

MATCH REPORTS

26 October 2019

➤ **ISA Cricket Round 1: Oxford Falls 26/10/2019** **St. Pius X College – Chevalier College**

The 2nd XI cricket got a big win against the defending premiers to start their season. Jackson Carrall took out man of the match by scoring both 64 and taking 4/9, whilst Oscar McDonald also took 3 wickets on debut.

Just like the weather, however, it wasn't all sunshine and rainbows, with opener Josh Overton, number three Tom Wunsch and number five Jude Boyle, three of the team's most reliable batsmen, all getting ducks. So, enter the heroics of Jackson Carrall (64 off 117) and Joel Austin (13 off 76) to stabilise the innings, bat until the 30th over and get Pius back on track. Jackson, who hit 8 fours, was scoring freely down his end, playing some very attractive shots along the way, whilst Joel played a very patient innings down the other end to anchor a partnership which would prove a vital turning point in the match. Ben O'Reilly (12), Brad Power (7*), Julien Hyde (8) and Oscar McDonald (6*) all contributed with good cameos at the end of the innings to boost Pius' batting total to a very competitive 7/139 after their 50 overs.

The bowling innings, again, wasn't without its up and downs. Rory O'Connell (2/45) struck early, removing Chevalier's opener in the first over thanks to a brilliant catch from Josh Overton in the slips, but that brought in their destructive number three batsman, who hit some of the biggest sixes ever seen at Oxford Falls on his way to a brutal 41. Nick Ward (1/12) removed the other opening batsman before Oscar McDonald (3/8) came on, removing the game-changing batsman as he took his first ever ISA wicket. It was all Pius after that, with Brad, Kiefer O'Brien (0/5) and Man of the Match Jackson (4/9) cleaning up the rest of Chevalier's batting, leaving them all out for 88 after only 30 overs.

"A sharp start to the season" would perfectly sum up the 51-run win for the 2nd XI to start off their season, who also took home a bonus point in the process for bowling out Chevalier in under 40 overs. Pius will now face an even sterner test next week against the old enemy St Pat's Strathfield – so make sure you get down to Fortress Falls as the 2nd XI look to continue their unbeaten run.

Contributor: Nick Ward

Scorers on the day: Ms.Melissa Overton and & Nick Ward

➤ **St Pius X Under 16 - Forest Maroons** **Passmore No 1. 26-10-2019**

As we sit to try to take something good, of which there are many mind you, but unfortunately, they were fairly thin on the ground from a St Pius perspective, clear audible sighs exhale from this editor in trying to think of some glib remark to bolster any positivity relating to our performance. I have written that line a dozen times now, and have retired to the room where there is no light, no sound, just the blue hue emanating from the Toshiba. Staring at the screen blankly, I wish to wake from the nightmare. To stop these voices yelling – screaming running riot inside..... Yes ladies and gentlemen, it was carnage. A train wreck. 2 train wrecks –side by side, and that's fairly messy. Champo was in tears. That was a positive I suppose, seeing the passion and emotion expressed from our coach.

On another positive, we had our first female umpire, in fact in my entire playing career, I've never witnessed a female umpire. She did a great job- and more power to the ladies officiating. Another positive was all the support from the folks watching- many thanks to all those that stood up to help out and assist. Also, special thanks to Will Harper and Ronan Crispe for making my job a lot easier. Kit Kats to you both. Also, a special mention to my better half, that bought the scorebook, after yours truly forgot it. How good is that! The team executive – leading from the front! Brrr

A steady warm breeze wisped gently from the northern end of Passmore, the grass lush and green. Plenty of cloud cover, and the knowing that it was going to get hot. St Pius won the toss and elected to field. Given the conditions, not a bad decision me thinks. The supporters on the sidelines were waiting in eager anticipation, hoping that last week's performance would continue on to this week, and to a certain extent it did. St Pius had Forest Maroons '1 fa' in the first over, where Blake Hoolahan struck, a superb delivery that just left the inform Maroon opener, edged and snapped up in a smart catch by keeper, Liam Hunt. Good tight aggressive bowling and a heavy outer was keeping Forest working for every run, and at drinks, Forest were 3/55. There was a certain knowing step and glint in the eye. Champo was all smiles. And then, I think the drinks were spiked with anti-cricket pills. St Pius dropped 11 chances. We bowled far too many wides and no balls [32 sundries, no byes, 1 leg bye] throughout the innings. We beat ourselves in the session after drinks. After 30 overs, St Pius were chasing 152 to win. Lads, we got to stop the sundries. Holding catches helps a bit also!!!!

