

## CRICKET MATCH REPORTS

### **ISA Cricket 2nds (Round 9) St Pius X defeated St Patrick's**

Last Saturday, the St Patricks Second XI travelled to face the St Pius Second XI at Oxford Falls. St Pats won the toss and elected to bat.

The St Pats top order proved hard to break down, but openers Nick Slack (1/26) and Dan Hall (1/8) each picking up a wicket. Tim McLachlan was forced out of the game with a back strain after bowling only 2 overs, but not before he combined with his brother Nick for a key wicket. Being a bowler short, St Pius had to rise to the occasion, and they did exactly that. Spinners, Oscar Sheehan (2/19) and Tom Ventura (2/26) put the brakes on St Pats and were backed up by Josh Rayner and Ryan Kelleher, who bowled economically and took a wicket each. This restricted St Pats to 9/115 off 50 overs. After the Lunch break, the St Pius openers went out to face the opening bowlers with 116 needed and potential rain looming later in the afternoon. St Pius struggled early with two early ducks and Josh Rayner (17) being unlucky to be caught out by a screamer of a catch, leaving them at 3/25. But opener Tom Ventura (56\*) and Oscar Sheehan (25\*) combined for an unbeaten partnership of 80, before lightning, rain, and golf ball sized hail forced them from the field permanently, leaving the score at 3/105 of 37 overs.

St Pius were awarded the victory on run aggregate, but not given the bonus point although it looked likely that they would reach the total in 40 overs.

The top of the table clash was played in good spirit and was tightly fought. St Pius will now jump to first place, ahead of St Pats on the table with one game remaining until the finals.

*Thomas Ventura*  
**Captain Second XI**

### **St Pius X 2nd XI 3/105 defeated St Patricks College 9/115 T Ventura 56no & 2/26, O Sheehan 2/19 & 25no**

The St Pius 2nd XI slipped unnoticed into the finals series last week without a ball being bowled, the top of the table has been close all year and we will see the genuine top 4 teams battle it out proper in 2 weeks' time. Who and where we play is yet to be decided, at the time of writing awaiting the result of the Bowral derby, we can be minor premiers or be as low as third as a result of the final round.

However let us focus on the game, St Patricks College are a worthy opposition, never to be underestimated and a passionate game is the usual result.

In winning the toss SPC elected to bat first; conditions looked ideal but this was probably a good toss to lose as the pressure was on SPC to score a total.

Daniel Hall (6:2:1:8) and Nick Slack (10:1:1:23) opened the bowling and had the batsman wondering where all the runs had been hidden. Slack's opening spell of 7overs (1/11) a masterclass of medium pace, Hall simply delivering pace with unplayable line and length. Enter the kingdom of spin, Tim McLachlan (2:0:1:6) looked ominous before a shoulder twinge took him out, it really has been a delight to watch Tim gain confidence and deliver through the season; a recognition of how good captaincy can develop players as much as training. Oscar Sheehan (10:3:2:19) and Captain Tom Ventura (10:0:2:26) then bowled a full set of 10 over each to destroy the St Pats inertia once and for all. At the important wet weather marker of 30 overs they were 5/60.

Josh Rayner (4:1:1:6), Ryan Kelleher (5:0:1:16) & Lachlan May (3:0:0:7) all stepped up and to fill in the extra overs needed before Hall & Slack closed the door at 9/115 off 50. Lunch was a pleasure to behold, something about eating after a successful start feels good but for the batsmen, it was their turn to step up.

Alex Graffeo declined this week in favour of a big innings next, but Tom Ventura (56\*) led from the front. A measured and sensible start might have had the sidelines a little nervous as we watched the storm clouds brewing but the history (score) books show, our fearless captain is not afraid to stress coaches out. Josh Rayner(17) stabilised and supported well from #3 before presenting a very challenging catch which St Pat's have had a habit of holding on to. Ryan will also feature in the scorebooks next week as he allowed Oscar Sheehan (25\*) the chance to bat with his good mate to the end. At 4pm a slight shower was predicted, at the second drinks break Tom & Oscar were challenged to earn the bonus point before 40 overs and before the rain came down. The hail beat them (metaphorically, the school is very conscious of its duty of care and kindly brought the boys undercover), not the total.

