



Saints

BASEBALL BANTER

NEWSLETTER NO. 4 – MARCH 2007



PRESIDENT'S REPORT **2006/07 SUMMER SEASON**

Well, it has been yet another excellent season for the Saints; both financially and socially. We fielded a total of 25 junior teams in the Ryde Hornsby Baseball League and a near-record 10 senior teams in the Pacific Coast Baseball League. The results recorded by the Senior and Junior Vice Presidents in their reports are very pleasing for a club of our size.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members of the Macquarie Saints Executive and Full Committees for their support and camaraderie during my first year as President.

Members of the Executive:

Junior Vice President Jeff Wells
Senior Vice President Tony Sorbello
Secretary Frank Young
Treasurer Makis Chrysanthos
Assistant Treasurer Stirling Baker
Registrar Gary Peck
Website Co-ordinator Jonathan Burnett

Members of the Full Committee:

Club Coach Steve Sims
Equipment Officer Kevin McCrohan
Uniforms Anne Sorbello
Canteen Cheryl Blomfield
T-Ball Co-ordinator Jeff Wells
Umpire Co-ordinator Peter Macfarlane
Scorers Co-ordinator Jacquie Williams
Newsletter Co-ordinator Win Hollings
Photo/Trophy Co-ordinators Jacquie Williams & Janine Hunt
Grounds Co-ordinator Tony Sorbello
Fundraising Co-ordinator Pearl Stuart
Child Protection Officer John Collins

It is with a great deal of regret that we farewell Makis Chrysanthos and Cheryl Blomfield who will be vacating their positions. Cheryl will concentrate on caring for her newly enlarged family and Makis will be devoting more time to his overriding passion – soccer.

Special thanks must go to the following people.

- Win Hollings for volunteering to take control of the production and distribution of the Club's newsletters;
- Peter Macfarlane for jumping into the breach as umpire co-ordinator.
- Pearl Stuart and her able team for organizing another successful annual club function in the form of our end of year dance.
- Jacquie Williams & Janine Hunt for their seamless organization and delivery of the team photos.
- Jonathan Burnett for his considerable efforts in raising the standard of our club website and for his "nothing is too difficult" approach to every request for additional website functionality.

Player Achievements

What every coach and manager strives to achieve in this game is for the players under their care to complete each season with the ability to look back on heaps of good times. This enjoyment of baseball is further evidenced by the players who manage to achieve representative standard. Our congratulations go to the following Macquarie Saints players.

U/12 Association Team (Silver Medal Winners)

Taylor Hollings
Sean O'Sullivan

U/12 Rep Team

Phil Hastings
Jun Kamiaraiso
Tom McCann
Sean McCrohan

U/14 Association Team (Gold Medal Winners)

Ivan Chen
Jack Forbes
Jake Mandarakas
Karl Stuart
Dale Williamson

U/14 Rep Team (Gold Medal Winners)

Jake Wilkins (also NSW State Team - Gold Medal Winners)
Ben Cambourn
Chris Nicoll
Jarrod Heal
Jack Young

U/16 Association Team (Silver Medal Winners)

Matt Hollings
Beau Sorbello

U/16 Rep Team (Gold Medal Winners)

Ryan Falconer
Oliver Bromley

Sponsorship

Once again we had a number of local and not-so-local businesses support our club through their generous sponsorship. I would like to acknowledge the following businesses:

Schibello Caffe
McDonaugh's Meats
Robert Taylor
Lexus Australia
Australian Sky Reach (Drew Semken)

Grounds

Our playing fields have never looked so good. The following improvements have been completed since our last AGM by much work behind the scenes.

- Thanks to Ryde City Council, Pioneer Park has been totally resurfaced and had new irrigation systems installed.
- With the assistance of a grant from the department of Sport and Recreation, diamond 3 at Pioneer Park has new dugouts and netting. A working bee of willing volunteers further improved this diamond by adding new overhead nets, backing rubber and benches for both dugouts. The same working bee managed considerable repairs to the park fencing.

