

Match Report, Saturday 6 February 2021

MWJCA Under 15: Round 11

SPX Yellow vs Wakehurst Green

St Pius College Ovals, Oxford Falls

Wakehurst Green – 5 for 131 after 30 overs

SPX Yellow – 7 for 132 in the 27th over

SPX Yellow win by 3 wickets

As the saying goes *“There’s no other place like home”* and that summed up the feeling of SPX Yellow as it returned to Oxford Falls for its round 11 game against the second of the Wakehurst sides, having fallen short the week before against the top Wakehurst side.

With Google reporting rain by 10.30 am, SPX Yellow knew it was going to be another challenging game that could be determined by the weather. Having lost the toss and asked to bowl, the boys would need to address the extra’s problem of the week before to avoid a large run chase. With the SPX Yellow batting and bowling line up all but settled for the year, SPX opened the bowling with the usual duo of Declan Carroll and Darcy Keenlyside, with Darcy making the first break through of the Wakehurst openers in the 6th over of the day. Declan was his usual miserly self in runs conceded and both handed the bowling baton to the next bowling pair of Charlie Woolf and Nikolai Dimantha. Charlie was next to break through the Wakehurst defense, thanks to a sharp catch from Darcy Keenlyside as the Wakehurst batters failed to take advantage of a flat deck which should have made early batting much easier. The drinks break of the Wakehurst innings saw them at 2 down for 42 and in need of a rethink, however the resumption after the break was not so kind to Wakehurst as two quick wickets fell thanks to a wonderful spell of bowling from Ben Vaccarella.



With Wakehurst now struggling at 4 for 53, a mixture of sloppy bowling and fielding and a good Wakehurst batting partnership saw the next wicket fall at 119, and the Wakehurst team scratch its way to a respectable and defendable total of 131 at the end of the 30th over. Best Bowlers on the day for SPX Yellow were Ben Vaccarella 2 wickets for 20 from his three overs, Charlie Woolf 1 wicket for 11 and Darcy Keenlyside 1 wicket for 12 both from their respective three overs, and Flynn Pavely with 1 wicket for 5 from his sole two overs.

With SPX Yellow feeling the 131 chase was well below par for Oxford falls, the openers of Lachlan Jurcevic and Flynn Pavely commenced the SPX batting innings with their usual conviction. An unlucky run out of Flynn Pavely dampened the mood for SPX Yellow, however the partnership of Victor Mosmann and Lachlan would likely extinguish any doubt in the team. The next 13 overs from SPX Yellow was a masterclass of batting from Lachlan Jurcevic who produced every shot in the batting manual to send Wakehurst fieldsman scurrying in all directions. A mixture of local knowledge and fierce determination saw Lachlan accumulate his runs quickly as he averaged a strike rate throughout his innings of 125. As he was preparing to raise his bat for a well-deserved half century, a slip in concentration saw him caught at leg slip which left all the parents at the ground disappointed.

With SPX Yellow at 2 for 102 at the beginning of the 19th over, many were starting to think it was going to be an early finish before the rain. The run out of Victor Mosmann however saw unfortunately the timely, and all too often collapse of the SPX Yellow batting middle order to a mixture of good Wakehurst swing bowling and rash shots by SPX Yellow batters. With SPX Yellow now at 7 wickets down for 119 at the beginning of the 25th over, the mood was now distinctly one of concern. It was left to the ever-reliable Ben Vaccarella and the late order heroics of Darcy Keenlyside to steer the team home in the 27th over with both batmen grafting out the runs with a mixture of quick singles and nice stroke play.

With Lachlan's 49 runs providing the highlight of the day for SPX Yellow, other notable run scorers with Ben Vaccarella (12 not out) were Victor Mosmann 21 and Eamon Boyle 14.

Whilst a win at home should always be celebrated, SPX Yellow reflected on the improvement of extras donated in their bowling innings, but the all too familiar middle order collapse will need to be fixed over the next few games and most certainly well before the start of the finals.

Well played boys.

With Kind Regards,

Tony DiMauro