

St Pius 2nd 11 Cricket Term Report

Round one of the ISA season commenced with an away match against Central Coast Grammar 1st 11. Sent into bat, St Pius struggled on a sticky wicket, Luke Austin (33) led the batting before Pius was bowled out for 108. Despite unfavorable circumstances, the bowlers put forward a valiant effort pushing the game deep before Central Coast edged over the line at 8-112. Positive signs with the ball and areas to improve in the batting proceeded the following weeks home fixture against St Stanislaus' College 2nd 11.

The second round for the ISA competition saw Pius win the toss and elect to bat on an excellent surface at Oxford Falls. A disappointing performance saw Pius bowled out for just 94 and facing significant scoreboard pressure heading into the second innings. An inspiring bowling display from Max Lynn (4/14) and Lucas Gleeson (4/16) turned the match around to see St Stanislaus' bowled out for 68 and deliver St Pius a remarkable first win for the season. Advances in the batting were yet to arrive in the follow-up to the subsequent round against a strong Oxley College 1st 11.

In another home game, St Pius lost the toss and were put into bowl on what was once more a beautiful batting wicket in round 3 of the ISA schedule. Excellent bowling from Max Lynn (3/18), Lucas Gleeson (3/32) and Luke Austin (3/16) saw Pius maintain their standard in the field reducing Oxley to 125 from 40 overs. A far improved batting effort composed numerous partnerships; in particular, Thomas Lough led with a magnificent 70 not out guiding Pius home by 5 wickets. Back-to-back wins served to build confidence but a difficult matchup against St Augustines 2nd 11 would present an intriguing challenge for round 4.

In round 4, another lost toss resulted in Pius taking to the field on a hot day at Nolans Reserve. Missed chances and noteworthy batting from the opposition led St Augustine's to compile a challenging 223-8 from 50 overs. St Pius were completely outplayed in the batting with Toby Moran (34 not out) the only batter to reach double figures in an unimpressive total of 64. Pius looked to rejoin the winning circle next week against Chevalier College 1st 11 at Oxford Falls.

Round 5 began positively when St Pius made use of another magnificent pitch with several batters contributing to the team's highest total of the season thus far. Victor Mosman (62), Thomas Roche (29) and Toby Moran (44) highlighted the scorecard as Pius ended their innings at 10/203. St Pius capitalized on scoreboard pressure with Lucas Gleeson (4/23) and Darcy Mills (2/5) making outstanding contributions. Chevalier were bowled out for 131 in 37.2 overs, a convincing win before round 6's rival matchup against St Patrick's College Strathfield.

The final round for Term 4 of the ISA season, commenced with St Pius winning the toss and electing to bowl first on what appeared a perplexing wicket. St Pats made a strong start reaching first drinks just one

wicket down. However, the Second XI produced a strong fightback and won the momentum back managing to limit St Patrick's to 182. Bowling figures from Christopher Mander (3/14 off 8.2 overs) and Luke Austin (3/32 off 9 overs) were of note. A shaky start was quickly assured as Toby Moran (67) and captain Thomas Roche (72 not out) batted brilliantly to take the game away from St Pats and deliver an exceptional finish to the ISA term.

In the words of Skipper Tom Roche, the first half of the season was "impressive, exciting and quality" The whole team has had a great start to the season, everyone contributing and displaying vigorous team spirit on the field. The team would like to pass their thanks on to coaches Mr. Stearn and Mr. Gillogly for their efforts, the parents for providing impeccable lunches and afternoon teas and of course, everyone who comes down to the games and supports the team.

As the second XI head into the break, they will be training hard and looking to impress next year when they face off against a strong team of Oakhill College Second XI.