

ISA Cricket Round 6: Strathfield 28/11/2020

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

Saturday the 28th was the first day in history, where a game of cricket was played in an oven, but not just any oven, an oven named Breen Oval. With temperatures comfortably above 40°C, the match was abandoned with a draw the result, meaning the ISA Metro Competition winners reign from the concrete jungle, congratulations to the Pius 2nd XI boys.

St Pats won the toss and elected to bat, a choice which was encouraged by the Pius boys. Olly Fitzroy took an early wicket, forcing the Pats captain to depart on the second ball of the match. Along came Ben O'Reilly, breaking a strong partnership early in his first over, he finished with figures of 3/37 off 7 overs. Buzz McGrath also had a day out with the ball, which is all we expect from Buzz, he took 3/24 off 9 overs. An energy was alive in the field which held the Pats batsmen under pressure, finishing all out for 188 runs.

After a well-deserved lunch break in the air conditioning, the odd couple Ben O'Reilly and Saddles Blazey went out to do a job, with a Championship on the cards. Ben went bang early, scoring boundary after boundary, until he bit off more than he could chew. Keelan Mendel was the man who came to the crease, the in-form maestro himself, going about his work the only way he knows how, putting the bad balls to the fence. After 20 overs the umpires called the game to a close, with temperatures deemed to dangerous to continue. This saw Saddles and Keelan both unbeaten on 29 and 49 respectively.

The result of a draw saw the Blue and Gold finish on top of the ISA ladder, taking the title of Metro Competition winners, the first Metro title in history. The Pius boys have worked hard this year, both in game and at training. The season continues into next year, with a further 5 games to be played before the final's series. Well done to the mighty 2nd XI.

Correspondent: Oliver Fitzroy

Scorers: Mr. Heath Fitzroy, Mr. Anthony McGrath

Match Report , Saturday 28 November 2020

MWJCA Under 15: Round 7

SPX Yellow vs Cromer

St Pius College Bottom Oval, Oxford Falls

SPX Yellow – 6 for 169 in the 30th over

Cromer – all out for 94 in the 28th over

SPX Yellow win by 75 runs

It was back to the home ground for SPX Yellow for this week's round 7 game against Cromer in the MWJCA under 15's. With very hot and uncomfortable conditions expected by mid-morning, the toss was won by Cromer and with no great surprise they decided to bowl and field in the cooler morning conditions.

SPX Yellow opened the batting with its reliable opening pair of Lachlan Jurcevic and Flynn Pavely, with both openers showing strong early signs of another good opening stand. Lachlan was the first wicket to fall with the score on 44 to a swinging ball into the pads, with his opening partner Flynn following soon after. With the openers now back in the pavilion it was Victor Mosmann who steadied the ship and with Nikolai Dimantha also at the crease the two put on a solid partnership to have SPX Yellow comfortably placed at 3 for 80 at the halfway mark on the innings. With the temperature now over 30 degrees by 9.00am, some wonderful late batting from the ever-improving Darcy Keenlyside (who reached his best ever batting top score) and Antony DiMauro saw the team close their innings at 6 wickets down for 169. Special mention goes to Victor Mosmann who hit a wonderfully crafted 49 and who was unlucky not to reach his half century having been caught out on his last ball before his compulsory retirement. Other notable scores on the day was, Flynn Pavely with 26 and Darcy Keenlyside with 23.

With the temperature now hovering around 33 degrees and the team well hydrated, SPX Yellow opened their bowling attack with Declan Carroll and Eamon Boyle, with Declan making the break - through in his second over of the day with a lovely swinging ball that was adjudged to be hitting the middle stump of the Cromer opener. A mix up in calling saw second Cromer wicket fall and the Cromer team was now well behind the run rate and two wickets down for not so many. The combination of the oppressive heat and early exhaustion saw a number of half chances dropped by the SPX Yellow fielders as they squeezed the life out of the Cromer run rate but found it difficult to see further wickets fall. A re-think at the 15 over break along with an intake of fluids saw normal transmission resume, with Ben Vacarella and Nikolai Dimantha the chief destroyers of the Cromer middle order, with now Cromer the team melting away on the 35 degree as they battled to reach the 30 over mark.



