



President's Report

With the baseball season well under way now, I am pleased to report that many parents, especially those that are new to the sport, are getting involved and assisting with numerous duties. I know that all Coaches and Managers are very appreciative of this, so thank you to all.



October School Holiday Coaching Clinics

The October school holiday coaching clinics were a resounding success. Even the drizzle could not dampen the spirits of all those children that participated over the two days. Nearly 80 young baseballers had their skills honed by some of the best in the game, namely:

Australia's Athens 2004 Silver Medallists-
Brendan Kingman, 1st Baseman - "sling-shot" fly-ball drills
Gavin Fingleson, 2nd Baseman and Batting
Rodney Van Buizen, Short-stop and Craig Lewis, Pitcher.
They were also greatly assisted by Grant Reynolds and Liam O'Flaherty, who play in the United States. The highlights, were no doubt, the autographs and picture opportunities with the players and their silver medals that took place after each session So successful were the clinics, that Baseball NSW, through Garry Everson, have agreed to a permanent booking for Macquarie Saints during all October School Holidays.



Athens' home-run hero, Gavin Fingleson, on batting drills



Rodney Van Buizen autographs memorabilia

Ryde Hawks Representatives

On behalf of Macquarie Saints Baseball Club, I would like to congratulate the following Saints players that made Ryde Hawks Representative teams this summer:

Under 12 Development

Jarrold Heal and Josh Byrne

After spending much of their junior baseball at Thornleigh, both players have found rejuvenated enthusiasm at their new club and are contributing immensely to the strength of our U12A team

Historic Day for Macquarie Saints

Three reasons to keep Sunday the 28th of November FREE:

- 1. Our annual Parents Tee-ball Gala Day** will take place for the first time at Waterloo Park. For all those parents that have not participated before or that think that this game is easy because our "kids can do it" come on down and have a go. Details will be forwarded to everyone soon.
- 2. Official Opening of the Main Diamond at Waterloo Park** Although games have already been played on Diamond 1, we need to acknowledge Ryde City Council and the Department of Sport and Recreation for their contribution to our new facility.
- 3. Macquarie Saints Christmas Party and Guess Who's Coming!** That's right kids. The **Elves** have given **Santa** special permission to be with us on this very special day. Not only will there be an opportunity to sit on Santa's knee, but I heard that he may be sneaking out presents early from the North Pole. Shhhh!

Sponsorship

Again, I take this opportunity to thank **Video Ezy, Eastwood** for their Sports Star awards and continual support. They have one of the largest ranges of DVD, Video and Games in the district.



EASTWOOD

Web-Site

Our very own Macquarie Saints web-site www.saints.asn.au still has the latest information, club news and links to draws, results and standings, as well as information on "wash-out weekends" like the last one. These can be down-loaded to keep everyone informed on what's happening, around the Diamonds, so many thanks to Bruce Piper and his company **KEEP IN TOUCH** for maintaining it. For any personal internet or web page needs, you can email Bruce: bruce@kit.net.au or visit his web-site www.kit.net.au



See you around the Diamonds,
Tony Sorbello

U/7 New York Yankees

Team: New York Yankees – Under 7s

Round 1 Date: 11.9.2004

Game: NYY vs Detroit Tigers

Result Score: Draw 12-12

Daniel and Michael worked well as pitcher and 1st base, getting one player out. Jack batted well and got someone out on 2nd base. Our other new players – Aydin, Cameron, Peter Renouf and Thomas thoroughly enjoyed their first game.

Award: Jack Billington – Great All Round Play

Team: New York Yankees – Under 7s

Round 2 Date: 18.9.2004

Game: NYY vs Atlanta Braves

Result Score: Loss 15-12

The boys made a great effort for their second game. Michael's throws were fabulous and so was Daniel's batting. Bradley put a huge effort into batting for the first time and Peter Rubie and Thomas batted well too. Cameron did a terrific job as catcher. Jack and Jake were great all-round players. Well done boys.

Award: Jake Bortz – Great All Round Play

Award: Daniel Mills – Great Batting

Team: New York Yankees – Under 7s

Round 3 Date: 25.9.2004

Game: NYY vs Baltimore Orioles

Result: Loss

Score: 16-13

The Orioles were tough opposition however we gave them a run for their money. Michael's batting and fielding really stood out and Peter Rubie's batting was spot on. Aydin, Cameron, Thomas Jack and Daniel all got at least one run each. The highlight of the game was Michael's Grand Slam – Congratulations.

