

SPX 2nd XI – 29/10/16, Round 2

SPX 2nd XI 138 (L May 50*, O Sheehan 21) defeated Oakhill College 115 (D Greenland 3/22, N Slack 2/15, R Kelleher 2/25)

The 2nd XI took the road trip to Oakhill this week. vice captain Alex Graffeo took the reins with Tom Ventura being called up for 1st XI duties.

Being asked to bat didn't seem such a loss as the openers Graffeo and Sheehan established a early tempo. A slow pitch required patience, our first marker at 0/26 at 10 turned out to be the rate for the game.

The loss of two quick wickets required a rebuild but the rate was maintained. The third 10 over set saw the pendulum swing slightly towards Oakhill with 5/29. However a steep learning curve for some turf freshies was adequately managed with cover in the order. At 7/79 there were nerves amongst the spectators but the batting plan remained confident.

Lachlan May 50no was ably supported first by Slack and then by Hall as the 4th 10 overs netted 40 runs. A further 19, earned from the last 3 overs of our innings, set a strong yet reachable total of 138.

After a fabulous spread for lunch, the St Pius bowling attack were keen to get on with the second job of the day. Very tight and consistent bowling in partnerships Hall(1/18) & Slack(2/15), Bain & Rayner(1/10) forced Oakhill to chase; As with our innings this brought wickets.

Dan Greenland adjusted pace but maintained line, his persistence paid off with 3/22.

Taking the 10th wicket in the 39th over closed the Oakhill innings on 115 and secured valuable points in what appears to be a close competition.

Seeds of confidence have been planted, a little nurturing in the next 3 home games will no doubt ensure a rich harvest.

Alex Slack



SPX U13 Black – 22/10/16, Round 4

SPX Black 100 (C Sharp 41*, J Speter 29, N Lough 15) defeated by St Ives Clarke 8/206 (N Lough 3/15)

Arriving back at Cowan Oval (where the straight boundary is a cricket pitch away from the stumps), and down a player the 10 boys knew what to expect, boundaries and plenty of them. A huge thanks must go to Andrew Guerrera for getting out of his sick bed to help support his team knowing we were short.

The toss didn't go our way, and St Ives Clarke elected to bat. Whilst the final scoreboard tells a different story, I felt the boys showed not only a high level of commitment and enthusiasm but also some patches of very competitive, aggressive cricket. With the ball we managed to take 8 wickets which again is another stat that reinforces the improvement in this team, our previous best was only 4 dismissals.

We started the game well, Andrew Guerrera and Luca Satnarine shared the new ball and both had success, we had St Ives at 2/16 after 4 overs and on the back foot. Unfortunately for us they fought back well and were 4/115 after 21. There was some great cricket by the SPX boys during that period of the game and we almost had a couple more break throughs, unfortunately some close decisions didn't fall our way. We did however remain in the contest picking with a few more wickets, with St Ives at 7/151 of 27. The last 5 overs tell a different story, they finished strongly scoring 11 an over surprising us with a final score of 8/206 of 32.

We looked our best when the spinners were on, Nick Lough was the standout with 3/19 off 5 overs. His line and length was sensational. It great to see the boys have formed a strong team culture on the field, at the fall of every wicket the boys form into a huddle, discuss the next phase of the game and then all go up together with the chant of **PIUS**. Again another great effort by all in the field.

This was going to be a tough run chase. We displayed yet again that we are a capable team, and one that should be respected. Charlie Sharp got the team off to a flyer with the team score at 36 when we lost our first wicket after 5 overs. Charlie soon after was retired before returning to the crease late in the innings to finish with a hard hitting 41 not out including 9 fours. Jaiden Speter also batted extremely well with a dominating display before getting caught at point for 29 (6 fours). He was well supported by Nick Lough with 15. Although we reached the 100 run milestone it was never going to be enough. The game had got away from us in the last 5 overs with the ball.

Looking forward to next week. Can't wait to hear the call **PIUS** from the sideline again, hopefully 10 times over at the fall of each and every wicket!!

