



ON THE SPOT



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PARA VISTA LUTHERAN CRICKET CLUB

FEBRUARY 2017

BATTLED HARD, BUT NO LUCK

HODSON AND BURGESS SOLID AS A-GRADE SIDE FALLS TO ROSE PARK

Para Vista's A-Grade side has been dealt another blow to their finals hopes with a loss to Rose Park at the weekend, despite a solid team performance against the reigning premiers away from home.

After losing the toss and given the opportunity to bat first, captain **Marc Cossens** padded up **Phil Atkins** and **Tim Hodson** to open the Para Vista innings and the pair negotiated the first ten overs with the same care that they had demonstrated in the few matches before Christmas. It was only a leading edge ballooning to the 'keeper that could remove Atkins, a dismissal that seemed to signal a string of unfortunate events that would dog the Goat Herders throughout the match.

Cossens was the next to fall, run out after mistakenly identifying the square-leg umpire as an opposition fielder. From that point the rest of the batting line-up set about digging in to simply support the established Hodson. Runs didn't seem to flow freely throughout the following overs, but the likes of **Luke McLeod**, **Jonathan Smith** and **David Gardner** all ensured that Para Vista would bat well into their 65 overs, allowing Hodson time to play an anchoring innings from the other end.

The anchor role is one to which the big-hitting Hodson is usually unaccustomed, but given (by his own admission) that the opener was struggling to find the middle of the bat at times, it is a role he fell into and seemed to relish as the afternoon wore on.

When **Tim Wilson** fell in the 53rd over, Para Vista were 7/105 and desperately needed to increase the run-rate. It would be Tim's brother **Simon** who'd answer the call, unleashing a series of beautiful straight drives to peel off a quick-fire 37, including five powerfully struck boundaries. His departure was another severe setback, particularly when **Zac Edwards** fell the very next ball, and **Aaron Burgess** found himself strolling in to face a hat-trick ball for the second time in as many matches, Hodson one good shot from a century, and the Goat Herders still anxious for as many runs as possible in the dying overs.

The hat-trick ball was duly negotiated, but at the other end, Hodson would only last another two deliveries, the last man out, caught on the boundary hitting out for the team, stranded on 95, Para Vista 181 from 62.2 overs. The innings of Hodson included ten boundaries and three sixes, accounting for more than half of the team total, and although he wasn't rewarded with three figures, it was an innings of the truest grit.

In the return leg, Para Vista was after early wickets, particularly at the sight of seeing former Goat Herder Greg Kells striding to the crease to open the batting for Rose Park. New recruit **Brett McPherson** took the new ball with **Luke McLeod**, but with Para Vista two short in the field for the opening overs, it became difficult to restrict quick singles or boundaries flicked through the on-side.

Luke seemed to struggle for rhythm early, called for a couple of front-foot no-balls, but he was the bowler that snuck through for the first wicket, a thickish edge that **Simon Wilson** caught between his legs at gully. It would be the only moment of celebration for Luke, who struggled to find his best form for the remainder of the afternoon.

McLeod was replaced at the southern end by **Aaron Burgess**, who kept a tight line and length for the best part of thirteen overs. With the first ball of his second over, he enticed **Greg Kells** into a strange shot that saw him under-edging to Cossens behind the pegs for a prized wicket.

At the other end, captain Cossens cycled through various bowlers, who joined Burgess in tying down the batsmen, but couldn't break through. Chances were regularly created, but a combination of grassed catches in the cordon and the outfield, as well as interesting umpiring calls throughout the afternoon made the going tough for the visiting side.

Burgess tired toward the tea break, but came back refreshed, snaring another key wicket, a catch to **Zac Edwards** at cover. Burgess boasted figures of 2/9 from ten overs at that point, and thanks to some fantastic support from his team-mates in the field, threw up six maidens, ensuring that the match would be pushed long and deep.

