

CRICKET MATCH REPORTS

2nd XI Report – Trial Match v Blue Mountains Grammar – 19th October

A blue sky and, as has come to be expected at Oxford Falls, a beautiful outfield of green carpet greeted the newly-formed 2nd XI as they set out to finish their last trial match of the preseason with a win over the men from the mountains, Blue Mountains Grammar. The game was a different format to most, with both teams batting 40 overs, split into four quarters of 20 overs.

Skipper Brad Power wasn't fazed by the new format though, winning the toss and electing to bowl, giving the ball to Rory O'Connell (1/7) for the first over, and Nick Ward (3/7) at the other end, a tidy opening partnership which kept Blue Mountains to 2/14 off the first 8 overs. Jackson Carrall (1/8) and Kiefer O'Brien (1/19) continued the pressure, leaving Blue Mountains reeling at 4/37 after 16 overs. Ben O'Reilly (2/22) and Sam Walters (1/13) kept the wickets coming before Brad Power (3/6) came on at the start of the 2nd fielding innings and bowled one of the spells of the day picking up three wickets and two maidens. Part-timers Joel Austin (1/8), Josh Overton (1/12) and Will Pavely (1/2) came in and kept taking wickets before Kiefer and Nick finished the innings, with three wickets in the last over. A brilliant overall effort in the field from Pius, with 18 wickets being taken overall, all ten bowlers taking at least one wicket and Julien Hyde taking a catch and only conceding one bye all innings as keeper. Blue Mountains were bowled out for 81 and, since it was a trial, they kept batting and finished with 18/105 off their full 40 overs.

Pius was just as successful with the bat, posting a grand total of 167 off of our 40 overs. Jackson and Josh (21) opened the batting, with Josh in particular providing a great platform for the middle order to excel. Notable mentions from a great middle order were Jude Boyle (49), who came excruciatingly close to a half-century, Ben (31) who looked as good as ever with the bat, and Brad (21) who came up with a handy knock near the end of the innings. The one problem, if any, that the team had was a tail which failed to wag, with only 11 runs being scored after the 7th wicket fell. Photographer, Tom Wunsch (432 photos) however, was on point, with some brilliant photos being taken that I'm sure will feature in Woodchatta this week.

Overall, it was great to see the Pius 2nd XI come up with a dominant win in our last trial game before the season starts, and the first real test for this in-form team will be Chevalier College, the 2nd XI champions of last season. So hopefully everyone can get down to Oxford Falls next week to get behind the Seconds as they begin their season.

To sum up the Blue Mountains Trial in one phrase, I would say: "Promising beginnings."

Contributor: **Nick Ward**

Scorers on the day: **Ms. Leanne Power & Mr. Nigel Ward**

Match Report: St Pius X Under 16
Cromer-Collaroy Plateau
Cromer Park 19-10-2019

Well, firstly may I say that I now have a fascinating insight into how Eddie Jones feels. We've done the Michael Cheika thing, without, at this stage the resignations. The game of cricket will never cease to surprise me. There have been some amazing events in the game over the years. Who can forget the 5-0 drubbing of the England team at Sydney to win 'The Ashes' back. Who can forget Steve Waugh's comment to Hansie Cronje in the one day world cup final in South Africa a while back, or the beautiful fluid motion of a Michael Holding delivery, unloading a whole truckload of terror to any batsman [or for that matter, all the West Indian quicks from the late 70's to early 90s']. But today we witnessed an event that was nothing short of brilliant. It was the catalyst required that continues to galvanise the lads as a 'team'



The Skipper rolling the arm- showing the way

There were so many fine individual performances within the team. It all started with the coin toss. OK probably not a great deal of skill in that, but the last time I was at a two up game, it can be said that some people struggle there. SPX won the toss and elected to bowl, again those ghosts of the game rustled, snorted and stirred. The game got off to an interesting start in that Peter Sundry got off the mark near immediately. Combining this with the Cromer- Collaroy Plateau [CCP] batsmen's efforts, SPX was bleeding runs and it was clear that something needed to be done to stop it. After 4 overs, CCP were 0-21. After the 4th, the lads hit their straps. Scoring was severely reduced, and the consistent probing of all the bowlers, in particular, Thomas Kennedy, Blake Hoolahan, Luke Massa and the ever consistent Josh Dixon finally paid off in the 11 over, where a sharp catch to Ronan Crispe tilted the much needed momentum pendulum to SPX. Overs went, wickets tumbled. The fielding was tight with some great catches held and a very sharp stumping by Liam Hunt. After 30 overs, Cromer- Collaroy Plateau was restricted to 8-120.

