



Saints

BASEBALL BANTER

NEWSLETTER NO. 3 – FEBRUARY 2007

INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL COMES TO PIONEER!!

Yes - that's right folks our own Pioneer Park is now an International Baseball Venue!!

Starting on 26th December through to 28th December Pioneer Park hosted a tightly contested 3 day International Series.

A visiting Junior team from Japan played 3 double headers against a club team from Warragamba, the NSW U14 team and a team from Ryde Hornsby of 12 rep players.



Whilst our Japanese friends may have been small in stature they were big in baseball skills defeating all three teams twice.

Those who came to watch were privileged to see top class baseball from the Japanese whose talk on the field and backing up of every play was top class.



Many of our Saints players also hosted two or more of the Japanese boys and we all enjoyed learning about their culture and showing them some of our country (the beach was very popular) as well as introducing them to our lifestyle and food (though I'm told not many wanted Vegemite).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES!!

Macquarie Saints AGM & Presentation Day

Sunday 25th March – 1.30pm

Deadline for Last Newsletter & Team Reports

Sunday 18th March

BUSH DANCE WRAP UP

Howdy Folks,

Our thanks to the Currency Lads band :- Ray the fiddler Abella, Ralph on Guitar and Sarah on Keyboard. Thank you so much for teaching us all to polka....the dance floor was pretty well packed for the majority and certainly got everyone hot, bothered and a swinging along. Definitely a crowd pleaser! Our special thanks and appreciation to Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club functions coordinator Aaron Billingsley for accommodating our every request to ensure all went well - our every whim was catered for, thanks Aaron it was a pleasure! Lastly but not least of all, our sincere thanks to our members for getting into the spirit and coming out for the ho down. Dressing up for the occasion indeed added to the ambience and character for the event and we sure do appreciate it....yiha!!



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Sponsors/Donations

1. Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club (Board of Directors)
2. Lexus Australia (Kevin McCrohan)
3. McDonagh's Gourmet Meat (Ann & Steve Paterson)
4. Bunnings Warehouse (Wayne Falconer)
5. Bentine's Jewellers Sydney (Kaz & Mamaro Kamiariso)
6. Macquarie Saints Baseball Club (2006/07 Club Executives)



Prize Winners

1. Best Dressed Male

Sorby wins dinner for two dining at Hawks Nest Restaurant compliments of Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club.



2. Best Dressed Female

Michelle Simms - wins a gourmet hamper compliments of Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club.

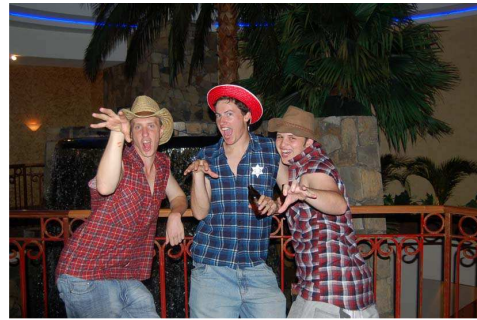


3. Lucky Door Prizes

Ann Sorbello receives a fabulous freshwater pearl & gemstone necklace compliments of Bentine Jewellers Sydney (Kaz & Mamaro Kamiariso)

Sharon Steer wins a \$30 McDonagh's Meat Voucher

Steve Simms wins a \$30 McDonagh's Meat Voucher



4. Johnny Walker Red Scotch Bottle Toss
Closest to the bottle winner is Craig Evans.

Social Committee

1. Aivi Juske for designing and printing our flyers and dance tixs.
2. Narelle Scott for assisting and coordinating
3. Steve Simms and Craig Evans for the muscle power
4. Win Hollings for helping with supplying props & setup
5. Mira & Louisa Scott for assisting with setup
6. Frank Young for his email reminders
7. Wendy & Carl La Rocca for the lawnmower!

Thanks folks
Saints 2006/07 Social Crew





TEAM REPORTS:

U7 Washington Nationals

Date: 03/02/07

Opposition Team: New York Yankees

Game Report: Happy New Year everyone! We are certainly back with “gusto” today; everyone was very enthusiastic after the holidays. Our batting was remarkable and Dylan, Lotus, Oscar and Brendan all batted very strongly. Our combination of Lachie on 1st and Sam as Pitcher worked well and resulted in a few outs. Ethan kept the fielding tight at short stop and Alison guarded second base well. Without a doubt the most exceptional improvement in batting was demonstrated by Ben who belted the ball every time – it must have been his new bat and all that practice!

Award: Ben Hayes – Batting

Date: 10/02/07

Opposition Team: Tampa Bay Rays

Game Report: We had a fun game and our batting was strong, however the Tampa Bay Rays were superior on the day. Sam and Lotus gave the Rays a run for their money as Pitcher and Catcher – getting many outs in the first innings. Lachie was also a strong catcher and Brendan was a very enthusiastic first baseman and managed a great tag-out. Ben, Dylan, Ethan and Alison were all very strong and consistent with the bat.

Awards: Sam Ferguson – All Round Play

Alison Rubie - Batting

U7 Tampa Bay Rays – No Report

U7 New York Yankees – No Report

U7 San Francisco Giants – No Report

U8 Xiao – No Report

U8 McAlister – No Report

BASEBALL QUOTES

A baseball park is the one place where a man's wife doesn't mind him getting excited over someone else's curves – Brendan (Bruce?) Francis

The other sports are just sports. Baseball is a love – Bryant Gumbel

Pitchers, like poets, are born not made – Cy Young.