Volunteers

As most of you are aware, a community club cannot function without the dedication and hard work of many

people. The time and effort that these people put in, is critical to the success and viability of our club. On behalf of Macquarie Saints, I would like to thank all the parents who coached, managed, umpired, scored and otherwise assisted by giving up some of their valuable time for the sake of our children.

I look forward to seeing you all at the **Trophy Presentation this Sunday the 25th March at Pioneer Park at 1.30 pm** and again in the new season 2007/08.

Mark Harris
President



VICE PRESIDENT - SENIORS
REPORT

.After 21 rounds of baseball it gives me great pleasure to report on one of the most successful seasons of Senior Baseball at Macquarie Saints. With 10 teams playing in various grades from B's to G's the most fun appeared to be coming from the G2 Vlazny team, which had many baseball debutants together with many "seasoned" socialites. I can also confirm that 4 of the 10 teams have contested semi finals over the last couple of weeks. Both G2 Mansfield and G1 Peck made it through to the Final last weekend but unfortunately the G2's went down to Castle Hill while the G1's were beaten by the RAIN. This weekend the D1's will be playing in their Grand Final against Kissing Point at Aluba Reserve while the Mighty E2's seek to avenge last year's Final loss to Greenway in their Grand Final showdown at Greenway.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL!

A reminder too that we are accepting **Winter Registrations** , so don't leave it to the last minute to get your forms in as significant savings of up to \$40.00 are available. See web-site for details. The winter season commences on the 14th April so hurry and register "**ON-LINE**" **NOW.**

Tony Sorbello
Vice President Seniors



**JUNIORS SUMMER 2006/07
REPORT**

This season Macquarie Saints fielded 25 junior teams, making our Club one of the biggest in the Ryde Hornsby Baseball Association. I would like to personally thank all coaches, managers, scorers, umpires and all parents for making this year so successful.

The following table highlights our achievements this season.

Age	No of Teams	Semi Finalist	Grand Finalist
Under 7's	4		
Under 8's	3	U8 Xiao U8 Kilby (1) U8 McAlister	U8 Xiao U8 Kilby (2)
Under 9's	3	U9 Nicol U9 Sieper	U9 Nicol U9 Sieper
Under 10's	1	10 Sorbello	
Under 11's	3	U11B Martin (1)	U11B Martin (3)
Under 12's	3	U12A Hollings U12C Elliott	U12C Elliot (3)
Under 14's	4	U14A Heal (1) U14B Ironfield	U14A Heal U14B Ironfield
Under 16's	4	U16B Harris (1)	U16B Harris (2)

- (1) Minor Premiers
- (2) Won Grand Final
- (3) Grand Final yet to be played

Notable events and special mentions for the season were:

1. 18 Macquarie Saints Junior Players were Selected to represent the Ryde Hornsby Baseball league for 2006/2007.
2. Jake Wilkins a Macquarie Saints junior player was selected to the NSW U14 State team.
3. Three Macquarie Saints Junior Players, Ryan Falconer, Beau Sorbello and Alex Peck went to Japan in May 2006 for an international friendly.

Over the year there is a lot of need of support from volunteers in running the Club such as running the canteen, grounds up keep and with organising

family events such as the Christmas Party, Parents T-Ball Gala and the Club's end of year Dinner and Dance. I would like to thank all those people who volunteered to make this year so successful for the Club.

Overall the 2006/2007 was a great season and I hope to see all of you next year and don't forget spread the word of baseball to all your friends and relatives.

**Jeff Wells
Vice President Juniors**



TREASURER'S REPORT

I present the financial statements for the year ended 28th February 2007 to the members of the Macquarie Saints Baseball Club Incorporated. The highlights of the financial statements were:

1. **Baseball revenues for the year increased by 25%**
 - There was an increase in Senior registrations in Summer and particularly Winter after a small drop in Junior Registrations.
 - Winter development generated \$3,385 in additional income.
2. **Canteen revenues increased by 97%**
 - The re-opening of Pioneer Park now gives us 2 canteens which grossed \$23,266 and netted \$10,391 in profit.
 - This has reduced the need for fundraising and spread the burden of the fundraising effort among the club members while providing an important service to club members and visitors.

