It was clear that a good opening partnership was forming until a good length delivery straying down leg straightened and clipped the off peg of Dave Mooney.

This was to be the style of the game from then on. There was some tremendous 'starts' to an innings, where the lads shown tenacity and flair, but were just unable to capitalise and stabilise to create a worthwhile solid partnership. Special mention to Nick Lough who is really 'on song' with his batting and continues splendid form. SPX just didn't score enough runs. Simple as that.

Our bowling and fielding commenced fired up and determined. A good line and length ensured that Forest would have to fight for this one. To their credit, Forest White batted well, capitalising heavily on the loose delivery, and defending the tight ones. Some chances did fall our way, but these were sharp and difficult. Some did get through their defence, only to be denied by a coat of varnish. The cricket demons were lurking. No matter what the circumstance, SPX were to be denied. Even the wickets to fall were from 'no balls.'

Definitely a 'glass half full' situation. This team is into its second game, where the first game was, dare I say it, a bit of a fizzer. Watching these young men strut their stuff clearly indicates that there is something just under the surface that is going to rise to be forceful. Yes there are things we need to work on, and we turn them into positives [including the management- there were a few holes there!] but that's cricket. The lads hold themselves well, something that we all should be proud of. It's going to be a great season.

SPX Batting

Nick Lough 18 NO

Nicci Burman 16

Liam Hunt 15

SPX Bowling

Luke Massa 3O, 1M, 0/12

David Thirugnanaraj 3O, 0M, 1/10

Tom Miles 3O, 0M, 0/9

Round 2 SPX Yellow (4/138) defeated St Augustines Gold (81)

One day Match (30 overs) 21st Sept 19

St. Pius batting first 4/138 in 30 overs def St. Augustine's 10/81 in 23.5 overs at home, Oxford Falls. For those who love to watch grass grow, and let's be honest... who doesn't, then there is no better place than the lower fields at Oxford falls. Even after a very wet week the surface was just perfect. This field has 30-40 more runs in the quality of the outfield than any other venue on the northern beaches.

A lost toss and into bat we went. And based on our 10 wicket win the previous week, we were certain at least a few more batsmen would get an opportunity this week. Despite losing a couple of early wickets our innings was going well at 2-81 by the 21st over.

Will Pavely (rtno 32) and Evan Ausling (rtno 19) were the back bone in this period, with useful contributions from Ben O'Reilly (15) and Patrick Frost (13). Will seemed to really enjoy taking their dangerous leg spinner out of the game. This particular lad has been the leading wicket taker in the competition the last few seasons and Will sent him packing after 3 overs.

Some tight bowling in the middle overs saw our run rate slacken off, but with the fall of the 3rd wicket, Keelan Mendel came to the crease, blocked a delivery, then obviously had seen enough, to then clobber the next one to the mid wicket boundary for six. His 38 not out, was a continuation of his stellar performance last week, and his 3 consecutive boundaries in the final over lifted our score to 4/138.

After the innings break we set upon wreaking revenge on a team that has consistently beaten us over the last couple of years. A first over wicket from Gus McConnell (1-12) with a good leg side catch from keeper Evan had our intentions set. A second wicket followed in the 4th over from Declan Carroll who had bowled 2 maidens to be 1-0 and then finished with the outstanding figures of 1-3 off 4 overs. Last year's champions were on the back foot, and two run outs followed soon after to have the visitors reeling at 4-18 in the 8th over.

One of the run outs from Evan, showed his game awareness as the batsman loitered outside his crease. Cormac Molloy (2/22) and Kaiyan Crowhen (2/13) ensured St. Augustine's never got any momentum. Jaiden Speter and Patrick cleaned up the tail and the visitors were gone in the 24th over, all out for 81, and their first defeat in some 20 odd games. A great win by the boys, enhancing their confidence before they face some tough opposition in the likes of Wakehurst and Cromer in the coming weeks.

And a big three cheers to the ground staff for their toil, its greatly appreciated.

Match Report – MWJCA Under 15 Division 2

SPX Orange v/s Cromer Beacon Hill at Terrey Hills Oval

SPX Orange – 5 / 146 after 30 overs
Cromer Beacon Hill – all out for 34 after 14.2 overs
SPX Orange win by 112

With Soccer and rugby seasons completed the warmer spring weather was the signal for the commencement of another cricket season. The formation of SPX Orange in the MWJCA Under 15 division 2 competition saw a return of the majority of the victorious SPX Red Premiers from the 18/19 season, and a return for some players from past seasons and introduction of new players for what was expected to be another well balanced and hard fought division.

The first match of the season for SPX Orange was greeted with a mild morning at Terrey Hills oval against a newly formed side in Cromer Beacon Hill. The side also welcomed a new coach in Ryan Balboa and Manager in Chris Maloney.