A knuckleball is a curve ball that doesn't give a damn – Jimmy Cannon

I know a man who is a diamond cutter. He mows the lawn at Yankee Stadium - Unknown

Baseball is 90% mental, the other half is physical – Yogi Berra

I only have one superstition. I touch all the bases when I hit a home run – Babe Ruth

I'd like to thank the good Lord for making me a Yankee – Joe Di Maggio



Mr. Nuke
© Newburgh Nuclears

U 8 Kilby

DATE: 3/2/2007
MACQUARIE Vs CONCORD
RESULT : WIN: 22-8

It was a hot day for our first game back after the Christmas break against Concord at Pioneer.

The team trained very hard during the week and they all put in a great team effort in today's game.

In the field Madison took a well judged catch at pitcher which was her first for the team and she also worked a good partnership with Kendall at 1st base. Charlie also did a great job at pitcher as did Harrison W at 1st base.

Harrison K took an outstanding catch at short stop by diving forward. The catch was made even more impressive as it involved a collision with Simon at the same time. This was Harrison's first catch for the team.

A 3rd catch was taken in the field by Simon at Centre out from a hard flat ball hit to him in the outfield and he made it look easy.

Jack & Charlie also made great attempts for catches in the field. Max made a smart 'tag' at short stop.

In the batting, Nicholas hit a home run and big hits were also achieved by Charlie, Max, Harrison K, Jordan, & Simon.

A special thanks also to Jenny Wass for umpiring her first game for the team.

GO THE SAINTS !

DATE: 10/2/2007
MACQUARIE Vs GLADESVILLE
RESULT : WIN: 26-11

Conditions were overcast for our away game at ELS against Gladesville.

Our batting was probably the highlight of our performance today with everyone hitting the ball well.

Max batted superbly and even managed a 3 base hit and Harrison K got a 2 base hit. Other big hits were achieved by Nicholas, Jordan & Madison. Kendall batted very sensibly with some accurately placed hits away from the fielders.

In the field Harrison W produced 2 brilliant 'tags' fielding at pitcher and also made some accurate throws to Charlie at 1st base. Harrison K fielding at pitcher also made some great stops and threw well to Jordan at 1st base.

Max took a fantastic catch at 2nd base with a well judged effort after a hard, fast ball was hit to him. He made the catch look easy.

GO THE SAINTS !

DATE: 17/2/2007
MACQUARIE Vs TIGERS
RESULT : WIN : 30-9

The weather was perfect for our away game against the Tigers at George Kendall.

It was a fantastic all-round team effort today with everyone making valuable contributions.

Harrison W led the way at 1st batter hitting the ball very hard and managed a 3 base run on 2 occasions. Max also batted superbly also hitting a 3 base run on 2 occasions. Jordan hit a great home run. Other big hits were achieved by Nicholas, Charlie, Jack, Harrison K and Madison. Kendall again placed the ball well between the fielders.

In the field, Harrison W made some stops. Max fielded well at pitcher and teamed up well with Nicholas at 1st base. Jordan also fielded well at pitcher as did Harrison K at 1st base.

Max took a well judged outfield catch at left out. Nicholas also took a brilliant outfield catch at centre out when the ball was hit so high it nearly came down with snow on it !.

Jack and Harrison K also made good attempts to make catches.

GO THE SAINTS !

U9Gough

Well it might have taken us the best part of a season, but the team has come along in leaps and bounds! Our ability to put bat to ball has improved immensely and the parents' bench has been very vocal in their support! The team is finding their specialty positions and we have a few terrific catchers in Adam Walton, Lachlan Roser and Tom Ferrett, who just love getting the gear on. We have seen the development of some terrific all rounders, in Christopher Davies and Patrick Gough who are always dependable at bat and fielding. Ruby Grudzinskas and Matthew Brescia have come a long way and have both collected batting awards in recent games. Fielding highlights have come from Thomas Priddle, Finn Lloyd and Joshua Taylor, who has enjoyed having a new supporter in his new baby sister! In Round 1, the Tigers defeated us 11-3. In Round 2, we drew 6 all. Round 3 saw a consolidation of skills, resulting in a win 6-3. This best demonstrates how far this team has come! With just 3 more games, we hope to continue with this improvement and finish the season on a high note. A big thank you to Maria Brescia and Francene Priddle for looking after the scoring and to Ian Ferrett for his umpiring duties.

U9 Nicoll – No Report

U9 Sieper – No Report

10A Sorbello

February 3rd 2007
V Greenway
7/0 WIN

Great win by the Saints with the whole team performing extremely well, particularly in their fielding which was faultless. We scored 6 consecutive runs in the 1st innings with great batting by Brendan, Zac, Sam, Sophia, Brianna and Callum. Sophia got home again in the 4th innings giving us our 7th run. In the field Olly took everything that came his way on 1st, with Bree throwing some great balls to 1st for 2 outs. Murdoch and Bianca both took great catches and Nicole

played well on third with her strong throwing arm. Jackson was quick on the ball all game in the outfield.

February 10th 2007
V Stealers 1
5/5 DRAW

We were expecting a hard game this round and all the players stepped up to give us a draw. Olly, Sophia, Jackson, Sam, and Nicole did some smart batting and stealing bases to all get home. Bianca did a great job on 3rd including a huge throw to Zac at 1st for the out. Callum almost pulled off 2 tag outs with quick throws to bases from his position at catcher. Bree worked hard on second base and Brendan did well coming back into the game after a hard pitch hit him on the hand. Zac and Sam shared the pitching, both sending some of their usual un-hittable balls at the batters. Well done everyone!

