

CRICKET MATCH REPORTS



St Gregorys College 164 defeated SPX 2nd XI 139

Hayden Robertson 34

Daniel Mooney 28

Ryan Kelleher 22

Hayden Robertson 4-31

Ryan Kelleher 3-17

The last round of the season and a must win game, ideally with a bonus point, to secure a spot in the semi-finals. Sounds simple to achieve but the pressure was on with our memories still vivid from our previous loss to St Gregory's at Oxford Falls. With the Pius boys travelling to St Gregorys all the way out to Campbelltown we were greeted with sunny blue skies and an unpredictable pitch. Captain Tyson lost the toss and we were sent into bowl.

As always we started tightly with the ball, not giving away any easy runs, and squeezing the Gregorys batsmen which forced them to make mistakes. At the 20th over they were 4-33 thanks to some good bowling from Ryan Kelleher 3-17 and Hayden Robertson 4-31. Unfortunately in the next 2 sessions St Gregorys got on top of us and really put us on the back foot, but there was still some solid bowling from Luke Ventura 1-26 and Liam Chang 1-15. Due to some good batting from the Gregorys boys we were required to chase down 164. Even though we knew this was a big total we backed our self to chase it down in 40 overs to receive the bonus point.

The Pius boys knew that to chase down this total in 40 overs we would have to start with a bang and that is exactly how Daniel Mooney started. Daniel got us onto the front foot with a quick-fire 28 off 22 balls. After Daniel got out, the top order struggled except for Joe Colgan who put up a resisting 17 runs. With our hopes fading away Ryan Kelleher (22) met Hayden Robertson (34) in the middle, these 2 batted beautifully and gave us a slight chance to chase down the total in the 40 overs required. The weather was against us and we had to stop for over an hour due to a lightening strike and then the rain came. We finally got back on but unfortunately due to an exceptional catch by a Gregorys fielder Ryan got out. In came Liam Kinna who tried his hardest to give Hayden the strike. Hayden kept firing but, like Ryan, was unfortunate to get out to a good catch. Our game finished with a respectable total of 139. It wasn't a win so this is where our season now comes to an end.

It has been an eventful journey for the 2nd XI team with its ups and downs but what a long way we have come. Each player has developed and contributed to the team in some way. We have had fun and we hope that Mr Stern and Mr Listo have enjoyed the season too. It won't be too long before cricket is back again and I for one can't wait!

President Marissa Sheehan, Laurence Sheehan

SPX U12 Blue – 24/02/18, Round 13

SPX Blue 3/128 (T Roche 44*, B Vaccarella 27*) defeated Beacon Hill Crocs 9/100 (W Zahra 2/8, T Carroll 2/13)

The boys turned up ready to put up a good fight after a tough loss last week. Winning the toss and choosing to bat first was a choice that paid off this week.

After losing an early wicket in only the 3rd over our boys settled into a good partnership of Vaccarella & Zahra to see the score charge along to 1/53 at the 15 over mark. After a quick re-hydration break on what was a very steamy afternoon we saw Vaccarella retire on 27, then Zahra bowled bringing in Sweeney and Roche. At 3/57 Holmes joined Roche for what was to be an outstanding partnership. As Roche settled in the big shots just kept coming with a massive 6 4's and a perfectly hit 6. The end of the innings saw Roche at 44 not out and Holme 17 not out and the target for our opposition 3/128.

Our bowling and fielding efforts proved no less entertaining. Catch of the season went to Rowe with a spectacular 1 handed backward dive. This was followed with 2 quick wickets, both clean bowled by Carroll. With a score board reading 3/9 a confident batsman hit the crease to test our boys. They continued to shine with a stumping to Spurr, a great run out from Holmes from the outfield, and catches to Holmes and Roche. This week saw a great team really working together in the field with skills dramatically improving. The opposition exited the game at 9/100.

Notable mentions

- ❖ Roche 44 not out 6 4's and 1 6
- ❖ Vaccarella not out 27 retired
- ❖ Holmes not out 17
- ❖ Carroll 2/13
- ❖ Zahra 2/8
- ❖ Fantastic fielding all round



SPX U14 Green – 17/02/18, Round 12

SPX Green 7/155 (O MacDonald 40, J Speter 28, L Hunt 27) defeated St Augustines White 5/146 (J Speter 3/9)

For 2 weeks in a row SPX Green has faced a tough assignment in the second innings and prevailed in tight matches.

St Augustine's White won the toss and elected to bat. They quickly justified their decision, and put together a good total of 5/146. Notable SPX performances included:

- Jaiden Speter's 3/9 off 4 overs
- wickets to Connor Cassar and Jonah Gonzales
- a tidy performance behind the stumps from Ben O'Reilly
- catches to James Maloney, Connor Cassar, Oscar Macdonald and Liam Hunt

The bowling and fielding effort was not SPX Green's best this year. Some aspects of the performance that could improve are:

1. calling for the ball.
2. bowling an off side line.
3. more positive talk in the field.
4. backing up the bowler and keeper.

The SPX Green chase was one of the highlights of the season thus far with 5 boys outscoring the contribution of sundries. After losing a wicket in the first over, Liam Hunt (27no) and Oscar Macdonald (40) first steadied the inning and then accelerated. Oscar and Liam put on a valuable 62. After Oscar was caught on the boundary, Ben Purcell (19) and Liam continued to accumulate runs. At drinks after 15 overs, SPX were well poised at 2-88 and Liam had to retire.

After drinks, SPX experienced some middle order wobbles losing 5-25. At 7-113 there was plenty of batting left to be done. However, when Captain Jaiden Speter (28no) joined Josh Sheather (19no) at the wicket the innings stabilised. Despite some tight bowling from St Augustine's, the Pius pair looked in control. They passed the St Augustine's score with 10 balls to spare and 3 wickets in hand.

SPX Green can take confidence from the fact that over the last 2 rounds the boys have produced impressive second innings displays in close matches. Last week it was a quality defensive bowling performance, this week a large chase.

The boys require one more victory to win the minor premiership. Next week looms as a good week to secure in it. SPX takes on an in form Harbour Tornadoes who are looking to ensure they earn a semi-final berth. A win against a probable semi-final opponent would be a fitting way to cement SPX Green at the top of the ladder.