Award: Michael Chand – Great All Round Play

Under 8 Macquarie Maniacs

Macquarie vs North Ryde Blue

Round 2 18/09/04

Score: Loss 21:29

Today we were a little slow to warm up but once we got the idea of not batting to the pitcher our second innings led by Georgia was off....., all our batters then played well and all got to bat the following innings.

Some fantastic fielding in all innings but special mention to Zac, Callum, Eu-Anne and Logan who all gave us heart stoppers, some very very close catches indeed.

Great game by all.

Player of this week went to Zac Martin and for the 11th September it went to Callum Smith.

Macquarie vs Macquarie Saints - Pike

Round 3, 25 September

Score: Win 28-24

Today all our team batted very well, Logan even managed to hit the ball and have it return to the tee all in one shot. Good strength in the arms for long throws by Sam, Eu-Jan and Eu-

Ann. Great 1st base work by Zac, good out field work by Callum and all round good play by Brad, Ben and Georgia. A great 1st of hopefully many wins to this team.

Player of the week went to Sam Giulieri.



Under 9 North - Francis

Macquarie vs Rangers (Midnight)

Round 1, 11 September

Win 9-0

What a game! After only 1 training session we came away with a 9 – 0 win. The boys had plenty of batting practice, but unfortunately not much fielding practice. There was dancing in the outfield and BJ came away with the man of the match for a sensational hit. We were even a player down during the match.

Macquarie vs Rangers (Thunderbolt)

Round 2, 18 September

Win 15-1

Venue was changed and we played at ELS park. The boys upped the antics this game and came away with a 15 – 1 win. Great work. The highlights of this match were several home runs from Jack Ferrari and William Blomfield. Joshua Houldsworth set a new record for the most number of foul balls with 7. Awesome game.

Macquarie vs Thornleigh 2 (Braves)

Round 3, 25 September

Win 17-15

The boys again had another cracker of a game, the braves went into their last batting innings behind by 8 runs and we knew that the game was sewn up at this stage and this time another win 17 – 15. This game allowed the boys to have more fielding practice. Pedro Gomes had a great connection with the ball, Conor Francis took a magical catch, Damien King has changed his batting style and wow what a difference, and it is hard not to mention the great slide from Jack Ferrari.

Next game we face Greenway who have also had 3 wins. This game should prove to be entertaining.

Under 9's Fischer

Macquarie vs Epping Eastwood

Round 1, 11 September

Loss 7-4

Our team were very happy to get together for another season of baseball under the guidance of our coach, Tom Fischer. We welcomed a new player to our side, Isabella Pytha (two players departed). Our first game against Epping Eastwood provided a new experience with the Zooka which we had not yet had the opportunity to try out in practise. However, by the end of the match, our team showed signs of starting to become familiar with it. Despite losing, the team remained positive, looking

forward to the next game. Our Player of the Match went to Sean O'Sullivan who produced a great hit resulting in a home run.

Macquarie vs Five Dock

Round 2, 18 September

Loss 7-19

Although we still had not yet had a chance to practise with the Zooka we were pleased that even though we lost this match, we had increased the number of runs that we made in comparison to the previous game. There were some very encouraging performances from our players. Sean O'Sullivan made several good catches, Liam Jackson produced some great batting and James Gibson produced a piece of great fielding. Forrest Johnson-Fischer had a great all round performance and was awarded Player of the Match.

Macquarie vs Five Dock

Round 3, 25 September

Win 0-11

A great win for our side with the players demonstrating their developing skills in dealing with the Zooka. Bridget O'Brien handled the position of catcher very well and Isabella Pytha, a new player to our team this year has settled in very quickly. There were some great batting performances produced by Harry Spurr, James Cutcliffe, James Gibson, Liam Jackson, Sean O'Sullivan and Forrest Johnson-Fischer. The outstanding player this week however and our Player of the Match was Claire Mitchell who not only produced several great hits but some great fielding as well.