February 17th 2007
V North Ryde
3/3 DRAW

Very even game with Saints 3/1 up at the end of the third innings. Brendan, Olly and Murdoch's calm batting under pressure and a hit from Nicole which brought Olly home gave us our 3 runs. Zac and Murdoch both helped the team along with their pitching, striking out 2 players each. Murdoch followed his strike outs with a catch that ended North Ryde's 3rd innings. North Ryde were able to tie it up in the fourth with some good hits off the tee. Sam and Olly both had bad luck batting when they were caught over the foul line with incredible sliding catches by North Ryde's pitcher. Callum caught well throughout the game and there was a lot of great backing up in the field. Sophia, Bree, Bianca and Jackson didn't see much action in the out field but fielded well when called upon.



11B Martin

It's all about happiness....

Before the holidays were over, we spent a few days at my favorite stadium, Pioneer Park. It was a typical summer series--hot as ever and muggy. The Saints looked great; they were not hitting on all cylinders yet but still did a lot of little things right. So, of course, the coaches drilled us.

I was out in the bullpen for the first time in a long time for the national anthem. I noticed a group of parents coming in.

They were great to see. They were at a ballgame.

One tried to stand up but needed some help. When he got up, I realized he was trying to start the wave. They were having a good time.

It started to rain, but they didn't care; they sat out in it. They sang "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" and did everything else fans do at a game.

Slammin' Sammy hit a home run right to them, and you should have seen the mad dash for that ball. One worker told me that this one guy hadn't moved out of his wheelchair in a long time, but he shot out of his chair for that ball.

When Sam hit that ball toward them, I saw their lives change. They were 10 years old again, not connected to their lives, not needing think about work or paying the bills. They were at a game and fighting for a ball. They were free from their shackles--if only for a moment.

All of a sudden, my life wasn't so tough. I play a game that makes people happy.

Those people didn't care we played for the Saints. They were just happy to be at a game, hoping a home run ball would come to them. During the game, I just watched them, and it was helpful.

Sometimes in life, God makes you see what's really important--happiness. Even if

it's just for a few hours at Pioneer Park, eating a hot dog and doing the wave.

And so it was for the parents of all our opposition teams.

When I was a kid things mattered more. Like baseball. You listened to the radio hopefully, anxiously, as each inning drew you closer to life, closer to death. Of course, my team was Macquarie, and this was late in the 2005/2006 season, so we're talking death here more often than life. And as my heroes fell, one after the other, it was like something from the House of Atreus, something out of scale to my own life in small-town Marsfield, a sense of the annihilation of the valiant in plain view of their loved ones.

In Saints Nation, that's just the way things were. We'd look at our roster and match it against the opposing teams, and we'd think that player for player, on an excellent day, we could beat anyone. I recall Georgie, Kate, Sebastian and Conordemigods, all right, but no cigar.

Productive off season trades, inspired words from coaching staff at spring training. What a difference. We have won lots of games, and I guess deservedly so. We are passionate, and good, we burn with a pure flame.

As Saturday arrives, the drone of the Saints charter plane sounds overhead, and a terrible shadow passes over opposition suburbs.

The opposition see us as the Princes and Princesses (and I do mean princesses!) of Darkness, the dark side of Nature, in black and green suits of armour, the march continues. Lauren and Isaac, Brianna and Ross, Naomi, Sam, Kate, Conor, Sebastian, and Georgie. Gray knights, extinguishers, relentless in their pursuit of the Holy Grail.

Speaking of which "Did you get the result of the Parents' T-Ball Gala Day?" "How good are those Martini's?"

11b Martin (Cont'd)

Up and down the roster, the greatest stars are seen in subdued light. Lauren, Isaac, Ross and Bri, all with promising careers ahead. Who knows what their future will hold. Hall of famers? Home run records? Mystifying ERA's? Time will tell....

And then there are the kings and queens of baseball -- "No Mercy Naomi" they call her. Don't get in her way on the diamond (or during a stocktake sale!) And for a pure sacrifice, put "Bad Boy"Bas into the batter's box.

The bats of Georgie, Kate, Sam and Conor – a place where fast balls go to die. Deafening roars fill the sky as they stride to the plate with the hopes and dreams of countless youngsters on their shoulders. They never disappoint. Another Hall of Fame candidate by any measure, Lauren has been tearing up the league with her steady glove and with her spray-style of singles hitting.

The stage is set, the outfield manicured, the seats await the massing crowds who have put their lives on hold to become a part of baseball history.

The Saints train rolls on.

This is the hottest ticket in town!!

11 B/C Fischer

U11C Fischer Vs Thornleigh loss 4 - 8
9/12/06

Our Team are playing well together. Good hits by Forrest, Tom, Rhiannon & Jason. Doubleplay involving Josh and Zac. Great fly ball catches by Pedro & Tom. Excellent fielding by Bronson, Ella and Zoe both infield & outfield. Coach's award went to Zac.