3. Significant increased spending on Equipment and Facilities

- The Club spent \$24,394 on the redevelopment of Pioneer Park
- \$10,730 of this ground expenditure was recouped from a State Government Grant
- The club also spent \$10,220 on players equipment this year (compared to \$3,359 last year)

4. Sound financial position with increase in members fund of \$7,633

- The net surplus for the year after these significant increases in expenditure was \$7,633
- This brought accumulated members funds to \$66,074 with \$55,505 of this in the bank.



TEAM REPORTS:

U7 Washington Nationals

Date: 03/03/07

Opposition Team: San Francisco Giants

Today's game was very exciting and all the training throughout the season paid off. Ethan took a great out at first and then Sam and Ben worked together to get another out at second base. Brendan and Lachie took an out at first then threw to home base where Lotus got more runners out. Oscar, Dylan and Alison did some fabulous batting and base running.

Thank you everyone for making this season really fun and we hope to see you next summer.

Jen and Dave Rubie

U8 Kilby

MACQUARIE Vs STEALERS 3/3/2007

WIN SCORE: 23-14

It was a hot day for our away game against the Stealers at Golden Jubilee.

This was the last game before the finals start and it was a very hard fought match.

We fielded well today. Nick did a great job at pitcher by making some accurate throws to Max at 1st base who caught them well.

Charlie gave his all at pitcher and Harrison W made some smart plays at 1st base. Other good plays in the field were made by Jordan at short stop, Harrison K at 2nd base and Kendall at 3rd base.

Max hit the ball hard today and was able run 2 bases on 2 occasions. Other big hits were made by Harrison K, Nicholas & Simon. Charlie hit the ball well as did Jordan, Harrison W and Madison.

GO THE SAINTS !

MACQUARIE Vs STEALERS

17/3/2007

WIN SCORE: 15-9

It was a steamy overcast day for our Grand Final clash against the Stealers at Pioneer. The ground look great with balloons everywhere and all the kids were excited.

After going through the regular season undefeated the team was a bit nervous before the game (as were the parents), however they were determined for 1 more win to help turn a very good season into a great season.

Our fielding was nothing short of brilliant today and it needed to be against a very strong and improving Stealers side.

Nick got us off to a great start with a fantastic catch at centre out and then threw the ball to Simon at 2nd base to perfect a double play.

Jordan took a well judged catch at short stop. He also took another safe catch at pitcher later in the game and then remained alert to throw the ball to Harrison K at 1st base for another double play.

The play of the day in the field was when Max took a fine catch at pitcher, he then threw the ball accurately to Nick at 1st base to get the double play. Nick then threw the ball to Harrison W at 2nd base and we came within a whisker of getting a triple play.

An example of the improvement / development by this team is at the start of the season no-one knew what a double play was and by the end of the season we achieved 3 in one game !.

Both Charlie and Jack did good jobs at catcher.

In the batting Harrison W hit the ball beautifully each time. Simon, Max, Harrison K, Nicholas, Jack, Madison and Charlie made big hits. Kendall and Jordan again placed the ball well.

Simon was awarded Most Valuable Player on the day by the umpire.

Thanks to Adrian Wade for umpiring during the season, Janelle Lane for doing the scoring and also Dianne Kilby for managing the team.

Under 9 Gough

In spite of our improvement, the final games of the competition proved difficult, due to persistent problems with the bat. However, we managed to finish 3rd on our table...more through good luck than good management! The finals game against the Nicoll team was an expected, though disappointing, loss for the boys and Ruby. Joshua Taylor was the star of the day, finding form with the bat and scoring our only home run. Lachlan Roser had a great day in the field, with both of these boys receiving the awards for the day. Ruby Grudzinskas received an award for the biggest smile of the day as she made her way to 1st base! A big thank you to the parents of our team for their ongoing support this season. Despite this, it is with

some relief that we now retire as coach and manager!
Signing off,
Rob and Kate

U11B Martin

Saints epitomize magic of baseball Postseason joyride provides indelible memories

The magical moments of baseball never were more evident than they were on Saturday morning, when Macquarie Saints claimed the 11B Series title.

