

ISA Cricket Round 3: Sydney University 20/02/2021

St. Andrews Cathedral – St. Pius X College

Last weekend the Pius 2nd XI ventured over the bridge for a battle against the city boys, St Andrews. Sunshine lasted all day providing a hot morning leading into the afternoon. St Pius lost the toss and bowled first.

The opening batsmen were progressing to look comfortable after opportunities went their way, until 1st and 2nd changers Oscar MacDonald and Buzz McGrath took over and broke the partnerships. The St Andrews captain who looked striking with the bat was steering his side back onto the road, until red hot Josh 'Dicko' Dixon thought otherwise. His second ball disrupted the captain's castle whilst the city boys were in disarray. He and Will 'Paves' Pavely slowed the scoring drastically, whilst Dicko stayed lively in the field, swallowing three catches. Josh Overton coming on at the other end saw the Pius attack trying to spin the score back into our favour, and so they did. Overton taking quick back-to-back poles, missing out on a hatrick by a wishful outside edge not appearing to the umpires. Buzz McGrath closed out the innings with the Pius batsmen needing 109 to win.

The top six of the Pius batting line-up struggled against a consistent bowling attack. Two out of the six reaching double figures, with Josh Overton knocking 17 and Oscar McDonald top scoring with 21. A hard-fought innings by him alongside Liam Hunt and Spida McConnell gave the Pius boys a glimmer of hope. With the tail needing to wag, the pigs couldn't finish their food scraps, falling short by just 4 runs.

What started out as a game which should've be able to be tucked away in the back pocket turned into a tough loss for the Pius boys to absorb. The boys need to hop back on the horse this weekend with a win for the hops of a home final still at the end of the tunnel.

Correspondent: Oliver Fitzroy

Scorer: Mr. Richard O'Reilly



Match Report

St Pius X Under 17 Purple

St Augustine's Gold

Nolans 2

20-2-2021

One. Oh how do I love thee? Let me count the ways.... Bryce Courtenay wrote about its' power, John Farnham sung how lonely it was. It makes up 50% of the Binary Code symbols that makes all these computer gadget thingys work. It's probably the last word astronauts hear before the bonding relationship with the supreme deity reaffirms. It is even the name of the pool cleaner that is so often only clad only in spandex. Yes there is a lot that can be attributed to the term 'one'. But, especially, that's what the mighty Purples did on Saturday, we won, by one. Close finishes, we take them in our stride.

I think I mentioned the weather in my second report back in the Covid filled dark ages of 2020, something along the lines of 'it looks like rain' With Covid on the back foot, and the rise of Ross River Fever, it still is 'raining'. Grass is still growing exponentially. Nolan's Reserve looks like a painting from Turner. All that's missing is the lowing cattle. At one point on Saturday the northern end of Nolan's was disappearing in a fog of heavy rain and mist. The southern end, at the same time, there was full sunshine. Time to bring out the flippers- no not the swimming kind, the actual turners..... On a very damp and heavy pitch, these two bragging rights teams meet. From the onset, this game was going to be very evenly matched. St Augustine's gave us a bit of a touch up at last encounter, but the Mighty Purples have consolidated and melded into a fairly formidable unit. We lost the toss and as Attila the Hun stated once, "Change is good" or was it the bloke from the 'Don' smallgoods commercial, they are both as destructive as each other, the mighty Purples opened with Pat Frost and Aiden Wilson to create and secure a solid platform to build an innings. Well, not quite the MCC style of solid. Pat instantly took to the bowling as if he wanted to declare at 10 overs. He took out his bat marked 'long handle' and quite frankly, it was the only way a batsman was going to post any decent score-you had to go aerial with the velcro length grass. Lusty hitting was the order of the day in this environ. Value for shot making was nil. Or was it? If there is anything that marks the improvement, and there are many, but this one in particular, is how intelligent our batsmen are becoming. Thom Lough and Evan Ausling during their innings, never gave away anything. There was some exceptional stroke play that was unrewarded, but the adaption of the play made the quick single, strike rotation crucial in the determination of this game. They were both rewarded with 'Nots' to their name, no mean feat given the St Augustine's bowling. Our middle order- well this needs work, testament to the St Augustine's bowling in this topsy-turvy match. We did stagger, falter and wobbled a bit in mid-order moving from 2-51 at 15 overs to 3-75 at 20 overs. 24 runs in 30 deliveries.... There is however a new lad, that will remain nameless at this stage for the fear of losing him to 'higher powers', that came in at the end of the innings. The addition of these valuable runs, and to frustrate the St Augustine's line-up, was inspirational. Jesse Mansbridge is a mainstay. Opps.