Great team sprit boys, **GO PIUS**.

Anthony Nicey

SPX U13/14 Red – 29/10/16, Round 4

SPX Red 3/107 defeated Gordon Thunder 106

Buoyed by their first win for the season and the excitement of the first home game the outlook was positive.

The warm up consisted of some solid support of the first XI on the adjacent oval and some fielding practice on the carpet like grass of Watkins Oval. There is a certain level of confidence a player gains in the field when there is a beautiful even surface.

Gordon won the toss and elected to bat, some good fast bowling to start, with Joe and Adam opening, followed by Nick and Harry. The middle overs remained tight with the two David's T and M, taking the spell to drinks with Gordon on 3 for 51.

After drinks the screws were tightened with Tom, Luke and Josh giving away a miserly 11 runs off the next six overs. Blake's second over broke the wicket drought. Some big hitting and quick wickets saw Gordon finish their innings in the 30th over on 106. Joe finished with 2 wickets and Nick with 3.

A handy total but St Pius Red had confidence they could chase the score. Daniel opened after a good spell behind the wickets but got an early pearler and Pius were 1 for 12. From here they never looked like losing, some great partnerships and odd fielding placements followed, with Joe being the main stay knocking a great 42 not out. A season top score to Josh and a typical swashbuckling but all too quick innings from David T, left Nick 24 not out and Harry to chase the total down, Harry hitting the winning runs with a boundary for the second week in a row. St Pius Red 3 for 107 off 17 overs.

Nigel Ward

SPX U14 Green – 29/10/16, Round 5 – T20

SPX Green 6/69 defeated by Collaroy Plateau Gigawatts 1/73

The first T20 match of the season saw SPX Green suffer a nine wicket loss to the currently undefeated Collaroy Gigawatts team.

With the opposition still stunned by the quality of the Watkins Oval playing field, SPX won the toss and elected to bat. However, some very accurate and tight bowling limited the momentum of the SPX innings, and runs were hard to come by. Joe Colgan (24no) eventually started to break the shackles in an innings that included five boundaries. Joe was helped by some solid batting from Tom Wunsch (7), Oliver Fitzroy (6) and Brad Power (10). Callum Fitzgibbon (4), returning from injury and illness also opened his account for the season with a fine boundary.

A total of 69 was always going to be tough to defend, particularly against a batting line-up that included the competition's leading run scorer. Some tight bowling (Liam Chang 0/8 and Liam Kinna 0/8 from 3 overs each) helped slow the Collaroy innings, and a ripper of a delivery from James Power shattered the stumps of one of their openers, however it wasn't enough to stop Collaroy from marching to a comfortable win.

Next week sees a return to the 2-day format, and we'll be looking to retain the promising signs from this match which included accurate bowling (no wides or no-balls conceded) and lots of enthusiasm in the field.

Michael Kinna



SPX U15 Orange – 29/10/16 & 05/11/16, Round 5

SPX Orange 36 & 3/15 vs Wakehurst Red 8/92

At the beginning of last week, our team had no idea that within a couple of days we would have two significant injuries within our team. A very big thank you to Adam Greenwood and Tyson McCallum who kindly accepted the offer to play with us. We lost the toss and went into bat (which has become the norm for our team).

We knew that this was going to be a tough game as Wakehurst are currently second on the Ladder. Our batting let us down on the day with Wakehurst performing some of the best bowling we have faced so far. Unfortunately our middle order fell apart but congratulations to Keifer O'Brien with a standout 19 runs.

Our fielding has begun to show that we are starting to play as a team and indicated how far we have come in just a few weeks. There were some outstanding performances on the field with two wickets each for Joseph Harper and Keifer O'Brien and one wicket for Jake Cetinich, Gilbert Davey (Great stumping Tyson), Ryan Pratt and Adam Greenwood. Also great catches by Anton Webber, Rory O'Connell and I think the one handed catch by Oli Webber was the catch of the season.

Thank you to parents for their continual support and assistance with the game.

Donna Dempsey