

SILLY POINT!.....Reports on...

MCC vs Peninsula Academy "A" - Under 13s

15 October 2011

The fourth term season got off to a hectic start at Wednesday's practice, and while Coach Mike put the boys through a tough "running between the wickets" session, some parents gathered on the balcony with a lemonade or two, and some parents elsewhere, discussing the missed opportunities at the Worcester Tournament.

It was however unanimously decided that although we did not get the desired results, our boys gained valuable experience at 20-20 level, and the Tournament was a huge success, and the late night parties for the players too!! Thanks Mike for your commitment as always.

Although Coach Mike will not be in attendance for the first few games of the season, the boys really wanted to get a "good news message" to him abroad, where he is scouting for new talent for next season, to replace his current players. Thanks Coach Brett for standing in.

The opposition has still not caught on to the fact that we use a "same side coin", as Mark wins the toss again. Chaz, needing to be elsewhere later on, prompted Mark to bat first, whatever the conditions, hoping to capitalize on Chaz's great form in the Worcester Tournament.

Although runs were hard to come by early on this decision seemed to pay off as the opening pair got to the break with 57 runs and all their wickets intact. A great start by Mark and Chaz, who it seems have got rid of that run-out monkey off their shoulders, and replaced it with patience, great running between the wickets, and playing the ball on its merits.

At 3,35 runs to the over after 17, and with 10 wickets in hand, Mark and Chaz decided to open it up a bit, with Chaz being the anchor. This decision also paid off as Mark and Chaz will score 7.5 per over for the next 6 overs. Even Mark scoring 4 fours in seven balls off their provincial bowler!! Mark must have taken me serious when I said to him that I was going to ask Lighties for my money back!

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Mark will eventually be caught behind for a well played 39 runs off 64 balls, including 6 fours! Well done Mark, long overdue, but well needed time spent at the crease. Things were still going to plan with Grant at the wicket, until two balls later, when Chaz was unluckily caught and bowled, for a well played 43 off 69 balls, including 5 fours. It is great to see Chaz batting so consistently. Both Chaz and Mark were looking good to reach their 50s, but not to be this time. They can however boast a great partnership of 95 runs for the first wicket.

With two new batsmen at the crease and plenty of overs to go we were looking at a total of 170+. Grant and Ollie had time to settle and play themselves in, but this role at the crease will restrict Ollie's, (promoted up the order), natural play and will unfortunately be run-out for 1. Grant will also get frustrated after 17 balls and 4 runs, and by not getting hold of the ball like we know he can, will be caught at square leg.

Grant, the sporting cliché..."Form is temporary, class is permanent", is often wheeled out to support the argument that a player out of form can ignore recent performances and reach into their reservoir of experience and class to dig out results and re-discover form. There are a few of us that witness how hard you work in the nets at Lighties and how sweet you connect bat to ball. I believe it is only a matter of time that this will transfer to the pitch in the middle and that your consistent form will return soon. So heads up please!!!

Kyle, caught was next to depart for 0, and the above also applies to Kyle, who I believe is one innings away from finding form again. 115 for 5 after 31 overs, beckoned for some big hitting, so at the crease we find ourselves with Mr Delivery Jason and Lolly Pop Dylan. For those who do not know, Jason and Dylan did not take kindly to hostel food in Worcester, and reverted to their staple diets instead.

Both Jason and Dylan wasted no time in fear that the rest of the team will find Dylan's lolly pops, and perhaps order some pizza in Jason's absence, as they both raced to 11 off 11 and 8 balls respectively. Both of them will however lose their wickets in the same over. Jason caught after smashing some fours to long off, and ironically Dylan gets bowled playing an exemplarily defensive shot. But Dylan, job well done and no balls wasted.

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Ryan's timing, arriving at the field was impeccable as usual, as he strolled in a few balls after Jason got out.

Khanya, Jared, Ethan and Jono fought bravely, but could only manage 3 runs between them before being bowled out for 127 runs in the 34th over. A lot of work to be done on our batting.

Only disciplined bowling and tight fielding was going to give us any chance against this star studded Academy, boasting 4 provincial players.

But as always, the spirit was up and the belief was there. Khanya completed his first over for one run, tight as always. Kyle will follow, and bowling to the inform batsmen that scored 170+ runs at Worcester. Knowing this, he pitched the first one short, and was dispatched for 6 runs over mid on. Mission accomplished with his first ball, Kyle runs up and goes for the kill, pitching it Yorker length, and the cocky batsman tries to do the same, only to see his stumps doing a triple backwards flick-flack.

Peninsula Academy would however not lose another wicket and will enjoy drinks at the break with the score on 81 for 1.

We new hard work lay ahead as Peninsula were well ahead of the run rate going into their second session. Clever batting and assisted by some sloppy fielding saw them reach 115 before the second wicket succumbed to a great Grant run-out.

Peninsula's star batsmen Mohammed will make his 50 in the 24th over, caught by Jared, bowled Khanya. However it will all be over in the 25th over, losing this one by 7 wickets.

Let's work hard this week to turn our season around against Langa this weekend, and perhaps Coach Brett can give the batsmen some net practice.

Batsmen of the Day: Mark & Chaz

Bowlers of the Day: Kyle & Kanya

Coach Mike, here's hoping for better news next week!!

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