There was Georgie pitching a marvelous three innings to help her team complete a twenty-game sweep for the season. Yes, the same Georgie who began spring training with pom-poms on her beanie, ended up as the winning pitcher in her team's clinching games in the Series.

The well-documented curse of the Stealers from two years past went from a perpetual affliction to a footnote in the history books.

The person who designed the cover of Saints media guide must have had a vision: It features Isaac, with his right fist in the air, being hoisted off the ground by Saints catcher "Bad Boy" Bas. That photo was taken during the shining moment of Saint's 2007 season, when they defeated Five Dock after trailing, 2-0, in the bottom of the third.

At the bottom of the cover of the media guide is a picture of three Saints: pitcher Sam, manager Sylvia and closer Conor.

Coach Martin would prove to be the only one in Saints history to bring his team back from the relative obscurity of last year's 10A debacle by continually proclaiming, "Just one game at a time"; and Kate would prove to be the hitter the Saints desperately lacked last season.

The young executives who designed that team are Coaches Martin, Francis and Carey, the generals of the diamond. With a sensational array of batting talent, headed by Lauren, Ross, Bri and Naomi, the opposition had little choice but to grab a dog and a beer, sit back and watch baseball history unfold before their eyes.

The major move that management made worked nearly to perfection, and they benefited almost as much from the moves they didn't make. "Things work out that way when you end up holding the trophy."

Management engineered the midseason acquisition that saw Isaac added to the roster. A punchy right hander with speed to burn, Isaac proved the difference in defence on many occasions. His flamboyant presence, punctuated by his electric blue boots had crowds chanting 'Dorothy, Dorothy, Click 'em together one more time'.

As the Series telecast concluded, FOX announcer Sam Collins left the viewers with these words: "A good friend of mine used to say, "This is a very simple game. You throw the ball, you catch the ball, you hit the ball. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose, sometimes it rains." Think about that for a while.

And so it was with the 11Bs.

Later, Conor, while being interviewed in the clubhouse -- and while pouring champagne over the head of team mates Kate, Sam and Naomi -- proclaimed, "There are 108 beads in a catholic rosary and 108 stitches in a baseball. When I heard that, I knew something special was about to happen."

From the gazelle like movements of Lauren, Ross and Georgie in the outfield, which saw opposition line drives evolve into something new, something special - a number in the scorebook, to the scintillating performance in the short game by Bas & Bri which broke the hearts of opposition pitchers, it's hard to see what may lay ahead for these young charges.

In a post match press conference Kate reflected: "You need to be cocky and arrogant, even when you're getting beat. That's the secret. You gotta play this game with fear and arrogance. I do this at the Christmas sales – I thought, Why won't that work for baseball too. And you know what IT DID."

Maybe, maybe it will never be done again. The fact is, no one knows.

And it really doesn't matter at this point.

It doesn't matter because this Saints team did something very special.

It doesn't matter because those brief moments the players, parents, fans and team members shared in the Saints clubhouse will last for a lifetime.

And those moments will be forever etched in the minds and the memories of Saints fans.

Saints management will bring this group of players back to Marsfield for celebrations in ten years, and in twenty years, and as long as there is a living member of this remarkable team.

This is the reason players and fans and everyone connected with the magical game of baseball gives their hearts and souls to the game.

A magical season has been completed. And those of us who watched and cared will never forget.

11C McCrohan

The year went great with a semi final against North Ryde, we went down 6-5, but played our best game of the year...Thanks to all the kids and parents for a great year. Thanks to Dave, Gary and Tony for their help throughout the year, thanks to Jonathan for umpiring and Jenny and Anne and Cath and Maria for their help with scoring, and thanks to all....