The return of Declan and the introduction of Victor Mosmann saw the end of the Cromer innings for 94 in the 28th over just as the umpires were about to question the rule. Highlights of the SPX bowling innings was a wonder outfield catch by Lachlan Jurcevic that wouldn't look out of place in the Big Bash and Flynn's normal one handed first slips catch which you can never get sick of seeing.

The match ended just in time for SPX Yellow as many of the boys were nearing heat exhaustion and were in need of a rest. This contributed to the unusually high sundries for the innings and will be something the boys will need to watch if they are to go far in the season. With all the bowlers to be congratulated for their efforts in the terrible heat, notable mentions go out to Declan Carroll for 3 overs, 2 maidens 2 wickets for 2 runs, Ben Vaccarella 3 overs, 2 wickets for 4 runs and Nikolai Dimantha 3 overs, 2 wickets for 12 runs

Well played SPX Yellow and a special mention to parents Ravin Dimantha and Germaine Keenlyside who made sure the boys stayed well hydrated for the match.

Tony DiMauro

SPX Yellow Manager.

SPX U14 Green (6-150) Def St Augustine's College Gold (149)

The day started off with Pius winning the toss and elected to bowl, everyone enthusiastic and determined to play to the best of their ability in the heat. It was a slow start to the game with only two wickets however come second half the bowling kicked off with a bang with us managing to run them out by the 26th over with a total of 149 runs, due to the result of a tremendous team effort. Special mention in the bowling goes to Darcy Mills who bowled 3/12 and Josh Turner who bowled 2/1. 149 runs were a tough score to chase however SPX Green was eager to bat well and score some runs in the high temperatures. There was an excellent effort regarding batting, most notably was Max Spurr who got caught for 49 runs, Ziggy Gilleland who retired for 23 runs and Nathan Bund who was caught for 18 runs. We ended the batting on 6/150 winning the game due to an outstanding team effort. Special thanks go to the Mills who brought two tents to keep the boys in the shade in between batting during the intense heat. Overall a great team effort was put in by the boys, the coach, the managers and the parents, resulting in a spectacular win for SPX green.



Match Report
St Pius X Under 17 Purple
Forest
Melwood Oval
28-11-2020

Well, hands up who didn't enjoy that little Saturday morning of youthful cricket. Talk about warm. Even the hot pies in the local cake shop were looking for a fridge. And speaking of pies, we will get too them a little later. The mighty Purples ventured to Melwood Oval to play the comp leaders. Ahhh, Melwood Oval, with the fine looking expanse of green in the outer, the picket fence that encircles the playing area. It looks a picture. But-wait, how's this, the grass- it's plastic. The picket fence, its powder coated aluminium. Good Grief, there are aerial ping pong posts up each end. Its all fake- Fake views, Donald you were right all along!!! Melwood Oval for the uninitiated has an artificial playing surface that well, looks good from a distance, say Melbourne, but to this cricket tragic is a bit like viewing a Paul Gauguin exhibition in a 7-11, in this case, the experience just loses a lot of something. In any sort of heat, it tends to smell like old conveyor belt and has an abundance of unshaded, exposed and unwelcoming areas. Perfect conditions for installing another basal cell carcinoma or worse. The place is the lazy greenkeepers dream.

In rising temperatures that would make 'The Simpson' look balmy, the lads gathered, enthused by another encounter. As usual, the toss went the same way as so many others this season and we were sent into bat. It is no wonder that Forest are the comp leaders. There are some fairly sizable units in this team. The bloke with the beard that stood 6'4- well he clearly needed swabbing. Tight bowling from the Forest openers saw us under the thumb from the start. Our openers did a splendid job in coming to terms with the accurate and sometimes very short bowling. However a mix up in the calling for a quick single saw Thom chuck out the anchor to leave Ollie Clarke stranded mid pitch. A touch and go single- no blame apportioned. Evan Ausling is just getting better each match.

