



ST PIUS X COLLEGE CRICKET CLUB

1st XI - Grand Final at Oxford Falls

SPX 101 defeated by Oakhill College 9/143

Last Saturday saw SPX 1st XI host Oakhill College in the final of the ISA First Division competition. After sitting in 5th position on the ladder prior to the final round in the regular season, it was a remarkable series of events that led SPX to its first 1st XI grand final appearance since 2015/16. However, the SPX ran into an impressive Oakhill team who were also on their own remarkable run, and while the boys put in a huge effort, this was not going to be a premiership day for SPX.

After rain had been threatening all week, Saturday arrived with a clear forecast, and the Oxford Falls ground presented in its usual top class fashion. All credit to Trent for preparing what is easily the top cricket ground in the ISA competition.



While the teams made use of the new warm up nets, the captains met the umpires in the middle for the all important toss. Luck went Oakhill's way, and they were very quick to put their hand up for a bat.



Liam Chang and James Power led the SPX attack, and kept the ball on a tight line and length. That, combined with the fielders putting into practice all their hours of fielding training during the week, saw SPX off to a strong start, as Oakhill were kept below a run rate of 2 per over.



While there were some close calls, it was first change bowler Duncan Dingley who struck first, with a good catch taken by Joe Colgan. Oakhill 1/19 after 13 overs.



Liam Kinna took the ball from James at the northern end, and tied down the Oakhill batsmen who struggled to get the scoreboard moving. However, it wasn't until the 26th over that the second wicket fell, when Liam grabbed a caught and bowled chance from the Oakhill No.3



Liam Kinna 1/13

While the SPX bowlers and fielders kept the pressure on, Oakhill wickets fell, but not at a rate fast enough to prevent them setting up for a late fightback.



Liam Chang returned for his second spell, taking two key middle order wickets, while Duncan Dingley also grabbed his second.



The fielders were doing their job, with Adam Greenwood, Laurence Sheehan, Joe Colgan (2) and Liam Kinna all holding on to the chances that came their way.







James Power 3/44

After 40 overs, Oakhill were 6/82, and SPX were looking at restricting the score to 120 or less. However, their No.7 batsman, Liam McCallum, had other ideas, and proceeded to launch an attack on the SPX bowlers, striking 45 runs and pushing the Oakhill total to 143

James Power finally removed McCallum in the final over, and ended up on a hat trick when Tyson grabbed an edge from the next ball, however by then, Oakhill had reached a very defendable target



Joe Colgan



Adam Greenwood

Following the lunch break, the SPX openers, Adam Greenwood and Joe Colgan came out to start the chase. After a nervous start, Adam and Joe started to settle in, and it looked as though a solid foundation was being laid. However, after striking a pair of boundaries, Adam lost his off stump and, after Joe was out chipping to mid wicket, the SPX innings never really managed to get firing.



Stuart Dingley



Charlie Sharp 26



Logan Nicey

Charlie Sharp was the pick of the SPX batsman, top scoring with 26 runs. However, when Charlie fell in the 33rd over, SPX was 5 for 66, and it was starting to look like a tough ask for the remaining batsmen.



Laurence Sheehan



Tyson McCallum

Liam Chang raised the home team hopes when he launched a delivery over the long-on boundary (subsequently dropped by one of the many SPX old boys who were supporting on the day!) However, the Oakhill bowlers kept their nerve, and the steady fall of wickets eventually left SPX 42 runs short of their first Division 1 premiership since 2014/15.



Congratulations goes to Oakhill College who were too strong on the day and finished worthy winners, having consecutively beaten St Stanislaus', St Patricks and SPX on their way to the 2019/20 premiership.





SPX Cricket would like to thank all the supporters who turned up to cheer the team on. As well as the 2nd XI, who play their grand final next Saturday, the team was supported by staff members, SPX district players and parents, as well as a healthy contingent of old boys.



SPX Cricket wishes our departing Year 12's all the best for their ongoing studies - captain Stuart Dingley, Duncan Dingley, Josh Hooper, Tyson McCallum, Laurence Sheehan and Adam Greenwood





The 1st XI boys and their parents are also highly appreciative of all the time invested by Mr Pat Rodgers and Mr David Reay. The younger cohort of the 1st XI, are already looking forward to launching another challenge for the ISA premiership next season.

And a final thank you to the 1st XI families, who have provided transport, scoring duties and catering, and peaked on grand final day with a fantastic BBQ lunch, and huge afternoon tea for all the Oxford Falls guests!