U11C Fischer Vs Ravens
loss 6 – 8 16/12/06

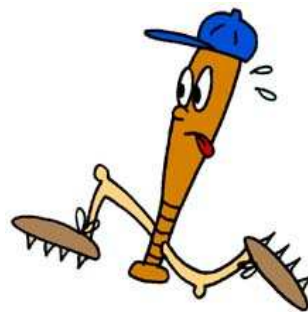
What great hitting we had today, homeruns scored by Josh & Jason, 2 3 base hits by Rhiannon. Pedro, Bronson, Zac, Forrest and Tom also getting on base. Ella & Zoe also had great hits but out was made just seconds before getting to the base. Great catch by Pedro at shortstop. Coach's award went to Jason and Rhiannon.

U11C Fischer Vs Macquarie
loss 7 – 9 3/2/07

What a close game, great fielding by Ella & Zac. Great hits by Zoe, Tom, Forrest, Bronson, Josh, Jason & Pedro getting on base. Great pitching by Rhiannon and Forrest. Coach's award went Bronson and Zoe.

U11C Fischer Vs Tigers
win 13 – 11 10/2/07

What a game, we scored a few runs today with excellent hitting by all, with Forrest's homerun, Rhiannon's 3 base hit also thanks to Zoe, Bronson, Zac, Josh, Tom, Bronson and Forrest with their RBI's. Great fielding by Jason & Pedro. Coach's award went to Pedro and Zac.



11 B/C McCrohan

We are on the march to the finals, nothing guaranteed, but were confident of making them.

Josh Jefferies has been on fire with the bat, along with Dean McCrohan, taking us to victory against the Fisher 11....Great pitching from Natassia Makis and Harry Beauchamp, along with Felix Dixon and James Cutcliffe have put us on a for a great finish. Rhys Touhy and Kevin Chen have given us great games as multi skilled position players, with the best yet to come.

Zoe Peck, Eryn Burnett-Blue and have provided us with great hitting over the last few games.

Katie Beauchamp and Lauren Semken have anchored the team with their great defensive play over the entire year.

This division is so close; it will come down to the last game to decide the finals....we will be there.....

Thanks again to all the parental support this year

U12/A Hollings

Great start to the year. The first match back was against our rivals where we had a great display of hitting including a home run by Jun, a triple by Sean M, a double by Tom M and a great rip by Taylor which unfortunately was stopped by the first baseman's head. Our second match was against the league leaders and very poor batting and fielding led to a defeat. Match number three was against Greenway. Great batting once again led us to a very large victory, the highlight being Tom McCann's Grand Slam followed by a triple. A big thank you to Sam Lloyd, Connor Francis and Brianna Martin from the 11B's for filling in and doing a great job. The game against the number two team was a critical one that may prove to be costly to the season. It was just one of those days where nothing worked, except Tom M who again topped up his slugging average with another triple. It finished up a very close game where great pitching by Taylor had us lose by one out or 1 minute as time and

game had to be called and the score reverted.

A great season boys, and we deserve to make the finals as we are clearly the best 'TEAM'.

12B/C Elliott
No Report

12 B/C Mansfield
No Report

U14/A Heal

With only two games remaining before the finals, the 14A's are holding firmly on to second place on the ladder. Final standings may be determined by the outcome of other games, however we will expect to be in the finals. Because of representative duties in the past two weeks, the team has been superbly assisted by some 'super-sub's' from the 14B's and the 12A's. Guest appearances from Jun Kamiaraiso, Jordan Sorbello, James Vlazny, Latham McGrath, and Keiran Li have meant that we've been able to field a team and remain competitive.

14C Bell
No Report

16A Sims

The Three Strikes of Life

The Saints 16A team was taking pre-game batting practice. The stars were smacking the ball hard. Everyone else was missing. After a bit, a man in black shorts put his fingers through the chain links of the fence. He looked eighty, though his shoes looked only half that.

"You kids want to hit the ball better?" he asked. The better players laughed. What did this man know about hitting? But a handful of the lesser players tentatively put their hands up. They were willing to try anything.

"Listen up," the man said. His hands trembled until they fastened around an aluminum bat. Then they seemed strong. His eyes were red, and complexion was mottled, with a stubble of whisker.

16A Sims (cont'd)

"You get three strikes," he said. "Each one's different. Each strike, you change who you are."

Ollie, Ryan & Keiran squinted.

"The first pitch is your rookie pitch. The pitcher doesn't know you. Anything can happen. Maybe you close your eyes, you get lucky, and beat one back up the middle."

"But usually you don't. You miss, and all the weaknesses of the rookie comes down on you. You're thinking about failing, and getting ready to fail. You're scared of the pitcher, scared of the ball. You get revved up. You forget what your coaches say and swing crazy, hoping to get lucky. Or you stand like a statue while the umpire calls a strike."

"Most young hitters give up now. They swing at the next two just to get it over. They don't grow in the at-bat. The bat's a white flag, and they're waving it to surrender."

"To have a good rookie pitch, you have to be good inside. Good rookies go up to the plate respecting the pitcher, and humble about their odds. They respect the ball, and shut out everything else."

"You need courage on the first strike pitch, because you're a stranger in a strange land. You put yourself in harm's way, close to the ball, close to the plate."

"Maybe you'll get drilled. It'll hurt. But only a bit. You stand close anyway, because you know good things happen when you put yourself in a little danger."

"You need faith that if you do it in the right spirit, things will work out."

"That's the *rookie pitch*."

"Tell us more ... pleeeeeease." begged Pecky.