He seems to be developing great skills with the bat and is on the verge of a big innings. He and Thom Lough put on a solid partnership prior to Thom needing to retire at drinks. Pat Frost then to the wicket, still looking to dint the stock in the car yards at Brookvale. His innings of 23 (incl 4 x 4's) clearly indicated that it was hot under the helmet and quick singles should be avoided. He just didn't get all if 'it' when he holed out at deep long on- otherwise it would have been a goal. Do we get an additional 6 points there? The reminder of the batting provided some stoic efforts to minimum benefit as having 11 players in the field just seals those holes

At the change of innings, the heat was getting oppressively debilitating. Our opening bowlers came under heavy attack as they just bowled way to short- half trackers. Quick, but not providing the pressure required for defending such a small total. Stray deliveries ensured the Forest opening batsman were not troubled and they punished the bowlers accordingly. Probably a bit harsh on our bowlers considering the conditions as I think a great many would have done considerably worse in such environments. A breakthrough occurred in the 7th over when Evan Ausling took a snappy catch behind the stumps off Tom Kennedy, but the cards were falling - the damage done. On a positive note, Josh Mitchel his first 2 fa thanks to 2 great catches by Ollie Hunt and Andrew Guerra. Great work there all round

There are several points to take from this match. Clearly, we didn't score enough runs. We never got over 3 runs /over. We need to address that. The positives regarding the batting was that we lost minimal wickets. We had 2 x batsmen retire due to the 15 over rule and lost 4 wickets in our 30 overs. That's not bad considering we were playing the comp leaders. Regarding the bowling, that would have been difficult as explained. We did however bowl to short- in effect we bowled to the batsmen's strength and didn't pressure them at all. Something to consider. Many thanks to all that helped out on the day, in particular to the other Mr Frost that bought the treats.....!

Match results

SPX Purples (4-88 off 30 overs) defeated by Forest (3-92 off 13)

Evan Ausling 23*

Pat Frost 23

Josh Mitchell 30, 0M, 2-17

U13 SPX Gold Mid-Season Wrap-up

After seven rounds of the U13s div 1 competition the SPX Gold team are travelling quite nicely. Five wins, one loss and one very annoying washout, has the boys sitting second on the ladder with 2 rounds left before the break.

Round 1 vs Wakehurst Green @ Terrey Hills Oval.

Terrey Hills has been a happy hunting ground for SPX teams of late. The ground was in excellent condition, a good firm pitch with an even covering of green grass. After winning the toss and choosing to bat, Capt R. Chang sent the first ball of the season screaming to the boundary before clearing the fence with the very next delivery. The SPX boys enjoyed a solid hit with everyone getting amongst the runs, well everyone except O.G.H Freeman who was sitting out with a broken thumb. J. Patchett top scored with 47, solidly backed up by T. Moran 33. 8/209 off 30 overs looked to be a

competitive total. The SPX bowlers went to work with R. Meares removing the highly credentialed Wakehurst openers whilst his new-ball partner, L. Opie, bowled an excellent line keeping the ball pitched up at genuine pace. J. Baker and T. Moran grabbed two poles each as Wakehurst were sent packing in the 20th over. R. McCallum looked comfortable behind the stumps with two catches and three overs of left arm spin from L. Gleeson looked promising. Not a bad start to the season!

Round 2 vs Harbord @ Manly West Park.

Manly West Park is right next door to the Manly Council works depot, and as expected the ground was in excellent condition, a good firm pitch with an even covering of green grass and a quick outfield. Batting first the SPX boys got stuck in with R. Chang 24*, O.G.H Freeman 29*, R. McCallum 34* and J. Patchett 22*. SPX 4-143 after 30 overs looked defendable. The SPX bowlers were bowling a very tight line, backed up by excellent fielding. Capt R. Chang bought himself on and quickly had 2 wickets. Harbord were looking resurgent before D. Carroll executed a spectacular runout before snaring two wickets, both caught and bowled to finish the game in the 21st over.

Round 3 vs St. Augustine's @ Passmore Oval.

Play was abandoned due to rain and the state of the outfield. The pitch was quite firm with an even firm covering of green grass, but holding water.

Round 4 vs Seaforth Stingrays @ Passmore Oval.