Regards,
Kevin McCrohan

12A Hollings

What a great season from this team! What an improvement from last year! Our Finals game against North Ryde couldn't get any closer – we lost by one run in the last innings!! This year saw all the boys improve in their skills and knowledge of the game. Good luck to the boys moving on the 14's and to the couple of players that will still be in 12's next year – hope you have a great season. Thanks also to Dave Hastings for being our umpire all year our scorers Maria P and Win Hollings and lastly a big thank you to our young coaching team: Matt Hollings, Ryan Falconer and Al Thompson – thanks for all the time you've given our boys.

U14A Heal

The 14A's finished the regular season as Minor Premiers and had an excellent back end of the season winning a critical final game against Concord to secure top spot and the home Grand Final. This gave the team a week off, which was filled with a trial game against the U16B's. Unfortunately the 14A's weren't able to repeat their earlier efforts against Concord in the Grand Final and lost 7-3. However, in what proved to be a hotly contested competition, the team played some very good baseball and to finish as Minor Premiers was quite an outstanding achievement. Special thanks to Coach Heal for his untiring work with the team, and to his able game day assistants Bernie Nicoll and Michael Heal. Because of the various representative players and other commitments, we were not always able to field a full strength team every week, so thanks must also go to the players from 14B's and 12A's who jumped in and helped out.

Finally a big thanks also to the scorers (Narelle Cambourn and her more than able apprentice, George Mandarakas) our umpire Pearl Stuart and to the other parents who helped with pitch counting and various other tasks thrust upon them on game day.

Frank Young
Manager U14A

14B Ironfield

Yet another season comes to a close and as always, a season of highlights, heartbreaks, fantastic baseball and most of all FUN!!

The 14B's had a great season overall and all the boys can be extremely proud of their efforts, each player brought something different to the team and made us an extremely tough and cohesive unit, resulting in a minor premiership with just 3 losses in the regular season.

The final series started with a shock, going down to Thornleigh who were really pumped up for the game. For the first time all season we scored 0 runs, amazing since in the 12 games prior, we had scored at least 10!! Following this shock

result, the boys really showed their fighting spirit and pulled together to record a very impressive 10-5 victory over North Ryde. Jordan ripped through the North Ryde lineup, not allowing a base-runner in his 3 innings of pitching and Christian showed his clutch hitting ability with a bases loaded triple to the cones when the scores were very close. Oh and who could forget the flying Kieran in the outfield with a catch worthy of a "Play of the Day" on Sports Tonight!!!

In the Grand Final we went in search of revenge and faced a formidable Thornleigh unit once again. It must be said that this Thornleigh team had only 2 U13 players compared to our 8 so a lot of our players were playing above their weight division all season and performing extremely well. Despite our best efforts on the day including 2 solid hits from Austin, some base swiping from Johnny and Mat's amazing catch in left field, we came away on the wrong side of the scorebook, going down 10-5.

The season did however have plenty of highlights, plenty of which I and I'm sure many parents will remember for years to come. Those that spring to mind include James power hitting all year, especially his massive Five Dock grand slam which became a double, I think its somewhere over the Pacific Ocean at the moment!!! Nick's diving catch in right field at Pioneer and the solid catching of Lachlan with his energy and support from behind the plate all season long!!

Others that spring to mind include our solid left side of the infield combination of Geoff and Latham. Geoff was consistent all year, providing some timely hits, great plays at 3rd base and even when called upon to pitch did a fantastic job!! Latham on the other hand led the teams batting stats, getting out only 9 times in the entire year, an amazing achievement, and pitching well in some pressure situations!!

As you can see by the length of this report, myself and Dad (our trusty assistant coach) are very proud of the team this year. I know we had plenty of fun along the way and hopefully the boys did too. A big thankyou to Nigel and Dianne for managing the team so well, and I'm first to admit it's a huge job when I am coaching!!

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Another big thankyou to all the scorers, pitch counters, ground setters, canteen helpers and training helpers for all their help, I love the way you were all willing to help out and as I said after the final, them team is not just the players but the entire crew!!

To all the players, hope to see you all back on a diamond somewhere next year. We bid farewell to our veterans, Geoff, James and Jordan who graduate to the U16's and for the rest of us, another exciting year of U14's awaits!!