At this point in time, I must give my sincerest apologies to the team on a comment I made to Mr Clarebourgh at the change of innings. That's a tour thing and will remain between us, but the quality of our batting today was exceptional and I'm eating pie. Luke Massa and Dave Mooney opened the batting with nothing but determined intent. The CCP opening bowling pair were delivering some fairly serious stuff, combined with a bit of chin music that would have un-nerfed the best of us. There was some very quick deliveries out there. Needless to say, they both handled it with aplomb and flair.

David broke the impasse by pounding a beautiful lofted on drive to the boundary in the 4th over. That just simply rattled the CCP bowling line up. In the 3rd over SPX was 0-4. By the 9th over SPX was 0-50. An entertaining and classic opening stance between David and Luke cemented a very strong position to build a great win. There was lots of intelligent batting. Quick positive singles taken to place the fielding team under pressure. Lads-excellent running! The boundaries were plentiful and wonderful to watch from all our batsmen. The fall of the first wicket at 52 saw Liam Hunt to the crease. Not sure what was said to Liam on the way out, but he got off the mark instantly with a withering drive back over the bowlers head, one bounce into the boundary. In the true spirit of the game, and to follow SPX ethics and doctrine, I'm sure no return comment was made!!! Unfortunately a short time later, Luke was caught at extra cover which bought the skipper into bat. Nice to see the skipper David Thirugnanaraj, getting into the action with a solid 22NO. The lad is all class but hasn't had the best of starts this season. Well, he turned a corner today and ironed out them 'yips
There is definitely an understanding developing here. It is beautiful to watch. Nice one guys. A fantastic effort from all.



Playing for the draw

Stats

SPX purple 2-120 [25 overs] defeated Cromer Collaroy Plateau 8-119 off 30 overs

Bowlers

Tom Kennedy- 6O, 1M, 2-18

Josh Dixon -5O, 1M, 1-10

Luke Massa-3O, 1M, 2-4

Will Harper-3O, 1M, 0-10

Blake Hoolahan-3O, 0M,0-8

Batting

Luke Massa 25

David Mooney 17

Liam Hunt 36 NO

David Thirugnanaraj 22 NO

SPX ORANGE

Following a lengthy break between innings for SPX Orange, predominantly caused by bad weather several weeks ago and a scheduled bye in Round 3, the Round 4 game against St Augustine's Green saw the team travel to Passmore oval Manly on a sunny spring morning. With the field uncharacteristically cut low for this time of year, it was a good toss for SPX Orange to win on what was still a dewy outfield.

SPX Orange opened the bowling with its now well entrenched pace duo of Darcy Keenlyside and Oliver Hunt. Darcy commenced where he left off in the last match by taking a wicket in the first over of the day, through a sharp catch taken by Oliver Hunt at mid-on. Oliver not wanting to miss out on the wickets also took a wicket in his first over of the day with the help of a leg stump Yorker which saw the batsmen off and leg stump hurtle back several meters. With both opening bowlers producing a fearsome opening spell, St Augustine's had lost three early wickets for 21 runs by the time both boys completed their allotted three overs. With St Augustine's thinking they had seen the back of the quicks for the day, William Staber and Justin Park came together in a bowling partnership that tore through the St Augustine's middle in very quick time. William Stabers first bowling spell for the session, produced three wickets for six runs with two wickets bowled with balls that swung in from off stump to rock middle stump, and the third wicket would have produced the same result if not for the batsmen placing his pad in front and being judged LBW. Once again not to be outdone Justin Park took three wickets for five runs bowling in tandem from the other end with the St Augustine's team clueless to his finger spin and variation in balls and flight. It was a master class of spin bowling by Justin. With the St Augustine's team now down to the tail enders Tom Lough came on to take the final wicket to see St Augustine's innings close after 17 overs with a meagre and modest 38 run total.

With a small run total to chase, SPX openers in James Maloney and Nick Green made light work of the run chase achieving the total in the 7th over. Special mention to Nick Green who showed all his power and skills in hitting five boundaries in his total of 25 not out with the ball dispatched to all parts of the field in what was an example of lusty power hitting from the accomplished opener. James Maloney played his typical anchor role for the team happy to watch the Nick Green batting show from the other end of the crease.

Another resounding win for the team with special mention to the bowlers who set up the morning for an early close with bowling highlights from Justin Park (3 wickets for 5 runs), William Staber (3 wickets for 6 runs) and Darcy Keenlyside (2 wickets for 9 runs).