

# St. Pius X College – Chevalier College

ISA Round 10: 22/02/2020

(Away)

***The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI pulled off a remarkable comeback against Chevalier College in Bowral to win their final game of the regular season and finish minor premiers. Notable mentions go to Brad Power for figures of 4/13, Tom Wunsch for 43 and Josh Overton for 41.***

Minor Premiers! That's right, the mighty 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Pius cricket team have finished the regular season on top of the table after a nail-biting game in the chilly Southern Highlands against a resilient Chevalier College outfit. Pius were pushed to their limit against Chev, but in the end, they were a class above and stood up as a successful, unified team in the moments that mattered, a trait which will be vital for the upcoming finals series.

After winning the toss and electing to bat, Pius got off to the worst possible start losing Jackson Carrall in the very first ball of the game, a very rare feat from Jacko who picked up his first ever royal duck! However, a steady rebuild from Joel Austin (15) and Josh Overton (41) put the batting unit back on track, with Tom "the grill-master" Wunsch (43\*) keeping the runs ticking over after Joel got out. Boundaries were extremely hard to come by because of the slow outfield and long boundaries, so some very hard running kept the Pius boys in the contest, at the expense of batsmen Joel, Jude Boyle (3) and Ben O'Reilly (4), who were all involved in unfortunate runouts, an aspect of the batting unit which must be improved coming into finals. Some late hitting from the lower-order got Pius to a total of 8/129 after their 50 overs, lower than they would've liked, but on the Chev pitch and outfield, the Pius bowling cartel were more than confident of defending it, knowing from experience that they can defend low scores and still win convincingly.

So opening bowlers Nick Ward (3/18) and Rory O'Connell (0/23) immediately set out defending the total, and did well to keep Chev under pressure, leaving them 1/15 after 12 overs. It was the first-change bowlers who broke the game open, however, with Oscar MacDonald (3/25) and Brad Power (4/13) ripping through Chevalier's top order, who lost 4/3 and were left on the ropes at 5/33. A determined fightback from Chev's opener and number 7 kept them in the contest, and they slowly edged toward the total. Nick came back on and Pius finally got the breakthrough, in the form of a stunning wicketkeeper catch from Julien Hyde, and then another was taken soon after, but Pius continued to grow nervous as the Chev opener stuck around. At 7/119, and with Chev only requiring 11 runs off 40 balls for victory, Pius looked on track to suffer their second defeat in as many games. But instead of rolling over, knowing that they already had 1<sup>st</sup> place locked in, Pius showed *why* they were 1<sup>st</sup> place, standing up again in the big moments. Joel Austin took a stunning high catch under immense pressure to leave Chev 8/119, before Brad and Oscar finished Chevalier off for 123, including

finally removing their defiant opening batsman, and secured a tight but impressive 6-run victory.

Its finals time now for the Pius boys, who finish the season as minor premiers and will play fourth-placed Oxley College in the semi-final at Oxford Falls! The way in which the team stood up against Chev on Saturday was incredible, and hopefully the same mentality can be brought into the Semi against Oxley, the other Bowral team of the competition. So make sure to get down to Oxford Falls this Saturday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of Feb – whether that be from the start of the game at 10am, or just for an hour or two during the day - and support the mighty 2<sup>nd</sup> XI as they look to finish an extremely successful campaign with an ISA premiership!

**Correspondent:** Nick Ward

**Scorers on the day:** Ms. Carla Austin, Mr Anthony Wunsch & Mr Nigel Ward

**Coach: Mr. Matt Stearn**