With the toss won by Cromer Beacon Hill, our opponents chose to bowl first on what was expected to be a quick outfield. SPX Orange opened the batting with James Maloney and Andrew Guerrera, with James looking to continue his form from the 18/19 Grand Final. Both openers settled early in what was tight line and length bowling from Cromer Beacon Hill, with James Maloney taking advantage of every loose delivery to hit the first boundary of the season. With both openers looking settled and entrenched, James Maloney's wicket was the first to fall for the season in the 9th over with a well hit 25. The remaining overs to the mid innings break saw Cromer Beacon Hill secure another two wickets with Andrew Guerrera taking on the anchor role and carrying his wicket to the enforced retirement at the 15th over where SPX Orange had scored a respectable 3/62. The second half of the innings was

characterised with a wonderful innings from the sides new comer in Jake Socrates who produced a number of lusty hits and boundaries which sent fielders scampering in all directions. The last 8 overs also saw a wonderful partnership between Antony DiMauro and Tom Lough to take the score to 5/146 at the close of innings with both not out. Top scorers awards on the day was jointly shared by Jake Socrates (28) and Antony DiMauro (28no) with a special mention to James Maloney (25) and Tom Lough (15no).

With a solid total confronting them, Cromer Beacon Hill were to start off their innings in the worst possible way as SPX Orange were about to treat the parents and players at Terrey Hills with something special. With Darcy Keenlyside opening the bowling for SPX Orange, Darcy put on a bowling display which will long be remembered by everyone who was there. In a bowling display which destroyed any chance of a Cromer victory , Darcy's first two overs delivered four wickets, all bowled and the opportunity to take a hat trick. Darcy finished his three overs with the incredible bowling figures of three overs, three maidens , four wickets for no runs. With the Cromer Beacon Hill batsmen thinking they had seen the best of the bowlers , Tom Lough came on to clean out the middle order of Cromer Beacon Hill taking a further three wickets. The remaining wickets were quickly picked up to see Cromer Beacon Hill bowled out for 34 runs in the 14th over.

Bowling highlights as mentioned was Darcy Keenlyside with 3 over , 3 maidens , 4 wickets for no runs and Tom Lough 3 overs , 3 wickets for 9 runs.

A solid start for the team with tougher opposition expected from the other teams in the division.

Match Report – MWJCA Under 15 Division 1

SPX Yellow v/s Peninsula at Kitchener Park

One day Match (30 overs) 14th Sept 19

Peninsula batting first 10/82 in 27.2 overs def by SPXYellow 0/84 in 14.3 overs at Kitchener Park Mona Vale.... Yes folks 0/85 in 14.3 overs.

The first day of a new season is a wonderous thing. The enthusiasm and excitement is something you just wish you could bottle and keep in the kit bag for later in the summer.

Not even a winter of late night Ashes viewing could tire the enthusiasm amongst the boys on this fine spring morning.

A new season, a new team. Boys spanning years 7 to 9, all keen to show off their skills, and there is plenty to be seen, based on this performance

Will Pavely carried on from last year's amazing run of winning tosses and sent in the opposition.

Gus McConnell (2/5) and Mitch McGrath (1/8) opened the attack and both took a wicket in their 2nd overs.

Our boys stamped their authority on this match right from the outset with good accurate bowling, a bit of swing and sharp fielding.

Peninsula's best were at the crease, and with some lofty hitting, they quickly pushed the run rate up to 4 an over to reach 3/51.

Our spinners then put the brakes on, with Patrick Frost (2/11), and Cormac Molloy (3/5) who was in outstanding form tearing through the middle and lower orders.

Ben O'Reilly and Oscar Macdonald also chipped in with a wicket each to complete a great team effort.

Peninsula's innings came to a close in the 28th over for 82 runs.

There was some outstanding fielding especially this early in the season. Jaiden Speter was solid behind the stumps with a good clean catch and a sharp stumping.

Other notable catches were taken by Gus, Ben, Oscar and Joel Austin.

After the innings break we commenced our innings and before you could say "how many to go", our openers had clocked up the winning runs inside 15 overs.

Jaiden (43 no) and Keelan (38 no) made batting look very easy and were untroubled by the Peninsula bowling attack.

Jaiden's straight driving was just a pleasure to watch as he sent the ball to the boundary on 6 occasions, and Keelan was as strong as ever square of the wicket with 7 fours and a glorious 6.

All in all, a great way to start the season and bond a new team.

Next week we are up against last years undefeated champions so that will be a much tougher test.

Match Report – MWJCA Under 13 Division 1 SPX Black v/s Forest at Nolans Reserve

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