"By the second pitch, you're in your prime. Now you know what the at-bat is about. You've seen the pitch. You know what you

have to do to turn on it. The first strike filled you with adrenaline. Now you're strong. You feel electrified. You feel good. You grip the bat tight."

"The prime pitch is when good things usually happen. You're ahead of the pitcher, even with the first strike. Because you know what he's got, and you feel good. If you fail on the prime pitch, it's maybe you felt *too* good. People in their prime get overconfident. They swing too hard. They miss."

"That's the *prime pitch*." The old man spat, and the spit dripped out, and he had to wipe some off his lip.



"Third pitch. Now you're a veteran. You're at the end of your rope. If you fail now, there won't be another pitch. It's life or death. You're like an old prizefighter, and you stand almost perfectly still, waiting for your moment. The bat's loose and tight at the same time."

"You're not relying on luck, like the first pitch. Or talent, like the second pitch. Now you're calling on your guts, and everything you've learned."

"You mess up on the *veteran pitch* when you're angry at the pitcher for making you miss the other two pitches. The bad veteran is always making excuses. He's making up excuses for missing before he misses."

"But the good veteran welcomes the battle. It's serious, but it gives him joy, too. He knows that baseball means pain, and he welcomes the suffering. He may go down, but he's grateful he ever got up. If he goes down, it will be swinging."

"Sir, what if you strike out?" asked Duck, shielding the sun from his eyes with his glove.

16A Sims (cont'd)

"You hope there's another game kid, and that you're in it." The old man scanned the horizon to the western. "I gotta go, kids. Good luck out there." And he turned and was gone.

The kids mumbled as they got their equipment together. Did anyone know who that guy was? Maybe a retired sportswriter, Beau suggested. Or an ex-player. Maybe even a Hall of Famer, Matt and Evan suggested.

"No, it's Simsy," said Mira. "He was in good..... once."

And every one of the kids who listened got a hit.

**16B Collins
No Report**

16B Harris

The Dirty Dozen (plus 2) being Daniel (Butch) Bugeja, Dean (Deano) Butler, Daniel (DG) Goode, Daniel (Harvey) Holten, Alex (Lurch) Latham and Nathan (Lumby) Lumb, Chris (The Civ) Civitella, Alex (Pants) Goode, Tim (Kluj) Klujin, Adam (Marshy) Marsh, Lachlan (Lachy) Gordon, Andrew (Bugsy) Harris, Coach, Mark (The Preso) Harris and assistant Coach, Chris (Tex) Latham were all fired up.

Five rounds of the Competition and they are undefeated. Can this be sustained ?

**Macquarie (Harris/Latham) v's
Macquarie (Taylor/Collins)
Round 7, 04 November 2006
Win 12 - 1**

Local derbies are always looked forward to by all teams.

Light rain was falling as the game began and we sent our first batter up.

A couple of walks put runners on base then Lumby smacked the ball well into the outfield for a 2 bagger and 2 RBI.

A couple of more walks then DG hit safely (RBI) followed by Lachy with a well placed bunt (RBI) then Civ also smacked one (2

RBI). 6 runs and the sort of start we wanted.

Lurch was lead-off pitcher and Nathan was at catcher. Their first batter hit well but good fielding by Harvey with a great throw to 1st put him away. Their next batter was also out at 1st and Lurch struck out the 3rd.

The rain was increasing as we came up to bat the 2nd time. Marshy hit well to be safe at 1st. Harvey hit very well for a 3 bagger and 2 RBI followed by Lumby with another good hit (RBI). Butch produced a big hit for a 2 bagger (RBI) followed by a safe hit from DG (RBI) and then a monster of a hit by The Civ (RBI) and 6 runs scored. Back luck Civ as it would have been a Grand Slam.

Lurch continued to pitch and a couple of walks and a couple of hits before he struck out the last 2 batters with only one run being scored.

The rain bought an early close to the game so off we took for some food.

**Macquarie (Harris/Latham) v's
Greenway
Round 8, 11 November 2006
Win 11 - 6**

Any Greenway team on their home turf is a tough encounter and we expected no different today.

Lurch hit high and long to be safe on 1st followed by Harvey with a Walk and Butch (RBI) but their pitcher and fielders were on the money to dismiss us with only one run. Not a good start.

Lurch led off as pitcher and Lachy caught for him. Lurch struck out their 1st batter before they hit a few and scored a couple of runs. Lurch struck out their other 2 batters to hold them at that.

We had a couple of walks and 2 outs before The Civ produced another of his trademark big hits for a 2 bagger (2 RBI) and then got home himself on a baulk. 3 runs.

Lurch was keen to dismiss them as cheaply as possible and supported by his fielders, partic. The Civ with good safe hands and they were all out without scoring. Back in the lead with a slender margin. Still anyone's game.

16B Harris (Cont'd)

Lurch led off our batting this dig and did so with a big hit which got him safely to 2nd. Harvey hit a high one but they dropped him (RBI) and Butch, up next, was also dropped (RBI). Pants hit well to be safe at 1st as did Kluj (RBI). The Civ belted the ball (2 RBI) and would have had a Homer had not the 6th run been scored. The Civ has a bit of a knack at doing this sort of thing. Lurch again pitched well and we dismissed Greenway for one run. We were ahead 10 -3. In the 4th they scored 3 runs then The Civ came to the mound and struck out the last 2 batters. We again batted and scored 3 runs but it was Time and Game and the Score reverted to 14 – 6. Not a bad performance but we need to watch our errors in the field.