Regarding the batting, well, I thought we were on a merry go round. Did somebody mention collapse? Yes all the clichés can come out here, revolving door, Opal Towers, add your own. Champo, the supreme motivator, tried all his best inspirational but alas, to no effect. The slippery slope had started, and we all had greasy gloves on. It's fairly disheartening when double figures is only reached on two occasions, and sundries was one of the occasions. Fair credit to Nick Lough, who had a crack and top scored and Ben Purcell for support in the lower order.



Credit also to City Rail, who returned the bat of a certain nameless bod that left his bat overnight at Chatswood Station- Yes-on the track that is- ballast, pandrol clips, sleepers, it was right down on the nitti gritti. Must have dropped it. Make that 12!!!

Cricket is a great leveller. Roosters to feather duster stuff in an instant. Given the game, these lads still kept their heads high. They know what they can achieve and how to do it. There was no animosity, no blame. They all left the ground still upbeat, albeit a wee bit bruised and battered. We will stand back up, we will dust ourselves down and we will march on. Still positive, still bonding and still improving- melding into a better team for it- leaning from our mistakes. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the greatest positive.

Stats: SPX purple 10/55 [22 overs] defeated by Forest Maroon 5-151 off 30 overs

Bowlers: Tom Kennedy- 30, 0M, 1/12, Josh Dixon -30, 0M, 1/11, Blake Hoolahan-60, 0M 1/18

Batting: Nick Lough 14

Round 5 SPX Black vs Seaforth Scorpions

Round 5 saw SPX Black host the Seaforth Scorpions at Oxford Falls on a spectacular morning for cricket. For some of the boys it was their first game on the hallowed turf that is The Bottom Oval, and as they went through their pre-game stretching and warm up routine there was plenty of excitement from the boys. It must be noted that The Bottom Oval has never looked better, the pitch was quite hard with a good covering of green grass. The outfield looked like it had been prepared by Heiron & Smith, with plenty of value for good strokeplay.

After calling correctly at the toss and deciding to bat, the reliable pair of Jaydon Akouri and Lachlan Richmond were looking set, but when they were both back in the sheds with only 20 runs on the board, it was time to knuckle down. Ollie Freeman got the runs ticking over with valuable support from Lachlan Mitchell. With Freeman retired and Mitchell back in the sheds it was time for Connor Jury to join Lachlan Jurcevic in the middle. Jurcevic (48no off 35 balls) was in blistering form tearing into the Seaforth bowlers, with Conner batting solidly. Max Lynn and Luke Jackson enjoyed a free hand as they got late runs with some lusty blows from Riley Meares getting a very competitive 133 on the board of our 30 overs.

Josh Baker and Meares took the new ball duties and Seaforth looked dangerous early, before Baker cartwheeled the middle stump past our keepers left ear. Three quick wickets to the legspin of Lachlan Richmond (2024 1st XI Capt) saw the Seaforth innings stalled as Rueben Boulos and Jory picked themselves up late poles to wrap up the Seaforth innings in just 20 overs. The bowling was accurate, with the Pius boys rattling the furniture 5 times. Excellent catches by Mitchell and Jory topped off an outstanding team effort in the field!

One day Match (30 overs) 26 Oct 19

St.Pius batting first 7/170 in 30 overs def Forest 8/97 in 29.4 overs at Melwood Oval.

Not every game of cricket can reach the lofty heights of the recent one day world cup final, or that of our unexpected win last week.

Some games and their stories could be left untold and that would be ok, including this one.

But we won, so I suppose this should be celebrated with some prose.

The artificial grass field and its excessive black rubber filling created an early summer sauna on this hot October morning.

Throw in some exceptionally strong winds, and badly behaving bails, which ultimately had to be left off, and you get the picture.

Both teams were down on numbers, we had 10, they initially had 8.

We are near the top of the ladder and they're nearer the bottom so no great expectations were to be had from the outset.

