

CRICKET MATCH REPORT

St Pius 2nd XI 107 defeated by Chevalier 1st XI 9/190

(N Slack 4/10, J Furlan 34, N McLachlan 28)

For a third straight game the 2nd XI played host at Oxford Falls this time to our Southern friends, Chevalier. The Chaplin Oval pitch was at its usual sensational self and whilst we do repeatedly mention this, those that play across Sydney know our ground staff present a first grade pitch every week for our young men to play on.

Chevalier 1st XI brought the first genuine opposition this season, not to take anything from the other schools to date, but we were very well matched with both bat and ball. It was an exciting, welcome encounter and we will look forward to facing them again at the pointy end of the season.

Our opening bowlers each took early wickets but their run rate mirrored our own batting plan. 2/39 at the 10 over mark, 2/78 at 20. Chev's Harrod (75) and Weekes(29) shared a 90 run partnership broken only by R Kelleher in the 29. This didn't stem the tide as O'Shannessy continued to feed the strike to his senior batsman.

First ball after the second drinks break N Slack made the vital break through bowling Harrod and followed up in his next over with O'Shannessy. The first session suggested we might chase 250 but some tight SPX bowling kept them to 5/158 in the 46. Smart batting with wickets in hand saw Chev once again up the ante 10 an over for 3 overs forced Captain TV to turn to his ever reliable finisher Slack.

Last over ball by ball : Skied ball fielder made ground but dropped catch (1r), Skied ball caught, Skied ball caught (Tucker(27), edged short of slip attempted runout (2r), dot, attempted single runout to Furlan. (Over 3/3)

Sensational team effort under great pressure.

Chasing 190 is tough even at Oxford Falls, you need a good start and to bat deep. Relying on only one or two batsman gets you to 140. Chev's batting pair turned out to be all-rounders with them also opening the bowling, a tight start had us struggling, 3/16 off 10 was a long way off target.

Rayner and Furlan(34) steadied the ship for a few overs before N McLachlan(28) built a strong 30 run partnership with Furlan. The departure of Furlan saw another clump of wickets fall before N Slack joined McLachlan. The Two Nicks played sensible cricket without chance to navigate past the 40 over bonus point mark accumulating 35 runs as they went.

Despite the loss there are many good things to take from this game, our principal focus must be on batting to the conditions, Chev's bowling standard was no better than our own. We must expect to face this again and achieve a better outcome than our opposition, given that is the very definition of winning cricket.

Mr. A. Slack