From the Manly Creek end

Bowling- did I mention Turners. Would Josh Mitchell please stand up. Chatting about the 'table' as you do, sources state that this is his first season in cricket. Total admiration here. That bloke can spin better than Paul Keating. Josh bowled that soapy pill 'on the spot'. Steve Smith would have had trouble with these deliveries. Josh' path was set by our opening and 1st drop 'quicks'. Reminiscing of the West Indies mid 80's with the likes of – oh doesn't matter, we all know them, Jesse Mansbridge, Ollie Hunt, Tom Kennedy and Andrew Guerra kept St Augustine's well on the back foot. To compare, SPX at the completion of 15 overs was 2/51. St Augustine's- 2/50. Did someone, mention one. Enter Pat Frost, Evan Austling and Thom Lough in our 'go to' description -swing, cut, deviation, dip and bounce deliveries, it was going to be a close run thing. Full credit to all bowlers and the supporting field.

For SPX, we needed 12 deliveries to bowl or snare 3 wickets, or for St Augustine's - 12 runs to win, probably the best authored setting for a result that you can achieve from a game of cricket. Both sets of spectators came together in this most dramatic of finishes. Players, coaches and managers ringed the boundary, the tone of the game was definitely hushed. When it came down to literally the last ball of the innings for St Augustine's to score 2 runs to win, 1 run to secure a tie, the Mighty Purples held their cool. The lads had a task and it was focussed. When 2 runs were required from the last delivery, the panic set in. St Augustine's tripped at the line enabling a very memorable win to the Purples. Full credit to Evan for the last over- no pressure there dude....

Results

SPX Purples 7-121 (off 30 overs) def St Augustines College Gold 7-120 (off 30 overs)

Batting

P Frost 15

Evan Ausling 25*

Thom Lough 18 Ret*

Jesse Mansbridge 15*

Bowling

J. Mansbridge 6O, 1M, 0-17

E Ausling 5O, 1M, 2-17

T. Lough 3O, 0M, 2-14

Match Report , Saturday 20 February 2021

MWJCA Under 15: Round 13

SPX Yellow vs St Augustine's Green

Nolan's Reserve , North Manly

St Augustine's Green – 6 for 151 at the end of the 30th over.

SPX Yellow – all out for 92 in the 26th over.

St Augustine's win by 59 runs

After a wash out the week before against the St Augustine's White side, "*Ground Hog*" day returned for SPX Yellow with a match against the second of the St Augustine's side , *Augustine's Green* at Nolan's oval North Manly.

The team arrived to a Nolan's ground to be greeted with the usual condition of long grass in the outfield and a layer of morning dew several centimeters thick to cover the whole pitch and outfield. This was always going to be a bat first decision for the toss and unfortunately as the home team, our opponents called correctly to bat first and bowl later that morning once the sun had poked itself through the cloudy skies.

SPX bowling trio of Darcy Keenlyside and Declan Carroll went about their usual craft in bowling excellent line and length to open the bowling innings, with Darcy dislodging the off stump bail of the Augustine's opener in the 5th over. With confidence growing in the SPX bowling contingent , the red kookaburra ball was slowing getting wetter and softer and attempts to dry it between overs was futile. With a wet and soft ball to contend with, the Augustine's batting pair commenced its batting master class of the day , with their number three batsman particular savage on the SPX spin bowling and seamers. It was a chanceless innings by the Augustine's batter who retired not out at 55 and with the score at 1 wicket down for a 115. With a further 11 overs to come and the possibility of having to chase a score around 170 / 180, the SPX bowlers knuckled down to slow the scoring and retire the St Augustine's innings at a score of 151.

The highlight of the SPX bowling was Xander Buckingham's figures of 3 overs, 1 maiden 2 wickets for 9 and considering this is Xander's first season of cricket, his development over the summer months is a credit to the work he puts in each week at training. Other bowling notables were Lachlan Jurcevic with 3 overs, 2 wickets for 17; Darcy Keenlyside with 3 overs 1 wicket for 6; and Antony DiMauro 4 overs 1 wicket for 19.

