

St. Pius X College v. Central Coast Grammar

ISA Grand Final: 14/03/2020

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The 2nd XI cricketers capped off an amazing season by taking home the Premiership on Saturday. A washout meant they were crowned Premiers after they finished their season as minor premiers.

PREMIERS!! The St Pius X 2nd XI have claimed the ISA Division 2 Premiership, albeit in an anticlimactic fashion, with what was built up to be a blockbuster final sadly ending in a washout. In a five-and-a-half-hour marathon, the umpires, coaches and Trent, the Pius groundsman, did everything possible to reach the 30 overs required from each side to constitute a game, but with the poor weather, fell well short, with Pius only managing to bowl 20 overs and didn't face a ball. Therefore, the Pius boys were given the win since they finished the season as minor premiers. After a morning of consistent rain, the teams were finally able to have a toss, which was won by Central Coast, who chose to bat. Play finally begun at 11:30am, an hour and a half after the scheduled start, but that didn't delay opening bowlers Nick Ward and Rory O'Connell who heated up a cold morning with a fiery spell of bowling. Sadly, this spell was cut short by more rain, and after just six overs the players found themselves again off the field. Central Coast finished this shortened session 1/6, with Rory securing the early breakthrough.

After a prolonged lunch break, made up of some amazing dishes served up by the even more amazing Pius parents, play finally began again at 1:45pm. The teams managed to get to the 20 over mark, where Central Coast finished 3/60, before play was called off for what would ultimately be the final time. Oscar MacDonald took both wickets that session, but his bowling partner, Brad Power, was not so lucky, cleaning up the Central Coast skipper's middle stump only for it to be called a no ball!

Another half an hour of nervous waiting ensued off the field, before finally Pius were announced as ISA premiers! Celebrations followed, with the team smashing out a thunderous rendition of "Woodchatta", before moving out onto the pitch and bursting out in song again. The result of nine months of hard work and dedication, all coming out in the pouring rain at Oxford Falls. Although it was not the way Pius would have liked to finish the season, it is impossible to argue Pius did not deserve the win. Leading up to the final, they took ten wickets in every single regular season game. They were undefeated at home, establishing their own "Fortress Falls" in the process. And most importantly, they won 8 from their 9 games played. St Pius X 2nd XI dominated the Division 2 season and were aptly rewarded with a Premiership, one that the team will remember forever. At this point I would like to, for the first time, adopt a first-person approach to thank on behalf of the team everyone who contributed to our amazing season. The incredible results were not possible without the amazing support the team had. Trent, the groundsman at Oxford Falls, who had easily the best pitch in the ISA prepared each week, pitches which would often rival the best in Sydney. Our parents, who supplied all the behind-the-scenes essentials, such as scorers, lunches, afternoon teas, and of course their amazing vocal support. Our team manager, Mr. Listo, who drove the minibus to every away game, filled with food, drinks and other items that boosted our performance. Our skipper, Brad Power, who was one of the kindest leaders I have personally ever played a sport

under. Our coach, Mr. Stearn, who came to every training session since July, supported us at every turn, ripped into us when it was needed, and backed us at every move we made.

Most importantly, thanks to my fellow teammates – this season was one of the most enjoyable I have ever played because of a team stacked full of talented cricketers and great blokes. A special shout out must also go to the Year 12s who played their final game for Pius on Saturday; Jackson Carrall (most capped SPX 2nd XI player ever), Jude Boyle, Julien Hyde, Rory O'Connell and Kiefer O'Brien. Some of these players have played for Pius and for the 2nds for many years, and I am overjoyed to see them finish on such a high. Best of luck to them in all their future cricketing endeavours and in their HSC.

I will release a full season report as soon as I can, but in the meantime, thank you for everyone who has read my reports every week, it is such a good feeling when someone comes up and talks about the report, and the game that weekend.

Congratulations to the St Pius X 2nd XI, an amazing team who have now, deservedly, been crowned ISA Premiers!!

Correspondent: Nick Ward

Scorer on the day: Mr. Anthony Wunsch

Coach: Mr. Matt Stearn