Macquarie (Harris/Latham) v's Stealers Round 9, 18 November 2006 Win 11 - 2

Still undefeated but the players appeared a bit cocky and training hasn't been as good as it could be.

Lurch was lead off pitcher again today and Lumby donned the catchers gear. Accurate pitching by Lurch and good support by the fielders, partic. a double play by DG finishing with a great throw to Lumby at Home, held them to one run. Good hits by Harvey, Pants and Butch secured us 3 runs in the 2nd innings. Lurch was on the boil in the 2nd dig and struck them out without a run being scored. A couple of walks to us then hits by Marshy, Dean (RBI) and Lurch (RBI) and we added 3 to our score. We had settled down a bit.

The Civ came to the mound in the 3rd and again good support in the field saw them only post one run.

Then hits by Buggy and Kluj gave us another 2 runs.

The Civ struck out their 1st batter in the 4th then a good catch by DG dismissed their 2nd. The Civ struck out their 3rd for 3 up and 3 down. Marshy was the only one to hit well (RBI) as this was all we could score.

Good safe hits by Pants and Butch (RBI) and the game was over.

A solid win but no means an overly impressive one.

Macquarie (Harris/Latham) v's Concord Round 10, 25 November 2006 Loss 3 - 10

Up against Concord, a Friday night and our 1st game under lights. Concord had lost only one game and that was against us in the 1st Round. Could we continue our winning streak ? The players appeared a bit over confident and rowdy.

At bat we were dismissed without scoring a run. The batting was a bit "loose".

Lurch was lead-off pitcher and Lachy caught for him. Lurch was on line but their batters had their eye in and hit well to score 3 early runs. Not the start we wanted.

At bat again but despite safe hits from Buggy and DG we couldn't score.

Lurch kept us in the game with some great pitching to strike out their batters for 3 up and 3 down. Well done Lurch !

Lurch was the only one to hit well (2 bagger & 2 RBI) in the 3rd innings.

Their batters then hit very well aided by our poor fielding, except a superb catch by The Civ, and they posted 6 big runs. We were behind 2 – 9 which was a position we hadn't been in before.

In the 4th innings. Despite safe hits from DG and Kluj we again couldn't score a run. The Civ was on the mound now. Our fielding improved this dig starting with a good catch by Lurch which was followed by an equally good throw to Harvey on 2nd for a great double play. Lachy also produced a great run down as catcher and we dismissed them for only one run.

We, yet again, couldn't score a run in the 5th and then good pitching by The Civ plus a good catch off his own pitching and they added only one more run.

Time and Game and weren't Concord happy. So they should be. They played well and as a unit. Whilst we began the game overconfident and lacking in discipline. Hopefully a lesson learnt here for attitude at Training and games ?

Alas our fire had been doused and rightfully so.

No longer a one horse race.

16B Harris (Cont'd)

**Macquarie (Harris/Latham) v's Balmain
Round 11, 2 December 2006**

Win 16 - 2

We were up to bat first which saw good hits from Lurch (2 bagger & RBI), Harvey (RBI) and Pants (RBI) for 3 runs.

Harvey opened the pitching today and Lachy was catching. Harvey was well supported in the field and we kept them scoreless.

DG then hit well, followed by Kluj (RBI), Lachy (2 bagger), The Civ, Lurch with a big hit and rewarded with a Homer and 3 RBI. 6 more runs on the board. Harvey again pitched, was again supported in the field and we had them 3 up and 3 down.

We didn't score a run in the 3rd innings.

Lumby was then called on to have a pitch despite not having done so for a while. He was also supported by our fielders and pitched well to strike out the next 2 batters with no runs scored.

Our batting wasn't good in the 4th dig and we didn't add a run to our score.

Lumby again pitched. They scored 2 runs before the next batter was caught and then Lumby struck out the last 2.

In the 5th innings and a batting improved with safe hits by Lurch, Lumby (RBI), Pants (2 RBI), Buggy (RBI) and Lachy with a big hit (RBI) for 6 runs and side away.

DG was our 3rd pitcher today, Pants caught for him and aided by a good catch by Lachy, he dismissed them 3 up and 3 down with only 8 pitches. Good performance DG.

A solid win of 16 -2.

We look forward to a much better attitude at training which will result in a better performance at games.

The Dirty Dozen have their eyes firmly set on making the Finals. This is very doable provided we all stay focused and do the hard yards at practice.

Macquarie (Harris/Latham) v's Macquarie (Taylor/Collins)

Round 12, 09 December 2006

Win 19 - 5

The Local Derby was up again. Last time, due to the rain, we only played 2 Innings but today we are looking forward to full game.

In the Field we went, keen as mustard. Lurch led off the Pitching and Lumby was Catcher. Their 1st batter got a walk and later snuck home. Lurch pitched very well to strike out the next 3.

Up at bat. Most of batters got onto base from walks except Butch who hit a big one (2 RBI) and we closed with six runs.

Lurch again came to the mound in the 2nd with Lachy catching for him. Their 1st batter was out through a good pick up by DG. Their next one was out to a super catch by Harvey and Lurch struck out their 3rd. Good play team !

At bat and a couple of walks put runners on base then Adam produced a good bunt. Lurch hit very well (2 bagger & 2 RBI) as did Harvey (RBI) and Lumby (RBI). We were now ahead 11 - 1.