With forty runs left to get in the last twelve overs, the Rose Park batsmen began to hit out and all that had a trundle from that point copped a fair bit of tap, and a lot more bad luck. Consolation wickets to **Zac Edwards** and **Tim Hodson** were cold comfort as Rose Park hurtled towards their target and beyond, cutting loose in the final overs to knock up a score that bore no testament to how hard Para Vista had worked earlier in the afternoon.

The A-Grade side now heads back home after an Australia Day rest to take on Fitzroy at the Edward Smith Reserve.



A-GRADE RESULTS

Round Seven: Para Vista A v Adelaide Lutheran A (match abandoned - heat).

Round Eight: Para Vista A 181 (Hodson 95, S.Wilson 37*) were defeated by Rose Park A 5/275 (Burgess 2/33).

NEXT MATCH VERSUS FITZROY (HOME) FEBRUARY 4TH - 11TH



Quiz Night
Feb 25th

PRESENTATION
MAR 25TH

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!





STARKE 4, KIRAN 49, BUT ENFIELD BEAT THE B'S

After having the first game after the Christmas break heated out, a glorious sunny day awaited the Para Vista B grade side in their home match against Enfield. It was an important match for the Goat Herders, a win would close the gap to the top four and a possible finals berth, and when the coin fell in the home side's favour, it was decided that bowling first would allow the greatest chance of winning the game.

Ashley Martin, as keen as ever, started proceedings and bowled sharply but without luck, a half chance from the opposition skipper just eluding the grasp of a despairing fieldsman. Sharing the new ball after missing the last few games, **Peter O'Brien** looked sharp as ever, troubling both openers with swing and guile. His opening spell of nine overs only went for fifteen runs and produced many balls that beat the batsman without being lucky enough to snare that elusive wicket. Replacing Martin after only four overs, **Brenton Starke** bowled tightly in tandem with OB, and with the field set to cut off each batsman's scoring zones, runs were kept to a minimum and the pressure built. Eventually an Enfield opener lost patience and edged a ball from Starke to slip where **Michael Gale** pounced it easily.

Replacing OB downwind, Ash Martin continued to bowl with good pace but again lacked the luck that is needed to go your way sometimes. Try as they might, he and Starke couldn't engineer another break-through, the Enfield batsmen carefully watching and playing defensively most of the time, not scoring many runs at all. With 20 minutes before the tea interval, **Pete Gardner** (0/20 from 3) was brought on and **Noor Ali** was entrusted with the ball too, excited to have the opportunity to bowl for the first time in a match. Not having a practiced run up meant that Noor took a couple of overs to find his rhythm and settle his nerves but maintained the pressure on the opposing batsmen, Enfield 1/75 after 31 overs at tea.

Upon resuming, OB was brought back into the attack downwind, and after showing promise from his initial couple of overs before the break, Noor was switched ends, showed how to hold the ball for an out-swing, and told to continue to bowl. Some good bowling was not enough to break through in these early overs, and sensing Para Vista's fielders tiring and struggling to concentrate, the remaining Enfield opener started to open his shoulders and play more aggressively. The number three continued to noodle the ball around and play a supporting role, often struggling against Noor's hooping outswing, edging one safely on a couple of occasions. Finally the bowlers were rewarded with Noor picking up his first ever wicket for the club, deceiving the well-set opener with swing and a good catch was taken by **'Frosty' Sweetman** in the covers. Noor's first foray to the bowling crease yielded excellent figures of 1/34 from 12 overs, an experience of bowling in a match, and many lessons learnt to build on.

OB quickly followed up with another wicket, frustrating the number four into a rash shot and rattling the pegs, following up with a further 3 maidens on the trot and bowling his heart out for the side. In total he sent down 19 overs and finished with 1/56, his figures belying how well he actually bowled. With 15 overs left in the day, Brenton Starke brought himself and Ash Martin back on to bowl the remaining overs, keep runs down, and to take as many wickets as possible, Enfield 3/141. Pressure on both sides was evident, and it was the Enfield batsman who cracked first. A yorker from Starke pinned the stubborn number three LBW, then a miraculous direct hit run out from side on by Noor quickly removed the next batsman. Ash Martin (2/41 from 12.5) got in on the act, inducing an edge to his brother behind the stumps, and then found himself taking two catches in two balls standing at a deep gully from edges.