Thanks again for a great year!!

Mark and Murray

16B Harris/Latham

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 are aiming to achieve their Goal of being Minor Premiers and making it into the Grand Final. This is the serious end of the season.

We were tied for 1st place with Concord but ahead on games played against them. We couldn't afford one Loss if we were to achieve our Goal.

Macquarie (Harris/Latham) v's Balmain Boomers

Round 16, 17 February 2007

Win 14 - 4

We were at home and looking to play well, of course. DG was our lead off pitcher today and Lachy was at catcher.

DG pitched well for 2 batters struck out and another other out at 1st. We kept them to 2 runs.

At bat and Harvey hit well (RBI), Deano and Lumby, on base from walks, snuck home to give us 3 runs.

DG pitched again, struck the 1st batter out, Pants took a good catch to dismiss their 2nd and DG struck out the 3rd batter. Good pitching and good team work by our twins.

Up at bat again. DG hit safely, Kluj got to 1st on dropped 3rd strike, Lachy hit well (RBI), Lurch hit safely, Deano hit a good

one (RBI) and then The Civ thumped one (2 bagger & 3 RBI). 5 runs.

DG stayed on the mound for the 3rd Innings and still had his eye in to dismiss them for only 1 run.

Our batting wasn't a feature this time and we didn't add to our score.

Lurch came on for a pitch in the 4th and we dismissed them quickly without a run being scored. Very good pitching Lurch.

Lurch again batted well (2 bagger & RBI), Deano hit a slick one to left field (2 bagger & RBI), Harvey hit safely (RBI) and Lumby smacked one (RBI) as we posted 6 runs.

In the 5th Harvey pitched, Lumby took a good catch at Centre Field and they only scored one.

Our batting was again a little wayward and we didn't add to our score.

A solid performance but not outstanding.

Macquarie (Harris/Latham) v's

Macquarie (Taylor/Collins)

Round 17, 24 February 2007

Win 13 - 4

Away team but playing on home turf.

First to bat and we were keen to post runs early. A couple of walks put runners on bases, Harvey hit well (RBI), Lumby hit big (RBI) and Deano snuck home. 3 Runs on the board.

The Civ was lead-off pitcher today and he pitched well. Our fielders supported him with the highlight being a great pick up & throw by Deano. We kept them scoreless.

In the 2nd innings and The Civ again came to the mound. Nothing for our fielders to do in this dig as The Civ efficiently dismissed them 3 up and 3 down. Good to watch Civ!

The Civ then led off the batting with a great hit (2 bagger). He was followed by Deano (RBI), Harvey who smashed one (2 bagger & RBI). Lumby then hit safely (RBI) as did Lachy (RBI). 4 more runs to our tally.

Lurch replaced The Civ on the mound and he pitched well and also fielded well and they could only manage 1 run.

At bat and Deano had good eyes to gain a walk to 1st, Lurch hit a safe one (RBI), Harvey walked, Lumby then thumped a big one (2 bagger & 2 RBI) as we added 3 more runs.

Harvey come on to pitch and his accurate pitching was very well supported in the field and they could only score 3 runs.

The Civ, then Lurch got on base from walks. Then Harvey hit well (RBI) and Lumby cracked a good one (2 bagger & 2 RBI) as added 3 more runs.

Time and Game with a good all round performance from our players.

**Macquarie (Harris/Latham) v's
Greenway
Round 18, 3 March 2007
Win 13 - 9**

Away to Greenway is always a tough game and this was no exception.

Up to bat we came with high expectations but their pitcher was on fire to dismiss us without us scoring.

Lurch was our lead-off pitcher and Lachy was at catcher. Their batters came out firing and despite Lurch's accurate pitching they put bat to ball. Unfortunately our fielders were not on fire today and didn't support their pitcher and they posted 6 runs. Not the kind of start we were used to. Or wanted.

In the 2nd our batters became more determined to fight back. Pants, Butch and Buggy all made it safely to 1st base. Lachy then hit safely (RBI), as did The Civ (RBI), Marshy (2 RBI) and Dean (RBI). Lurch then launched a big one (RBI) to finish the innings with 6 runs. A much better performance.