U9 Martin (Central 2)

Macquarie vs Five Dock (Kestrals)

Round 1, 11 September

Loss 0-22

First game of the season and first game facing the zooka. Our team put in their best effort but unfortunately could not score any runs against a well-drilled Five Dock side that looked like they had been in boot camp training for six months. Anna Piper led the way with the hit of the game from both sides – it was only self-preservation from the other team that stopped a certain home run. New recruit Madeleine Siestma showed she was a natural to the game with excellent all-round play and Georgia White revealed that she hadn't lost any of her batting skills from last year. Dean McCrohan was the first of our team to make it to base and only bad luck stopped him from making it home.

A few more games with the zooka and we will have a very different scoreline.

Macquarie vs Five Dock (Merlins)

Round 2, 18 September

Loss 3-7

Our first home game and what an improvement from our team. Sarah Ivers took up the challenge of opening catcher and did us proud. Our other new recruit for the season Jacinta Smith was fantastic in the infield and made some excellent stops. Our outfield combination of Sam Lloyd, Chris Bonnett and Dean McCrohan prevented a blow out of the scoreline.

Macquarie vs Five Dock (Kestrals)

Round 3, 25 September

Win 1 0-0

We ventured down to Concord and gave the other team a batting lesson. The first game since our zooka training session

demonstrated the benefits of what some extra training sessions will do. In his first game of the season, Sebastian Giuleri showed what he can do with the bat and made it home on several occasions. Sam Lloyd has made a strong claim for the record of most foul balls on a full count (8) before lashing out and hitting a homer. Chris Bonnett also managed to put bat to ball and contributed several runs to the total.

A brief but heavy downpour couldn't put a stop to the scoring – even if it did stop the game next to ours. Brianna Martin got the difficult job of trying to bat during through the rain. With such a fantastic swing we are all waiting for the time she connects as the ball will certainly fly for miles.

Our fielding was fantastic and we managed to keep Concord scoreless. Bring on the rest of the season.

U9's Macquarie Angels

Coach Gary Peck

The Angels have had a mixed bag to start the season. One win, one no show by the other team, one bye and one loss.

The all girls team has shown great skills, heaps of enthusiasm and a true eagerness to learn.

Every week every player is learning and improving skills. At this stage we are moving players, around but so far in the field Natassia is really throwing and catching well at pitcher, Zoe is doing a great job as catcher, Lauren S is putting skill to the test on 3rd base, Bianca always a great arm at 2nd base (I think she's been training with her older brothers in the off season), Ashlee - fantastic throwing from right field, Deniz is improving by the week at Centre Field, Megan always the reliable fielder in short stop.

Lauren W always a strong performance in the outfield and Kate really showing her experience playing down this year, with strong performances at 1st.

Talk about "good at bat" the first win 11 – 2 vs Kissing Point. All the girls are hitting well, having a lot of fun and really coming together as a team.

A big thanks to Frank (umpiring) Cathy & Janine (scoring) Huyla (managing) and at training, Alex Peck (assist Coach), Eric, Makis, Trish & Tony for their help with coaching.

Under 10's Bell

Saints Under 10's Bell v's Balmain Boomers

Round 1 Date 11 September

Result Score 12 all draw

We had a great first match this season! We were down 6-1 after the first innings. We played a further 3 innings and we gained 11 runs and limited their runs to a further 6. We did this with only fielding 8 players.

We had big hits from Lakshya, great stops at left field and short stop, by Tim and Chris. For Jarrad's first game ever, he leant a lot at 2nd base and handled the pressure very well. Tom also stopped well at pitcher. Tom and Zach were a great team with Zach at first base. Zach caught two fly balls and drew the match