We didn't do everything right, we created chances that we didn't take, we didn't all score runs off the bat. There is room to improve, this is the way it should be heading into the finals series.

Next Saturday we play for a minor premiership and a home semi-final, there is much to do.

*Mr A Slack*

#### **SPX U14 Green – 18/02/17, Round 12**

**SPX Green 8/83 (T Wunsch 28, O Fitzroy 17, R Kennedy 10) defeated by Collaroy Plateau Gigawatts 6/105 (J Colgan 2/5, J Power 1/5)**

With no play the previous week due to Sydney's heat wave, the two-day match against Collaroy Plateau Gigawatts was now a one-day 30 over shoot-out at Passmore Oval.

Pius Green suffering an early morning setback before a ball was even bowled, with Liam Chang a late scratching after being laid low with a bout of the flu. That allowed Liam Kinna to slip into the captaincy duties, but the bounce of the coin went against him and Collaroy elected to bat.

Up against arguably the strongest batting attack in the competition, Joe Colgan and Brad Power took the new ball and Colgan found an edge in the 4th over and James Power was spot on with the gloves.

Brad, bowled with good pace, had some good shouts and finished with a commendable, none for 8 from his 4 overs.

At the other end, the left-arm swing of Colgan caused further damage, he had the opening two wickets, Pius Green making a bright start, Collaroy now 2 for 11.

Tom Kennedy, kept that momentum humming, "TK" is dangerous with the ball when he gets it right and was backed up superbly in the field with a great catch from Cameron Keir at mid-on, Pius applying scoreboard pressure at 3 for 23.

The tight bowling continued from Pius, with Collaroy's two gun batsmen now at the crease and staging a solid, but not spectacular fightback. Callum Fitzgibbon is proving a lethal weapon with the ball, having the competitions leading batsman Sam Jones caught by Tom Kennedy. Fitzzy, had a little victory dance and why not, finishing with 1 for 8 off his 3 overs.

After wicket-keeping for the first 15 overs, James Power swapped his gloves for the red ball and bowled with good heat snaring 1 for 3. Kinna, Ollie Fitzroy and Tom Wunsch all played their role, Collaroy finishing on 6 for 105 after their 30 overs.

The equation was simply, on paper at least, just over 3 runs per over for victory. A bright start would be essential. Wunsch and Kinna were looking to be positive, Kinna clipping one beautifully of his hip for what we thought was the first boundary of the morning; unfortunately the man at square-leg had other ideas. The first wicket down with just 7 runs on the board.

Cameron Keir, was sticking to the team tactics of keeping out the good ball and trying to go after the bad. It was hard work against a quality attack Keir fell for 2, Pius Green now 2 for 32.

Watchful as ever, Wunsch was amassing another good score and forming a good partnership with Ollie Fitzroy. Wunsch, tried to turn the screws on 28, and was beaten by a good ball. Again a really good knock from Tom.

The Powerade at the drinks break was like rocket fuel for Ollie Fitzroy. He rightly decided to take on the Collaroy bowlers by going over the top. One mistimed shot proved his downfall on 17.

The bowling was tight, bad balls few and far between and Pius was now starting to fall behind the required run rate. Riley Kennedy moved stylishly to 10, before he also went aerial but caught a thick edge.

To their credit, the remaining batsmen put the team first and the pursuit of quick runs, ahead of their personal survival. Time simply ran out, Pius Green 22 runs short of the required target.

I don't belief in good losses, but this was a good loss. Better, tighter bowling, backed up by good catching and ground fielding. Solid batting, highlighted by trying to chase a total instead of just surviving.

*Terry Kennedy*