Lurch again came to the mound with a steely glint in his eye. Their first batter hit well but a good pick up and throw by Lumby at 3rd had him out at 1st. Their next batter also made it to 1st but soon after, a good throw from Lachy at catcher to Lumby at 3rd who finished it off with a great tag, saw him out. With our fielders now supporting their pitcher, Lurch made very short work of their 3rd batter for no runs added.

At bat again and Lumby hit safely as did Pants. We then had several runners on bases but could only secure 1 run in this dig.

Lurch came on again and with good pitching and good fielding we dismissed them for 3 runs.

Batting again in the 4th innings, Lachy got to base, The Civ hit a screamer (2 bagger & RBI) then Deano banged one (RBI) as did Harvey (RBI) and we posted another 3 runs.

The Civ was our next pitcher and with our fielders behind him we made short work of

their batters without allowing them to score. Ahead by one run but still anyone's game. Pants & Butch hit safely and made base. Lachy then hit a big one (2 bagger & 2 RBI) followed by The Civ (2 bagger & RBI) and we added 3 valuable runs.

Time was running out and with only a 4 run lead we needed to be on our toes. The Civ and our fielders combined to dismiss them without another run being scored. Whew ! That was a tough one.

**Macquarie (Harris/Latham) v's
Macquarie U14A
Training Game, 10 March 2007**

As we had finished on top as Minor Premiers (Oh, what a great feeling!) we earned a week off before the Grand Final leaving Stealers and Concord to fight it out for a place against us.

Our Macquarie Saints U14A (Heal) team did it the same way so we decided to play one another in a Training game so both teams could hone their skills for the BIG ONE.

The 14A's are a great side and proved it by beating us. Both teams enjoyed the friendly rivalry and the opportunity to stay in focus with a very solid and tight fought tussle.

Thank you very much U14A's.

**Macquarie (Harris/Latham) v's Concord
Grand Final, 17 March 2007
Win 7 - 6**

Playing at home is always an advantage in any sport and by achieving our goal of being Minor Premiers gave us that privilege. Tex had masterminded our game strategy and we arrived earlier than usual prepared for a solid warm-up.

Concord was right behind us and you could see their determination also. Both dugouts were soon decorated by their loyal bands of supporters. Our players went about their business in a quiet and efficient manner. A slight show of nerves but a much more determined manner about them all than other games. A disappointed Pants, very sick with a bout of the flu had got out of his sick bed to cheer us on. Thanks Pants as we wanted all of our team to be part of this event. A much larger crowd than normal had gathered and soon it was time. Grand Final Day ! Bring it on !!!

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Lurch was our lead off pitcher and Lachy donned the catchers mask. Concord's batters came out firing putting bat to ball on Lurch's very accurate pitching. A couple of miss-fields (hopefully only early game jitters) didn't assist us but a good catch by The Civ hopefully showed we had settled early. They put 4 runs on the board for their efforts. Whilst the players didn't appear to show much nervousness I certainly did it for them. Grand Finals are nail biting stuff.

Our turn at bat now and good safe hits by Lurch, Lumby (RBI) and Butch (RBI) and we put our first 2 runs on the board.

Lurch continued to focus on the job at hand by continuing to pitch with great accuracy. Our fielders didn't have much to do as Lurch struck out his mandatory 3 batters without a run being scored. Well done Lurch !

Here was our chance to add to our score. Kluj, Lachy and Marshy all hit well but we could only manage to bring one runner in over home plate.

Lurch, pitching well and economically stayed on as pitcher and Lachy gave him signals from behind the plate. Lurch was quiet but on the ball again as we dismissed them for only the cost of one run.

Our chance again to add to our tally but Harvey was the only batter to hit well (RBI) and one run was posted. Still a tight game as you would expect of 2 such teams in a Grand Final. Concord ahead 5 – 4.