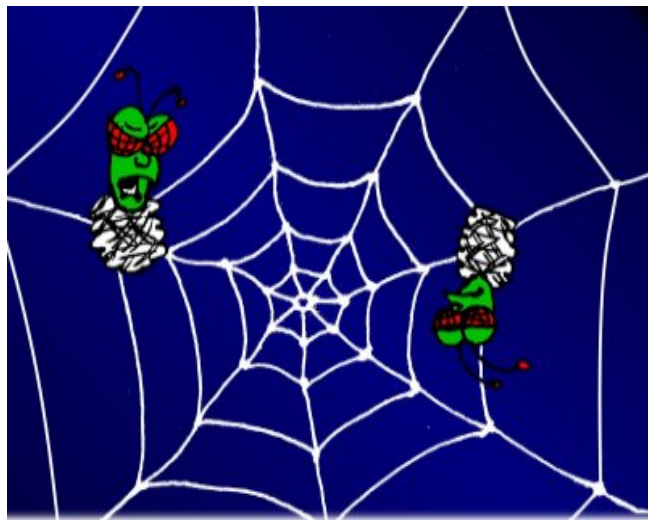
with his double play! Liam put in a great effort at catcher. Eryn, who is an Under 9 player, did us a great service by playing for us to help us out and made it to 3rd base. A tremendous effort and an exciting game.....well done Under 10's Bell.

Macquarie Saints v's North Ryde

Round 2, 18 September 2004

Result Score Loss 4-17

Started better this week, Tim stranded on 3rd base again! 2nd Innings fairly even, good running. 3rd innings, Nth Ryde fired and scored 6 runs. Jarrod hit a massive one. Tim stuck on 3rd again! 4th innings, Nth Ryde too good again but Zac took a terrific catch to make it side away. 5th innings, Nth Ryde too polished again while Lakshya shone with a big hit. Our boys are seriously improving week to week. Look out!



I JUST WANTED TO "GET ON THE WEB"... BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!!!

U12 Strikerz

Date 11-9-04

Verses: Concord at Waterloo

Loss: 13/10

We had a great competitive game of baseball for our first match of the season. Getting used to the larger playing field, settling our nerves, and remembering the skills we all have was the mood of the game. The first dig showed four up 3 down by each side. Few errors during the game kept the match tight with good hitting and some excellent fielding by each side. Pitching for the day was led by Kento Kamiariaso, Jade Cantori, Mario Restelli, and Jack Rungie who did a great job. Jade threw 18 pitches with 11 strikes....Go Jade. With Strikers our name, we struck with the bat with seven great hits including 2 home runs,

one triple, a double, and three singles. Our desire to hit the ball attracted a few wild swings, but I'm sure we'll remember to leave the over the head ones alone. Even with a loss, we had a great game. The player of the match was Jack Rungie for his home run, fantastic fielding, and great pitching.

Date 18-9-04

Verses: Kissing Point at Aluba

Win: 18/4

This was a fun and relaxed game against the Angels combined team of Under 12 and Under 11's. Our pitching was relaxed giving up only 1 hit and 4 walks. When the ball was in the zone we were hitting away with 14 hits with everyone at some point on base. It gave us a great chance to practice our infield skills, pickoff attempts to second, and backing up of positions. On the mound this week were Kento Kamiariaso, Robert Wells, and Robert Williams with Lizzie Symons and Jason Condon at backstop. Our stars in the field were Callum Rolls, Jack Rungie, Mario Restelli, Robert Williams, and Kento Kamiariaso. Our batting was led by a homer by Jack Rungie, and great hits by Lizzie Symons, Dominic So, Mario Restelli, Callum Rolls, Robert Wells, Robert Williams, Jade Cantori, and Kento Kamiariaso. Our player of the match was Kento for his consistent pitching, good fielding, and great hitting. Go Strikerz.

Date: 25-9-04

Verses: Epping Eastwood Tigers

Win: 19/2

What an awesome game of baseball. We all had our thinking caps on and played a game that people pay money to see. Wow. In first dig with bases loaded and one out, we saw Callum Rolls take a grounder and throw to home., and Kento Kamiariaso took a line drive back to the chucker for the third out and a nonchalant walk into the dugout. In the second dig Jade Cantori was the chucker and threw just five times. The first three were strikes for a strikeout, next for a put out at first, and the last for a hit back to the pitcher and put out at first. Wow. In the third dig, we saw Robert Wells take a grounder to short and toss the ball to second for the first out. The second out was a miss hit in front of the plate by Robert Williams and beat the runner to first. In the fourth dig we got even better. We saw Jade Cantori take a grounder at second, and tag out the runner from first, and then secure a double play to first. Mario Restelli took a grounder to third and throw out the runner at first. Awesome. The batting was also excellent. We took a lot of walks, but when the ball was over the plate we smashed it. We had a home run by Jason Condon in the third. Dominic So took a hard hit by pitch in the first and kept playing, scoring twice. On the mound today was Kento Kamiariaso, Jade Cantori, Jesse Knowles, and Jason Condon. This was an outstanding display of baseball and good thinking all around. The players of the match were: Jade Cantori, Dominic So, and Callum Rolls. I'm very proud to have been able to watch a great game. Go Strikerz!!!

