

CRICKET MATCH REPORTS

St Pius 2nd XI, 1/76 defeated Oakhill 2nd XI 75

(T Ventura 2/12, O Sheehan 3/14, D Greenland 2/10
A Graffeo 41no, T Ventura 29no)

Sat 12th Nov - St Pius 2nd XI Cricket played host to Oakhill College at Chaplin Oval, Oxford Falls. A chance to assess progress playing a team we visited 2 weeks earlier; which team had taken learnings from this earlier encounter and developed the most?

The first test showed little evidence of change, we lost the toss but got the preferred outcome, as with the first game.

Despite an early morning downpour, the ground staff's preparation was faultless, a wonderful looking pitch offering a fair contest with rewards to bat and ball for hard work.

Opening the bowling D Hall (1/5) & D Greenland (2/10) continued their impressive partnership, the Oakhill batsmen were continuously denied a chance to find momentum. 2/0 became 3/5. A minor glimpse of hope for Oakhill from two 18 run partnerships were snubbed out by effective bowling changes by Captain Ventura. The final pair of O Sheehan (3/14) & T Ventura (3/12) ended proceedings in the 35th over with only 75 runs on the board.

With fifty minutes to lunch the SPX openers strode out, instructions to bat as normal, stick to the plan of 1/40 in 10 followed by 2/40 of the next 10. Do the sums, that's the game. Sheehan bubbled a little too much eagerness and was out without scoring but Ventura and Graffeo met the target, 1/48 at lunch, and then easily accounted for the remaining 28 after lunch in the 19th over.

There is a lot to be said about batting to a plan, it relieves stress, gives clarity, allows freedom of expression and a sense of responsibility to flow from top to bottom of the order. It also allows batsmen to celebrate knowing they achieved what was asked, win lose or draw.

Winning with 2 bonus points is obviously worth celebrating but there is still work to be done, more training, more understanding, more teamwork.....more fun!

Mr A Slack

Please click on the photo gallery in the newsletter for a selection of pictures taken by Mr Mark Kelleher.

SPX 2nd XI – 12/11/16, Round 4

SPX 2nd XI 1/76 (A Graffeo 41*, T Ventura 29*) defeated Oakhill College (T Ventura 3/12, O Sheehan 3/14, D Greenland 2/10)

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Alex Slack

SPX U13 Black – 12/11/16, Round 6

SPX Black 9/115 (J Sheather 33, W Harper 22, C Sharp 22) defeated by Mosman McCabe 4/118 (C Sharp 2/9)

Round 6, it was great to be back at home on what was a hot Saturday afternoon. We won the toss and had no hesitation in electing to bat. Unfortunately, it was not the start that we had hoped for after losing an early wicket. Charlie Sharp (22) looked like he was set, unfortunately he was the second to go and the team found themselves at 2/26 in the 7th over. Harry Melloy (10) batting at no. 3 looked comfortable and set for a big score, before being unfortunately dismissed from a brilliant catch from the Mosman boys. At 3/35 and then 4/36 we were in need of a partnership, unfortunately wickets continued and when we lost our 5th at 48 a sub 80 score looked likely.

As we seen so often, partnerships are the key and all the boys, parents and coach were please to witness a dominating display by Josh Sheather (33) batting at no. 7 and Will Harper (22) batting at no. 8. The boys were great, shifting the momentum scoring at nearly 5 an over taking the team score past the 100 mark with a 58 run partnership. As the innings closed we managed to post 9/115. A pleasing result given the position we found ourselves in.

Mosman's openers started well, our first wicket came in the 11th over, a run out with a direct hit from Charlie Sharp with the score at 49. Unfortunately, our next wicket didn't come until the 22nd over where the score was 97. At this stage in the game and given the hot conditions we came off for our second drinks break, they needed 19 of the last 9 over (54 balls) with 8 wickets still in hand.

With the game all but lost we managed to slow the flow of runs and deliver dot ball after dot ball in the last 10 overs. With two overs to go, they still need 3 runs to win, we started to think the impossible was possible. They got there with 8 balls left but again the boys showed their determination with both bat and ball to come back when we were down and almost out.

Well bowled to Flynn McDonald (3 runs off 3 overs), Luca Satnarine (4 runs off 2 overs) and Harry Melloy (1 for 6 off 3) who all maintained the pressure and delivered the dot balls.

Anthony Nicey

SPX U14 Green – 05/11/16 & 12/11/16, Round 6

SPX Green 99 (RM Kennedy 27, T Colgan 27) defeated by Peninsula Scorchers 7/232 (J Power 2/13, O Fitzroy 2/13)

Let's call the Round 6 contest for SPX Green "character building".

With what could only be described as perfect conditions for batting at Oxford Falls, the home side lost the toss and the Peninsula Scorchers had no hesitation in batting first in the two-day match.

Ollie Fitzroy took the new ball for SPX Green and had immediate success much to the delight of the Pius faithful, the visitors were 1 for 6. At the other end Brad Power showed great pace

and control to clean bowl the other opener and it was 2 for 13. But wait, it got better, without a further run being added to the total, Fitzroy picked up his second wicket and the new at Watkins Oval scoreboard had never looked so good, illuminating the numbers of 3 for 13.

But now it's time to roll out some wonderful sporting clichés, like "cricket is a funny game" and let's throw in "catches win matches". Well, both are true, just ask SPX Green. In a frustrating short period three catches hit the beautifully manicured turf of Watkins Oval and to their credit Peninsula made the most of their chances. SPX Green had lost their chance of breaking some middle order partnerships with Peninsula building a massive total of 7 for 232, which also included 5 runs when a stray helmet was struck on the field. Do you get the feeling it was turning into one of those forgettable days.

After keeping for at least 25 overs, James Power chipped in with 2 for 13 off 4 overs. Fitzroy also posting the impressive figures of 2 for 13.

Day Two, overnight rain and morning thunderstorms had management contemplating play or not. After only a thirty minute delay play was underway and SPX Green had the character building challenge of trying to chase down 233 for a famous victory.

Under overcast skies with the ball swinging, SPX Green lost three quick wickets to some impressive bowling. In fact, we were 3 for 6, but giving up wasn't on the agenda. Joe Colgan steadied the ship, continuing his stellar season. Colgan formed an energetic half century partnership with Riley Kennedy before disaster struck. In an attempt to keep turning over the strike Colgan responded to a call and was just caught short of his ground on 27. Shortly afterwards Kennedy danced down the pitch once too often and was stumped for 27 in a nice piece of work from the Peninsula keeper. Pius now 5 for 78 and in deep trouble.

Georde Coulits (9 not out) played his role trying to hold the lower order together, but SPX Green was all out for 99 in just 33 overs.

I'm convinced SPX Green did learn some crucial lessons from the contest, and there's no doubt the team has the ability to turn those harsh cricket lessons into positives for the rest of the season.

We are blessed to be back at Oxford Falls for our next two day match against Collaroy Plateau Charges.

Terry Kennedy