Into the 4th Innings and the tension was rising amongst our supports but they stayed very vocal and encouraged our players on. The Civ relieved Lurch on the mound and Lumby came to catch for him. The Civ, like Lurch before him had a determined look as he went about pitching very accurately. Marshy supported well in the field with a great pick-up and accurate throw to 2nd. We kept them scoreless.

At bat now and Concord returned the favour and dismissed us without another run being scored. Our Coaches we ever alert for any opportunity to gain an advantage.

The Civ maintained his composer at pitcher and again pitched well and we kept them to one run.

We needed some runs now but despite a great hit by Buggy (2 bagger) we didn't put a run the board.

They had edged ahead a little to lead 6-4.

The 6th innings and the clock appeared to have gained wings and sped up. The Civ and Lumby remained our pitcher and catcher combo. Another good pick up and throw by Harvey at short stop was the highlight of our fielding. Another highlight was The Civ's pitching to send the next 2 batters back to the dugout. No runs.

This was our last chance to hit well, score runs and win the game. Our great crowd of supporters, and me, we on the edge of seats. This was it !

Lurch set the scene with a BIG hit (2 bagger) to give us all some encouragement. Harvey hit well and safely (RBI) as did Lumby with a good one (2 bagger & RBI) to level the game 6-6 and no batters out. With Butch at the plate and looking determined Lumby stole to 3rd. As play resumed our dugout started calling loudly to Lumby to stay where he was on base. What was going on ? Concord's pitcher returned to the mound and took his stance. Though our dugout knew what was happening no-one else did. We waited but then the Umpire realized what was happening as their pitcher couldn't pitch because he didn't have the ball. With slight of hand their fielder on 3rd had kept the ball and was waiting for Lumby to step off the bag. However, as the pitcher had returned to the mound and taken his stance but didn't have the ball it was rightfully called a balk. Lumby was then given a move to the next base, which was home plate, and the winning run was posted.

Time and Game. We had done it !!! The crowd and our players erupted with stupendous cheering and hollering. What a great effort from our players who kept going to clinch victory from behind. I was never so proud of them all as I was at that time. What a great bunch of lads, what a great team effort, including our Coaches. Whoo ! Whoo ! Whoo !

Our celebrations, by players, coaches and supporters was fabulous and sight I will never forget.

Thank you all for a truly great trip !

Luvs ya all !

Chris Lumb
Manager of the Mighty Macquarie
Saints U16B Team.

U16C Luczynski

Team v's Concord
Round 16 Date (17th February)
Result Score Loss 14 – 11

Not a bad result considering Louise was sick so we only had six players. Some good plays were done as well as good batting. We managed to keep them scoreless in two innings which shows how well we were playing.

Team v's Rangers/Stealers
Round 17 Date (24th February)
Result Score Loss 18 - 10

Firstly, thanks to Jade Cantori, Robert Williams and Tim Klugen for their help.

Fortunately we had their help as we had two people out again, so at least we had eight players. We did some good batting in this game with some two base hits and a home run from Andrew. Jacquie did a good job catching while Robbie, Jade and Tim did a good job stopping balls in the outfield. Daniel, Louise and Harry did well in the infield.

Team v's Nth Ryde
Round 18 Date (3rd March)
Result Score Loss 9 - 0

Unfortunately we had two people out and no one to help, so we had to finish the season with a forfeit.

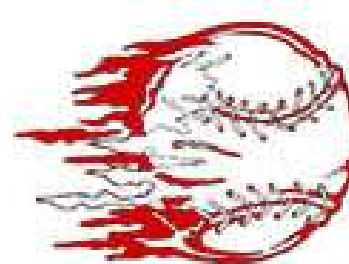
I'd just like to thank all the kids who helped us during the season make up a team, also Chris Lumb for organizing them. I'd also like to thank Cheryl and Narelle for scoring, Stuart for umpiring and Geraldine and Dillon for managing. Unfortunately they and Connor had to move to Melbourne in march and just missed the end of the season. Hopefully their move went well.

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Thanks to all those contributors who helped make our Newsletters so full of interesting stories about our players, coaches, umpires and parents.

SEE YOU ALL NEXT SEASON!!