Under 12C Rickard

Five Dock Flyers v's Macquarie 3

Round 3, 25th September

Result Win 11:14

A successful start to the season for our team. Round 1 was a win by forfeit and Round 2 was a win against the Stealers at Wahroonga , 15:0.

Today's game was a tense, exciting game that challenged the boys to use all their skills. Andrew showed determination and focus in his pitching. Stuart's fast and accurate pitching kept the batters on their toes and Tim, although pitching only for a short time showed that he also will be a terrific pitcher. Eden, Martin, Jos and Eu Jin demonstrated fantastic batting. Geoffrey and Hugo worked very hard as our reliable catchers. Jack and Eu Kin showed excellent teamwork and fielding skills. The whole team was encouraged and supported by Jake on the sidelines. The MOM was Eu Jin for a sensational home run that also brought three more of his mates home. The boys are playing very well together and with Tom as their coach they look like they are going to have a very successful, rewarding and fun season. Congratulations boys.

There once were two best friends named Bob and Earl. They were two of the biggest baseball fans in America. Their entire adult lives revolved around baseball. Bob and Earl discussed baseball history in the winter, and they examined every box score during the season. They went to over 60 games a year. They even agreed that whoever died first would try to come back and tell the other if there was baseball in heaven.

One summer night, Bob passed away in his sleep after watching a Yankee victory earlier in the evening. He died a happy man.

A few nights later, his buddy Earl awoke to the sound of Bob's voice from beyond.

"Bob is that you?" Earl asked.

"Of course it me," Bob replied.

"This is unbelievable!" Earl exclaimed, "So tell me, is there baseball in heaven?"

"Well, I have some good news and some bad news for you. Which do you want to hear first?"

"Tell me the good news first."

"Well, the good news is that there is baseball in heaven, Earl."

"Oh, that is wonderful! So what could possibly be the bad news?"

"You're pitching tomorrow night."

GREATER UNION MEGAPLEX MACQUARIE

Firstly a big thankyou to Tim Peters and Phil Nichol, for coaching this team. Both guys know a lot about the finer points of baseball and are willing to impart this to the kids. It must be working because they have won each of their first 3 games against Thornleigh, Five Dock and Balmain quite convincingly. 6 of our 9 played together last year so there is room for the teamwork to improve as they get to know one another better and the coaches work out who is best at what. Nearly all players have got bat on ball and there has been some great hits including Damian Lews home runs and good pitching by Eric. Damien La Rocca's backup of 3rd base has also been great. Looking forward to a successful but fun season. Keep on enjoying your baseball.

Cheryl Osborne Manager

U14B Collins

Macquarie v's Kissing Point Round 1, 11 September 2004 Win 18 - 1

Our Team, made up of a couple of last year's U14's & the rest from last years U12A teams, made its way to Auluba Park, Kissing Point. Strange for seasoned baseballers, but none of us had been to this park before. Anyway, spirits were high as we looked forward to our 1st game of the 2004-05 Season. Our Coaches, Sam Collins & Mat Rickard, had trained the players hard & we were well prepared.

Adam Marsh opened our batting today & a solid hit saw him safely on base. A good start. Good hits from Alex Goode (RBI), Dean Butler, Andrew Walkerden, (2 RBI), & Tim Klujin (RBI) saw us score 6 runs. Daniel Goode was our opening Pitcher and his brother Alex caught for him. Good pitching from Dan & good catching by Alex enabled us restrict the opposition to 1 run.

In our 2nd turn at bat a hit by Daniel Bugeja, a good bunt from Dan G. (RBI), then a screamer from Rhea Cambourn (3 RBI) followed by a great hit by Nathan Lumb (2 RBI) and his and our first Homer of the Season gave us another 6 runs. Dan G gave another good display at Pitcher again which saw no runs scored by Kissing Point.

