

ISA Cricket Grand Final: Oxford Falls 13/03/2021

St Pius X College – St Andrews Cathedral

The big dance. The last hurrah. The last removal of the covers for the summer. The Pius boys hosted the St Andrews fellas for what was built up to be a perfect day of cricket, for the last time this summer. Both teams fought hard to claim their spots in the final, on a perfect pitch prepared every week by the ground staff. SACs won the toss and decided to bowl, which left the Pius boys in amazement.

The Chatswood batting line-up weren't going to take this chance for granted, batting first on a perfect autumn day. Openers Ben O'Reilly and Josh Overton set the tone to play with positivity, however both departing with misfortune. This brought in Saddles Blazey and Oscar MacDonald, who produced one of the strongest partnerships of the season. Saddles departing on a well made 43, with Oscar soon following with the top score of the game, 56. With little time left in the 1st innings, in came powerhouse Will Pavely, with a destructive finish which posted a comfortable score to defend. A bashful 47 from him left his team-mates inspired to defend our total of 183.

With pride set on our fielding standards all season, the Pius boys weren't prepared to have a slip up in any circumstance, especially with a premiership up for the taking. The Pius boys were chirpy and lively, which was kept alive all day from the two men behind the stumps, Liam Hunt and his partner in the cordon, Dools Aylmer. The session started with Olly Fitzroy hitting the stumps, along with a run out from Pavely, supported by Overton. The Andrews boys began to get a roll on, until the renowned best fieldsman in ISA, Oscar McDonald, cut off what was meant to be a boundary, then hit the one stump he had to aim at, running out the Andrews skipper just shy of 50. This set alight the spirits of the Pius boys, knowing the shield was just at the end of the tunnel. Buzz McGrath has fine memories of this mob, his debut taking two wickets in his first two balls of ISA cricket. He repeated this today, taking two poles to weaken the in-coming batsman. With the quicks coming back on, Olly Fitzroy struck three more times, finishing with figures of 4/12. With just two wickets left and 10 overs for the Andrews boys to score 100 runs, on came the Year 12 boys playing their last game of cricket for the school. Junior Clarke came on to bowl his tweakers, claiming his first and thankfully his only ISA wicket, along with Overton ripping down his leggies to close the game for the minor premiers.

What a season to remember. Starting off as Metro winners, to Minor Premiers, to Major Premiers. The Pius boys taking home the Division 2 Shield in style, and for some, back-to-back ISA champions. A special thanks must be made to superstar coach and manager, Mr Stearn and Mr Listo, along with groundsmen Mr Willoughby and Mr Noort, who week after week produce a magic track and outfield. The parents also, for not only the support all season, but for the mind challenging jobs of scoring. The boys deserved the win, and... Goodluck for those playing next year, lets make it a three-peat boys!

Correspondent: Oliver Fitzroy

Scorer: Mr. Hugh McConnell