Having lost the toss the SPX boys were having a bowl early. The ground was in excellent condition, a firm dry pitch with an even covering of green grass, the outfield was quite lush from the previous week's rain. L. Opie was under an injury cloud and R. McCallum was still under the blankets as we got underway! The bowling was tight, the fielding was effective, but we struggled to take wickets, 5-97 after 30 overs seemed an achievable total. The SPX run chase started then stuttered with both openers runout cheaply. A captain's knock from R. Chang 37* swung things back our way before T. Moran 18* saw us home in the 18th over.

Round 5 vs Seaforth Sixers @ Balgowlah Oval.

There was a very positive vibe among the group as we got ready this week. Tuesday afternoons practice at Oxford Falls was proving to be an excellent warm up for the Friday sessions at Koola park, and the hard work was about to pay off. Sent in first, both R. McCallum and O.G.H Freeman were batting beautifully with both retiring after 35balls. The left handed McCallum had been particularly strong square of the wicket, with anything short being dispatched. The rest of the SPX boys got stuck in with Gleeson 23* a highlight, but a late flurry of wickets saw McCallum and Freeman back in the centre. McCallum picked up where he had left off as he feasted on the Seaforth bowlers. Freeman 35* was focused on giving as much strike as he could to his partner, his smart and unselfish batting helped McCallum bring up his first fifty of the season, and the highest score of anyone in his family at this ground! 6-197 after 30 overs. J. Baker had the new ball duties with J. Patchett. The Seaforth openers were in for a rough time but survived a particularly hostile spell from Baker. D. Carroll cashed in, taking the first wicket with L. Opie joining in for the second. 2-29 and the Seaforth boys

were looking dangerous before Baker took a stunning catch off L. Gleeson, 3-63. A runout accounted for the next wicket before Meares (2-7) took time away from practicing his golf swing at square leg ,to join Gleeson (3-6) in putting the sword to the Seaforth batsmen in the 20th over.

Round 6 vs St Augustine's Gold @ Oxford Falls.

How could you not be excited about playing a home game on the Bottom Oval at Oxford Falls? The ground was in glorious condition, but then it always is. The outfield was fast and the pitch firm, with an even covering of green grass. R. Chang looked very sharp in his blazer as he ran second in the coin toss and St. Augustine's decided to have a bat. The SPX openers, Meares and Opie bowled full and fast, with both boys continually beating the outside edge before Opie sent the stumps flying. The left arm spin of L. Gleeson was too much for the St. Augustine's bats, 5-8 off four overs, an excellent reward for all the hard work he has put in during the winter. Baker blasted out the final two Augustine's batsmen just after drinks, all out for 56. A solid knock from Changa 20* saw the SPX boys reach their target one down in the 14th over.

Round 7 vs Peninsular @ Nolans Reserve.

The Peninsular team are leading the comp, which is why the SPX boys had been looking forward to this match. The temperature was already over 30degrees when Capt Chang won the toss and asked the Peninsular boys to have a bowl. The couch grass at Nolans # 6 ground is always thick, and the pitch was very firm with an even covering of green grass. The Pius boys were off to a solid but slow start as they struggled to find the gaps. McCallum fell first which saw Chang join O.G.H Freeman at the crease as they tried to get a move on. Next to go was Chang, 2-46. T. Moran was the next man in, solid, dependable, and goes about his cricket without any fuss. With O.G.H Freeman 21* in a rich vein of form, Moran 20* played the rock. Runs to Baker and Patchett before a late flurry from Carroll and Opie, saw the SPX total at 6-124 after 30 overs.

Meares took the new ball and proved to be quite economical with Opie doing the heavy lifting from the golf course end, but wickets were hard to come by. R. Chang and D. Carroll combined for a spectacular runout to get things started but the SPX bowlers were struggling in the heat. The drinks break could not come soon enough or last long enough for the Pius boys. Chang managed to snare an LBW, but the boys were cooked and the Peninsular bats helped themselves to some loose bowling and costly sundries helped them seal the win. The boys will benefit from this one and bounce back against Wakehurst Red next Saturday!