The 3rd Innings saw good batting from Dean (RBI), Andrew, Alex, Daniel B (RBI), Dan G, Rhea, good base running and good stealing which resulted in us scoring another 6 runs. Chris Civitella then took up the pitchers mound & good pitching by him and a great throw to 1st as well as good fielding from Daniel

La Rocca and Sravan Anne sent the opposition from the field with no runs scored.

Kissing Point were not a strong team but nevertheless a great 1st up win to us & a great way to start the Season.

Macquarie v's Thornleigh
Round 2, 18 September 2004
Win 7 - 3

For our 2nd game we played at home (Waterloo) which, believe it or not, was the 1st game of Baseball at this ground for many of our players. The main diamond, following the recent upgrading, looked great. The weather was good and the players were looking forward to the game following our first up win.

We took to the field with Sravan at Pitcher and Alex at Catcher. Thornleigh battered better than last week's opposition but with good pitching from Sravan (2 strike outs), good catching by Alex and a good tag by Nathan we held them to 1 run. Adam again opened our batting & a great 2 bagger once again saw us off to a good start. Alex followed that with another 2 bagger and an RBI. Dean's hit was solid & resulted in another RBI but unfortunately we couldn't capitalize on the good start & only lead 2 -1 at the bottom of the 1st. Our fielding was poor in the 2nd but again good pitching by Sravan striking out 2 batters & a sharp catch by Alex restricted Thornleigh to 1 run. Walks to Daniel B. & Dan L. saw our runners on base & Rhea's hit (RBI) gave us our only run this innings. The game was tight at 3 - 2.

Tim came on to pitch in the third innings and was solid on the mound & this, aided by improved fielding, didn't enable Thornleigh to score. We wanted runs now but despite a couple of good hits we couldn't score also. Still a tight game going into the 4th. Tim was again solid at Pitcher & was assisted by a run-down by Adam & good catch by Alex. No runs to the opposition. Safe hits by Tim & Daniel B. put runners on bases then a good hit by Dan L. (RBI) and stealing we had a couple of more runs on the board. Dan G. hit a great 3 bagger & a good hit by Rhea (RBI) saw us finish the 4th with 3 runs & a better lead of 6 - 2. Nathan came on to pitch in the 5th and Adam moved to Catcher & with a strike out, supported by good fielding & good catch by Dean we restricted them to 1 run. Another run to us saw us finish ahead 7 - 3.

Good team work towards the end of this game was pleasing to the coaches but we must concentrate better in the field all through the game.

Macquarie v's Greenway
Round 3, 25 September 2004
Win 10 - 0

We traveled to Greenway for our 3rd game of the Season and approached this game with a little more care following the close one last Saturday.

Dean opened our batting today and even though he hit the ball hard & fast he was out to a sharp catch. Next up Alex also connect well which enabled him to reach 2nd base. Andrew hit very well for a 3 bagger & 2 RBI. Unfortunately we could not capitalize & only posted the 2 runs. Dan G. came up to pitch & Tim donned the gear to catch for him. A good run-down by Nathan & Dan G., a reliable tag from Dean & a strike out by Dan G. didn't give Greenway a chance to score any runs.

At bat in the 2nd Innings Dan L. made it 1st on a dropped 3rd strike & a solid hit from Nathan saw him safe at 1st & RBI. Nathan soon snuck home but again we couldn't capitalize and were held to another 2 runs. Dan G. came to the mound again & accurate pitching saw him dispose of the 1st batter. With their 2nd batter on base Adam took a good catch & a quick throw to Dan L. at 3rd saw us dispose of Greenway again without them scoring.

In the 3rd, Adam walked to 1st, Andrew was safely at 1st following a good hit, and in the next play Adam stole home. Andrew tried to steal home on a good bunt from Tim (who made it to 1st) but was run down. In the next couple of plays Tim stole home & Dan L. and Dan G. made it to base on walks. Nathan came to bat & against the 2nd pitch made contact on the sweet spot for a ripper of a hit out over left field's head & on the ball ran. This hit saw Dan L. & Dan G. home & Nathan off like a rabbit around the bases. Nathan was on his way to home plate before Greenway's left fielder managed to catch up with the ball & pick it up. This gave us & Nathan the 2nd Homer for the season. Well done Nathan ! Dan G. again came to the mound & very accurate pitching saw him strike out the first 2 batters & he swooped on the ball from a poor hit from the 3rd batter to throw to 1st for an easy out. We now led 10 - 0 and were looking good.