Lurch was right on the mark today and we dismissed them without them scoring a run. As we were batting well everyone was trying their best. Kluj hit safely (RBI) as did Lachy (2 bagger & 2 RBI). The Civ hit well as did Marshy (RBI), Deano and then Lurch with a big one (RBI). 6 runs posted.

The Civ took up the pitcher's role for a while and struck out a couple. DG then replaced him to dismiss the last one. They had fought back though and posted 5 runs. We again got a couple of runners on base with walks then Butch hit safely and then Buggy produced a big hit (2 RBI) as we added another 2 runs to our score.

Time and game. A convincing win but we still have room to improve. Keep it up guys. Doing well !

**Macquarie (Harris/Latham) v's
Greenway**

Round 13, 16 December 2006

Win 13 - 7

The last game before the X'mas/New Year break and we were keen to go out on a winning note.

Lurch lead off as pitcher and Lumby was behind the Plate. A hit by them (RBI) put their 1st run on the board. Lurch struck out the next. The next batter hit but very good fielding by Pants, Lumby and Harvey resulted in a great run down. Good team work !

16B Harris (Cont'd)

In our turn at bat Harvey produced a great hit (RBI), Lumby hit a big one, and Pants produced a perfect bunt (2 RBI) and made it to 3rd on overthrows. Well done Pants. Butch hit well (RBI), as did DG. The Civ smashed one and 3 runners got home, but unfortunately only one run counted as we had reached the max 6. A solid start to lead 6 – 1.

Lurch pitched again in the 2nd and even though they hit a few could only put 1 run on the board.

Marshy was 1st up at bat and hit well (2 bagger). He was followed by Deano (RBI), Lurch (RBI), Nathan snuck home and DG hit safely (RBI). We had added another 6 to our score.

Greenway was not down and out as they posted 4 runs in the 3rd.

Marshy was our only batter to hit well for a 2 bagger and RBI as we only posted 1 run. DG was the mound next and struck them out with only 1 run scored.

We didn't add any more runs.

A good team game from our players.

Macquarie (Harris/Latham) v's Stealers Round 14, 3 February 2007 Loss 8 - 10

First game back after the long break. Were we ready ? Time would tell. Another hot day on the Hill at Golden Jubilee.

Batting first and Deano hit very well for a 2 bagger. A good way for a lead off batter to begin. Lumby showed some speed to get to 1st on dropped 3rd strike and this got Deano home. Pants hit well (RBI) as did Butch (RBI). 3 Runs.

Lurch was at his customary role as lead off pitcher and struck them out with 3 up and 3 down. Well done Lurch.

DG hit a good one (2 bagger) as did Kluj but we were out without scoring.

Lurch then Harvey pitched in the 2nd. Stealers were hungry and put 5 runs on the board. Behind 3 -5 and needing a lift.

In the next we got a couple of runners on base from walks then Lumby hit well (2 RBI) as did Pants (RBI).

Stealers really wanted this game and started hitting well and posted 5 more runs. We were behind again.

Our last chance at bat as time was running out. We got a couple of walks then Marshy hit safely (RBI). We got another run on a walk but it wasn't enough. We tried though but still have improvement in us in this area.

DG fished off as pitcher . He caught the 1st batter out and struck out the next. They didn't add to their tally before time and game.

As one of our players said at the end. "Winning isn't everything".

How true !

Macquarie (Harris/Latham) v's Concord Round 15, 10 February 2007 Win 4 - 1

Up against Concord, the Competition Leaders but we were at home which is an asset. We really wanted this one as it could set the scene for the Finals. In games played between us to-date it was one game each.

The lads had trained pretty well but we were all a bit nervous, including our group of supporters.

Last minute instructions from our coaches and onto the field. Everyone was on their toes.

The Civ was our lead off pitcher today and Lumby was at catcher. 1st batter struck out, 2nd caught by DG who was on 1st and the 3rd struck out. 3 up and 3 down. The kind of start we wanted.

At bat and ready to go. Unfortunately for us their pitcher was on the mark too. 3 up and 3 down.

Already this game had the feeling of a tight tussle.

2nd Innings, The Civ still on the mound and we repeated the 1st with 3 up and 3 down. Good fielding by Marshy was the highlight. Nathan led us off with a very big hit into left field and he was off like a rabbit and made it to 3rd. This was better. Good work Nathan ! Pants then come up to the Box and with a good hit (RBI) brought Nathan home for our only run. Well done Pants.

16B Harris (Cont'd)

The Civ stayed on as pitcher in the 3rd and Lumby was still catching for him. A couple of walks then The Civ hit the mark to strike out the next 3 batters. No runs scored.

Again Concord's pitcher was equal to the task and we were 3 up and 3 down. The tension was building as we led by only one run. My stomach was churning with anticipation.

The Civ was again ready to fire in the 4th. The first batter hit but straight at Civ who took it safely. Their next batter made it to 1st and the next one hit way into the outfield but ever present and safe hands, Lurch caught it. Their runner, however, tagged up and made it home. Lurch came on to replace The Civ. He struck out the next batter and the game was tied up at 1 – 1. Nail biting stuff as we started over. Lurch pitched well in the 5th and we dismissed them without scoring. Our first couple of batters didn't make it base then Lumby came up to bat. Smack ! With a great line drive to left field running only centimeters inside the Line, Nathan was off to be safe at 2nd. Well done again Nathan ! In the next play Nathan used his wiles to sneak home and give us the lead 2 – 1.

