**Year 8 Baseball Report Southern Zone Metro Finals**

The Year 8 Boys team took part in the Southern Zone Metro Championships on Thursday 29th April.

The venue was Cheltenham Baseball Club and the both the diamonds and the weather were perfect for baseball. The students arrived with plenty of confidence after a win at the Group level and 10+ lunchtime training sessions on defence (pitching and throwing runners out), offence (batting) and base running.

The team:

Joel Bouker – Captain

Lachie Chambers

Jai Firth

Ollie Gleeson

Andrew McLean

Kaleb Morrison

Tom Murphy

Tom Patterson

Jack Pierce

Phoenix Simpfendorfer

Billy Thompson

Kaishu Yip

Tarj McGuinness – Unfortunately injured and could not attend.

**Match Reports**

**Game 1**

**PRSC V Mt Hira**

**PRSC won 10 - 2**

Jack Pierce - Pitching

Kaleb Morrison - Catching

Billy Thompson - Catching

The game was always in control with Kaleb working the batters to get strike-outs or ground balls to be thrown out at first base.

The infield made some good plays and kept the pressure on the base runners. A couple of wild pitches and some good base running from the Mt Hira saw them score 2 runs.

The batting line up was mixed up a bit to provide some batting power all the way down to # 11 as this competition allows you to bat down a list of 12.

In the first innings 10 got to bat and Jai went in the Designated Runner for our catcher after getting on First base. Jai showed real speed to tear around the bases. The line-up worked with the maximum 5 runs scored and 10 batters through the batting box before the 3 outs.

Hits, smart batting and good base running in offence and some strike outs and put-outs at first and lead runners at second pretty well shut the game down.

**Game 2**

**PRSC v Brighton SC**

**PRSC Lost 8 - 2**

Joel Bouker - Pitching

Jack Pierce - Catching

In the warm up the students got to see what top level junior pitching can look like. Robinson Smith, remember that name, he was the best pitcher and the stand out player on the day was pitching for Brighton HS.

PRSC were struck out in 15 pitches but no disgrace. We bunked down and got behind Joel. He struck out batters and with a couple of plays at first base kept BSC to two runs.

In the next innings the team talked about not swinging at every pitch and any pitches that were wide of the plate were let go through. A couple of walks and we had some runners on base. Scored one run.

The game followed a tight duel between the speed of the Brighton pitcher and the control of our pitcher. and team captain Joel.

The game blew out a little in the last innings with BSC scoring 3 end of game runs.

It was a tight game and to “take” runs off them was a good effort.

Noting that BSC went on to win the Southern Zone Metro Pennant on the day.

**Game 3**

**PRSC v Albert Park SC**

**PRSC won 15-1**

Billy Thompson – Pitching

Jack Pierce – Catching

The Albert Park team was a little under the pump only fielding 8 players. For PRSC ever player got at least 2 bats. The running, base stealing and hitting was first rate and we scored the maximum 5 runs across three innings. Some good plays at first and getting a lead runner at second kept the opposition to one run. Joel was tagged at home going for an in-the-park home run. Tag missed the mark but to Joel’s credit he didn’t dispute the call except to show some disappointment heading back into the dug out.

Billy did a great job and was backed up by the solid work of the infield and outfield players.

**Game 4**

**PRSC V Frankston HS**

**PRSC 4-1 Winners and SMZ Metro Runners Up**

This game was essentially a final for Runners Up pennant on the day.

Joel Bouker Pitching

Jack Pierce Catching

The batting line up was loaded at the top of the order with our strongest batters to get pressure on the Frankston defence from the start. Frankston did the same so a pitchers battle saw both teams score 1 run each in the first innings.

In the second innings we batted a bit deeper into the line-up with RBIs to Phoenix and Jai.

Billy at short stop and Tom M at second base combined for 2 forced outs at second base.

In the next innings we scored another run 3 runs and this left FHS the task of scoring 4 runs to win.

Joel again took the mound and struck out one batter, a ground ball out from Jai at third base and a ground ball out from Olli at second were as good as you see on any baseball diamond.

PRSC had a hard fought win against the “traditional rival” and secured the Runners Up Pennant.

**Conclusion**

Special thanks to the players who took on pitching and catching duties. Both tough spots to play but easier when you knew all of the other players were supporting you.

Thanks to Tom Patterson who was injured, but took on the jobs of scoring, managing the batting line up and base coaching at first base. Great job Tom.

I have enjoyed working with these students and your sons in this team. Baseball is a game where you all have a role to play and the college values of respect, excellence, community and perseverance were all on display.

The values were there at training when they all helped set up the diamond, looked after the gear and packed it up after training and they were there when, after the game they all lined up quickly to thank the other team for the game and thanked the umpire.

All players improved so much after the training and the games and hopefully this line up will go on to represent the college in the future.

Thanks for being such a good group to coach.

John McLoughlin

Year 8 Baseball Coach