We gave them 2 fielders, as you do, and to see Gus take a fine catch to dismiss his mate Mitch was an uneasy sight and I'm not sure how the statisticians end up dealing with this.

To our later benefit he also took another good catch off his own bowling.

We won the toss and elected to bat, mostly to ensure we got to bat for our 30 overs, and avoid chasing a small total.

We reached an impressive 7/170 in our 30 overs. Once again Keelan (55 no) and Will (35) blitzed them and made running to the boundary a regular spot of exercise for the opposition.

We now sit very comfortably way out in front in the runs "for" column, but sadly the same can also be said for our runs "against" tally.

Our matches keep the scorers from drifting off, and they also test the dimensions of those ridiculously small triangles in which the scorer marks down each over to each bowler.

The innings break brought the wind, and what ever potential interest in the game was quickly undone by Gus' first over.

Forgetting the old adage... never run on a misfield, they lost their best batsman to a fumble, a sharp throw and some quick glove work by Evan.

The very next ball they lost their next best, to a well taken catch by Keelan, and with only 8 players it was pretty much game over.

Still, to the oppositions credit, they made us bowl at them in the heat and the wind before they succumbed for 97 runs in the last over.

Gus 2/11 off 5 overs and Paddy 2/10 off 3.4 overs shared the bowling honours, and Keelan and Mitch picked up one each.

In addition to the fine catches noted above, there was another notable catch.

Jaiden whilst wicketkeeping, ran about 7 metres to a ball that 'bobbed up' on leg side, dived and at full stretch took a superb catch just inches off the ground.

The boys were pretty sharp in the field with their catching, ground fielding and 2 run outs, especially considering the playing conditions.

All in all, a good, but dare I say it... 'expected' win.

Next week will be a tougher task against ladder leaders Harbord.

Till next time.

Harbord Knights – all out for 45 in the 24th over

SPX Orange – 1 / 46 in the 8th over

SPX Orange win by 9 wickets

Undefeated under 15 division 2 side SPX Orange travelled to Nolans Reserve for its round 5 match against Harbord, fresh with the memory that the teams last visit to Nolans for a Round three match was greeted with a water logged pitch and a wasted Saturday morning trip to Manly. With cloudy skies dominating the morning and no sign of rain on the horizon, SPX Orange called correctly on the toss and sent Harbord in to face the SPX Orange pace duo of Darcy Keenlyside and Oliver Hunt.

What came next was unexpected and something that possibly has never been witnessed in SPX cricket or the Manly Warringah junior cricket association before. As words cannot do it justice the following is a summary of the first over of the morning by SPX Orange, bowled by the divisions leading wicket taker in Darcy Keenlyside:

- Ball 1 – Wicket, caught Oliver Hunt bowled Keenlyside
- Ball 2 – dot ball, no runs
- Ball 3 – dot ball, no runs
- Ball 4 - Wicket, bowled Keenlyside
- Ball 5 – Wicket, bowled Keenlyside
- Ball 6 – Wicket, bowled Keenlyside (and hat trick)

Darcy completed his five wicket haul in the third over of his spell to have Harbord top order decimated at 5 wickets down for seven runs and the total at 5 for 11 when both Darcy and Oliver Hunt completed their mandatory three overs each. With their spirit broken and the Harbord team struggling to deal with the quality of the SPX Orange bowling, Harbord did steady the ship and grind out runs albeit wickets continued to fall cheaply with Harbord Knights bowled out for 45 in the 24 over.

With Darcy's bowling figures of three overs, two maidens, five wickets for four runs a standout for not only the day, but possibly also the season, the remaining SPX bowlers did a sterling job bowling line and length with other wickets takers on the day include Jake Socrates 2 wickets for five runs, James Maloney one wicket for six runs and Harry Lindenmayer one wicket for 12 runs for his first game of the season.

With another meagre total to chase the openers of James Maloney and Andrew Guerrera made light work of the chase, with Andrew Guerrera unlucky not to see it through to the end. The ever reliable Tom Lough come in at first drop to see the win for SPX Orange in the 8th over of the innings. James Maloney remained not out on 23 at the end of play, once again showing his prowess in hitting boundaries late in the over.

It was certainly a bowlers day at Nolans and a day to remember for Darcy and SPX Orange as it looks to continue its winning ways next week against Cromer.