The Preso and Tex called the players together for a pep talk and Tex reminded them he wanted them to play for the full 2 hours.

Lurch pitched again in the 6th innings and Lumby was still behind the plate. Their 1st batter was struck out, their 2nd hit hard to left field but Pants, at third, took it well and with a great throw to 1st got him out. Well done again Pants.

Butch took a good catch to dismiss their 3rd. At bat again with the players inspired by Lumby's efforts, DG and Kluj both hit to get safely on base. Lachy hit a good one (RBI) and a fielding mistake by Concord gave us another run. We were ahead 4 – 1. Into the 7th Innings. Almost unheard of these days. After some good pitching by Lurch it was Time and Game.

Whew ! All over. I was shaking and couldn't stand still. Our supports were in raptures. A top effort team ! It goes to show what we can do when we concentrate and as Tex asked for, play for the full 2 hours.

These words I have written do not correctly illustrate what a close, tense and exciting game this was.

Very proud of everyone today. Well Done !

**Chris Lumb
Manager.**

U16/C Luczynski

Team v's Stealers/Rangers
Round 12 Date (9th December)
Result Score Loss 20 – 9

A nice cloudy day at Golden Jubilee, not too hot. We only had seven players, but we were lent a couple for the outfield from the other team. We started out batting well but couldn't convert the hits into runs with only one run scored and with loaded bases, it was side away. We managed to keep the St/rangers to three so the lead wasn't too great. Unfortunately the second started out bad with four up, three down and none home. They got four. And so it went but everyone did well and the score doesn't reflect the game. Daniel got three runs including a great home run, Anthony two runs, as well as catching and tagging well, and good straight throws to third to almost get a few tags. Louise had good "at bats" getting 2 RBIs as well as a great catch at second to get an out. Harry did some good saves at third the keep the runners from stealing (otherwise they would have been home). Andrew did good pitching and had a great catch as pitcher, catching a batted ball belted back at him as well as great throws from leftfield to home to stop a run. Jacquie did good catching and batting and had a great run from at dropped third, making first base and stealing second as well. Connor tried his hand for the first time this year at pitching, doing a good job. Also batted well, but the best was his catch while pitching. The batter hit the ball so high that we lost sight of it in the dugout. It took so long to come down, we didn't know who was going to catch it. Connor did. So even though we didn't win, everybody played one of their best games and they all seemed to enjoy it.

U16/C Luczynski (Cont'd)

Team v's North Ryde
Round 13 Date (16th December)
Result Score Win 15 – 8

Firstly, a big thanks to Daniel Bugeja, Andrew Harris and Daniel Holten for helping us out.

Well here were, the last game of the year. It started well with us getting six home side away in the first. We kept them to two in the first inning, none in the second, one in the third and four in the fourth where as we kept getting three in each of the other innings. Good pitching by Andrew L and Daniel Gray, and catching by Jacquie, Connor and Anthony. A throw by Andrew L near right field to Daniel Holten at third got a good tag out. A good throw by Jacquie to Daniel Bugeja at second started a good run down between Daniel Bugeja at second and Daniel H at third (too many Daniels) with Daniel Bugeja getting the tag at second.

We loaned Nth Ryde a couple of fielders as they were short a couple. When Andrew H was helping at left field however he opened his mouth at the wrong time and told Daniel Bugeja to hit to him. Daniel obliged but with a little bit too much force and got a great home run and a 2 RBI right over Andrews head. Wish we could do that all the time. It was a bit confusing also with 2 Andrews and 3 Daniel playing but we survived.

The team played well with good batting and stealing, a great way to finish the year.

Team v's Epping Eastwood
Round 14 Date (3rd February)
Result Score Loss 18 - 10

A nice warm day at Ermington, first game of the year. Firstly a big thanks to Stuart who quickly filled in as umpire as Epping Eastwoods' umpire didn't make it. Also we only had seven players and fortunately were loaned a couple by Epping Eastwood It took a while to get started, we managed to get one run in the first innings. The game progressed slowly, I think both teams were still suffering from holidays and first week of school syndrome. Everyone managed to get at least one run in with Jacquie managing three. Good pitching from Andrew and Conner, catching from Jacquie and a nice out by

Daniel just missing a double play at first by a fraction of a second. Good fielding with not many errors, of a bad start to the year.

Team v's Thornleigh
Round 15 Date (10th February)
Result Score Loss 21 - 8

A big thanks firstly to Geoff Parker and Latham McGrath for helping us out today. We hadn't expected anyone.

First innings Thornleigh managed to get six home, we only one, Daniel who did a great home run. Unfortunately we had no one on base. Second inning, they got six we got one, Andrew got a home run and again no one else on base. Third inning, guess what they got....yes, they got six and we got one. Daniel got a nice two bag hit and ended up getting home. We got into a slump around the Fourth inning but with a bit of good fielding we kept them to none and we got one...Maybe the tables were turning. Fifth inning they managed three home but we cut them short with a good catch by Conner as pitcher and a throw to Andrew on first, a nice double play. We managed to get four home in the fifth.

Good outs at first by Daniel, outs at third and throws from short by Harry and Anthony, left by Andrew, a catch at centrefield and a great throw from right to first by Latham and Geoff helped the outs as well. Good fielding by Louise almost got the out at second also. Good pitching by Andrew and Conner and good catching by Jacquie and Anthony.

Robbie, good batting by all.

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