Starke (4/16 from 14) missed his hat-trick, but Ash wasn't done yet, and bowled the second last wicket to fall, and when he and Frosty combined for a run-out to end the innings, Enfield had collapsed to be all out for 173 at the end of the days play, a chaseable total.



Mother Nature turned on another stunning day for week two and with a solid batting line-up on paper, optimism was high. **Ian Martin** and **Michael Gale** walked out to the middle with purpose, and Ian particularly looked good in the first few overs racing to 12 before he was suddenly bowled. Next over he was joined by his opening partner who was unlucky to have one stay a fraction low and was also bowled.

Ben Gardner and the returning **Gopi Bhujbal** set about digging in and succeeded for the next 10 overs before a ball snuck under Gopi's defence when he was starting to look solid. Pete Gardner joined his son at the crease but it was a short lived union when Ben was dismissed soon after, having stubbornly batted for 17 overs to right the ship. Ash Martin joined Pete at the crease but their union was short too after Pete unluckily picked out a fieldsman from a well struck cut shot. With second week player **Kiran Kumar** running late from work, Starke joined Ash at the crease and the two managed to survive the next 8 overs, getting to the tea interval at 5/63.

Looking to get the innings back on track, the Para Vista batsmen set a plan to watch carefully and put away any bad balls. Unfortunately Ash Martin (15) perished quickly upon resumption of play, and with Kumar arriving just before the tea interval, he joined his captain at the crease. Surviving a dropped chance before he had scored, Kiran looked good from that point on. Starke (17) at the other end was feeling good but played one too eagerly and uppishly to cover and was caught. When Noor came and went in quick fashion, Para Vista were heading towards defeat at 8/80, Enfield already planning to have another bat.

OB joined Kiran at the crease, and with no intention or desire to field again, stubbornly kept out all the bowlers could throw at him. Kiran at the other end started to play shots through and over the field to rattle the opposition bowlers and slowly but surely the overs ticked by and the runs increased. Drinks arrived with the loss of no further wickets and the score moved to 122, just 50 shy of the target. The pressure was now shifting back to Enfield and one could sense that this target was completely obtainable. More runs after drinks kept nudging the score higher and higher and when Kiran had reached 49, it looked assured that he would score his maiden half century for the club, but it was not to be. Searching for more runs, he edged one behind going for a drive and was out, Para Vista's chances seemingly going with him. His partnership with OB (15no) was worth 59 runs and they gave their side a shot at what an hour earlier looked like an unlikely victory. Last batsman **Roger Wilkins** entered to join OB and they took the score to 148 before Roger was run-out trying to give OB the strike, Para Vista falling 25 short of their target.

With only four overs left in the day, stumps was called. The loss leaves the Goat Herders a tough task to make finals and players ruing a missed chance to close the gap to the top four on the ladder. Despite this, there are still two 65 over games to play to finish the season, and with a bit of luck and some good performances, it is still possible for results to fall Para Vista's way and finals to be played. With a week off ahead, the B-grade's next assignment is away vs Athelstone, a side they beat in the earlier one day contest, and it is hoped that this gives the players hope that not all is lost yet.

B-GRADE RESULTS

Round Nine: Para Vista B v Adelaide Lutheran B (match abandoned – heat)

Round Ten: Para Vista B 148 (Kumar 49) were defeated by Enfield D 173 (Starke 4/16, A.Martin 2/41).

NEXT MATCH VERSUS ATHELSTONE B (AWAY) FEBRUARY 4th - 11th

Words: Brenton Starke