With a batting target that was never going to be easy on a slow outfield, the SPX top order batsmen battled hard to try and develop partnerships to keep ahead of the scoring rate and also try and hit shots over the infield given the long grass. The lone survivor of the top order was the teams "*Mr. Consistency*" in Lachlan Jurcevic who retired not out at the 15th over with the SPX score at 4 for 60. *Ground Hog* day unfortunately saw another middle order collapse by SPX Yellow with the tail enders also sacrificing their wickets for an unlikely win. With SPX Yellow bowled out for 92 in the 26th over, the boys came off knowing it wasn't their best effort of the year in either batting, bowling or fielding, with extras again providing 24 extra runs to the St Augustine total.

Notable batters for SPX Yellow were Lachlan Jurcevic with 29 and Andrew May with 10 as no other SPX Yellow batter reached double figures on the day.

With most of the boys disappointed at the effort, and all in agreement it was their poorest showing of the year, each agreed there was much work to do yet to guarantee a place in the finals and that hard work would commence at training on Thursday.

Sometimes though it's not your day and you have to respectfully applaud the St Augustine's batter who returned later in the St Augustine's innings to finish 71 not out.

The boys will regroup and come back stronger next week.

Tony DiMauro
SPX Yellow Manager

Cricket Report

SPX U14 Oxford Falls

On Saturday, we played the other SPX U14 team at the world-renowned Oxford Falls. We started the day with the toss, we lost and SPX Red elected to bat, it all went downhill from here.

The openers for SPX Red were off to a flier – we had a few drops catches which could've changed the game. We finally got a breakthrough in our first wicket with Max clean bowling one of their batsmen, followed by Will Z doing the same. With Tom M and Chris M both taking 2 wickets a piece, and Will L also taking 1 wicket, it wasn't enough to stop SPX Red from scoring 139 runs. It didn't help that there was around 7 dropped catches – our catching was so bad, we couldn't've caught COVID-19 on the Ruby Princess.

We went in to bat with Nathan and Chris opening the batting, but it wasn't enough to chase down 140. All batsmen got out cheaply, with Tom Carroll with the only score over 10, top scoring at 13 runs. We were a couple players short from 11, but a notable mention must go to Dan Carroll for filling in for us and taking one for the team - when he got hit by the ball in the stomach. A great final wicket partnership between the Carroll brothers wasn't enough to chase down 140 runs.

I'm sure the boys be ready to play their best and take on Collaroy at Nolan's next Saturday

Darcy Mills

Match Report
SPX Gold U13 Def Seaforth Stingrays

Warriwood Valley Sports Ground

20-2-21

SPX Gold headed to Warriewood Oval under threatening skies, but feeling refreshed after last week's washed out round. The outfield was very thick due to the favourable growing conditions of late, but as the covers were removed it revealed a good firm deck with an even covering of green grass. Captain O.G.H. Freeman had the duties with the coin well under control, but the Seaforth skipper called correctly and chose to bat first.

With a heavy dew still on the ground it was J.Baker who opened the bowling from the southern end with T. Moran doing the heavy lifting from the other end. It was up to R.Chang to claim the first wicket, cartwheeling the openers middle stump. L.Opie claimed his first pole but with the score at 2-34 the Seaforth boys were holding their own before Opie struck again. Smart fielding from Baker had the keeper Freeman in possession of the ball with the Seaforth batsmen well short of his ground. A solid catch by Opie at square leg and a spectacular diving effort from R.Meares at deep backward point had R.McCallum (2-7) smiling, whilst Opie (3-6) finished off a great spell finding an edge that stuck firmly in Freeman's gloves. L. Gleeson was warming up whilst D.Carroll bowled the 16th over. Carroll rolled out his usual bag of tricks with the now familiar caught and bowled off the last ball. Seaforth all out for 47.

The Pius run chase took just four overs as our openers punished the Seaforth bowlers. SPX 0-49, R. McCallum 28* off 14 balls and D.Carroll 16*off 13 balls.

All done by 9:30am which gave Gleeson's Nan enough time to make her Aqua aerobics class!