The 4th innings a couple of good hits from Dean (1 bagger) & Adam (RBI) & 3 runners stealing home gave us another 5 runs but the clock then stopped the game before Greenway came to bat so a roll-back gave us a 10 - 0 victory. A good team display & 3 wins from 3 games. Well done Team !

Many thanks to all our parents that help us so much with scoring, umpiring, ground set-up etc. We greatly appreciate your efforts.

[Under 16 C \(Harris\)](#)

With the first three rounds under our belts, the team has started to come together as a cohesive unit. In these rounds we played Greenway (Win), Macquarie Saints - Corrigan (Draw) and Concord (Win).

At the beginning of the season it looked doubtful that we would be able to field a full team. Thanks to the tireless work of a number of the parents we now have a strong squad of 11 players. We were also very fortunate to be able to register two players from the Kissing Point Angels.

Parent support has made the coach's job so much easier. Special mention must go to Steve Southgate (Pitching Coach) Geoff Pollard (Umpire) Ian & Annette Ingleton (Team Managers and Scorers) Rosemary Clark (Scorer) Tina Pollard (Scorer) and Derek Woo and Ross Prestipino who help to organise and warm up the batters before each innings.

I think our successes to date can be attributed to the fact that our players are having fun on the diamond.

A baseball story



At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves learning disabled children, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question: "When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?" The audience was stilled by the query. The father continued. "I believe, that when a child like Shay comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes, in the way other people treat that child."

Then he told the following story:

Shay and his father had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, "Do you think they'll let me play?" Shay's father knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but the father also understood that if his son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging. Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and asked if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and, getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said, "We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning." In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the outfield. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved to him from the stands. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat.

At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game?

Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible 'cause Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball. However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least be able to make contact. The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game. Instead, the pitcher took the ball and turned and threw the ball on a high arc to right field, far beyond the reach of the first baseman. Everyone started yelling, "Shay, run to first! Run to first!" Never in his life had Shay ever made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled. Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second!" By the time Shay rounded first base, the right fielder had the ball. He could have thrown the ball to the second-baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions and intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head. Shay ran toward second base as the runners ahead of him deliriously circled the bases toward home. Shay reached second base, the opposing shortstop ran to him, turned him in the direction of third base, and shouted, "Run to third!" As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams were screaming, "Shay, run home!" Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the "grand slam" and won the game for his team.

"That day," said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world."

Macquarie Saints Parents' T-Ball Gala Day

Don't miss out on this highly-contested annual social event - no previous experience required, but loads of laughs and good times guaranteed!

Includes a free Bar-B-Q lunch, fantastic prizes and a complimentary raffle ticket for all registered gala day players.

Date: *Sunday 16 November 2003*

Time: *10.00am for a 10.30am start!*

Place: *Pioneer Park, Marsfield*

Registration: *\$10 per position (2 people can share a registration, but only one is allowed to play at any one time)*

- **Minimum of 9, maximum of 12 players per team**
- **Teams must consist of a min 60 - 40% ratio of men to women**
 - **Players must be parents of junior players**
- **Registrations can be individual, group or whole teams.**

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Names: *Please use BLOCK LETTERS*

1. 2.
3. 4.
5. 6.
7. 8.
9. 10.
11. 12.
Contact Name: Tel number:

NB. Registration will only be accepted if accompanied by registration fee.

Please return names and registration fees in an envelope to the results sheet slot at

Pioneer Park Canteen ASAP

but no later than 12 midday Saturday 15/11/03!

Macquarie Saints Parents' T-Ball Gala Day

Rules:

- Minimum of 9, maximum of 12 players per team
 - T-ball stand and bat used
 - 30 min games
 - 4 runs, or 3 out = side away
 - 1 strike and player is out
 - Teams must consist of a min 60 - 40% ratio of men to women
 - No sliding: penalty is an automatic out
 - Ball hit over the cones on the full is a Home Run
 - Players must be parents of junior players
- Gala Day committee reserves the right to mix teams to spread experience

