

A Grade Premiership 1976/77 Season

The season commenced with a promotion match when Jeff Thomson came to town. It was a Thommo XI v Fred Edwards XI. It was a great experience for the locals to play with and against Thommo.

Norths once again assembled a strong team and the arrival of Grant Law bolstered the batting. In the final round of fixtures, Norths played Brothers and after dismissing them for 111, Norths batted out the match to give players batting practice for the Final coming up the next week. Norths made 7 (dec) 301 (Lee 47, Lawson 37, Kohn 73 no, Wellington 44 no). John Baldwin suffered a broken finger and was unable to play in the final. Based on his good form with the bat at No11, Bill Wellington was promoted to No1 to open the innings in the Final.

Wests lost only one match during the season to take out the Minor Premiership with 101.4 points with Norths finishing second on 85.28 points. And so it was set for Norths to play Wests in the final. Because Wests finished as Minor Premier, Norths had to defeat them in the final to win the Premiership and Wests only had to hold on for a draw or win to be the Premiers.

The game was played on Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon. Norths won the toss and batted. The openers fell cheaply and Grant Law was dropped before he had scored. However, he offered no other chances and ended on 116 not out when Bernie Courtney declared half an hour before lunch on the Sunday with the score on 6 (dec) 229. The middle order supported Law against a strong Wests attack. Norths had the two Wests openers back in the pavilion before lunch which set Wests back as the openers had been high scorers during the season. The afternoon turned into a battle between Norths spinners and Wests batsmen trying to play out for a draw. With only minutes to spare, Norths took the final Wests wicket to become the 1976/77 Premiers.

Regards,

Ray Kohn

The attached photo was taken just before the final commenced and the players are:

Back: Alister Ward, Bill Wellington, Wayne Guides, David Livingstone, Grant Law, John Baldwin (injured)

Front: David Lee, Ray Kohn (President & V/Cpt), Bernie Courtney (Captain), Roy Malpass (WK), Paul Lawson

Absent: Gordon Kilvert



UNDERDOG VICTORY



Norths star batsman Grant Law raises his bat in acknowledgement of applause after his match-winning century in the A grade cricket final on Sunday. Immediately behind Law is team-mate Gordon Kilver

Norths, the underdogs in the weekend's cricket grand final, surprised most critics with their easy defeat of minor premiers, Western Suburbs, at Endeavour Park.

Both Norths' openers were dismissed cheaply and Norths found themselves struggling in the early overs from a lively Wests attack. However, former Brisbane Easts batsman Grant Law rescued the team with an undefeated century.

Wests faltered in the field when they dropped Law before he had scored, but he overcame his early difficulties to score a match-winning 116 not out.

Yesterday all-rounder Ray Kohn supported Law to the hilt with his invaluable contribution of a hard hit 40 runs and Courtney eventually declared at six for 249.

Wests were left with the target of scoring that figure in about four and a half hours batting time, but the early downfall of their star opening batsmen, Colin Page and Silvio Spidaleri, forced them into a defensive pattern.

Page lost his wicket after a well-compiled innings of 26 and Firth battled on gamely while Wests wickets fell around him. Wests played an unaccustomed role with their last six wickets collapsing for only 46 runs in their valiant attempt to force a draw which would have retained the premiership for them.

Firth made 22 of his team's total of 98.

The declaration by Norths was well-timed with Wests being all out with only seven minutes of play left in the game. Surprisingly Norths utilised three spinners to gain the vital breakthroughs with Captain Courtney delivering 19 overs for the incredible bag of three for 23.

Gordon Kilvert assisted capably with the good figures of three for 14 from 12 overs and Alistair Ward captured two for 15.

Wests batted for a marathon 65 overs in an effort to save the game. Norths innings occupied a total of 344 minutes compared to Wests 246 minutes.

The Reserve Grade premiership was won by Brothers who staged an impossible recovery after being six for 29 runs to eventually total 148. The saviours were Peter Mandryck, who was unbeaten on 36 and Martin Boniface who scored a gallant 32 under pressure.

Wayne Sewell for Suburban Parks achieved the bowling honours with six for 32 and Dave Livock supported well with three for 43. Subs-Parks looked in a good position at two for 85 but Brothers spinner Peter Anderson captured a significant breakthrough to take five for 31 and Subs-Parks failed in their bid to capture their fifth consecutive premiership with only 120 runs.

In the third grade Nationals won the toss and seat Wulguru in to bat and dismissed that team for 120. Ian Winkleman batted solidly for his top score of 41 while Mike Church remained unbeaten on 21 and Alf Wilson also scored 20.

Sid Krause and Arthur Broughall each captured three wickets for Nationals who replied with 123 to take the match by the narrowest of margins.

Krause and Wayne Jones were Nationals' heroes when they defied the Wulguru attack to score a premiership-winning last-wicket stand of 24 runs. Wilson and Alex Burgess each captured four wickets for Wulguru.

At Cutheringa Park Cavaliers conceded defeat to minor premiers Wests when they collapsed for 47 in their first innings and Wests replied with 110.

West's top 100 pts. for season

By GLEN STEPHENSEN

Western Suburbs Cricket Club reached the century mark in the A grade premiership points ladder on Saturday with an outright win over Wanderers.

West's lost only one match for the season to take out the minor premiership with a total of 101.40 points.

Norths inflicted a solid first innings defeat on Brothers to maintain second place with 85.28 points. Norths now challenge West's for the premiership in the grand final at Endeavour Park next Saturday and Sunday.

The other match on Saturday resulted in a convincing first innings win for Suburban-Parks over University.

Openers Peter Trimble and Dave McIntyre resumed Sub-Parks' innings chasing University's score of 87. They were instrumental in their team's victory, providing 82 runs between them out of a total of 142 for eight wickets declared.

Trimble top scored with a fluent innings of 48 and McIntyre played a number of punishing shots in his knock of 34.

Dick Harridge enjoyed most success with the ball to capture 6-42 from 12 overs for University. Colin Griggs supported him by sending down an economical spell of 15 overs that gained the figures of 2-34.

The students batted a second time to muster 105 runs for the loss of five wickets at stumps.

Ashley Moller was unlucky to miss his half-century, being dismissed for a solidly compiled innings of 49.

Dick Harridge played a capable innings with an unbeaten knock of 22.

Norths' batsmen Grant Law and Alister Ward resumed their team's chase of Brothers' total of 111. However the talented Law was soon yorked by Tony Dorge, bowling his first over in A grade cricket.

Ward's wicket then followed for 24 and it was left to Dave Lee and Paul Lawson to consolidate Norths' innings.

Lee displayed some attractive strokeplay in his stabilising contribution of 47 runs as both batsmen steered their side to a first innings win. Lawson hit the ball hard to rattle up 37 runs and Paul Kelliher compiled a brisk 26.

Norths batted the whole afternoon to gain valuable match practice in preparation for their clash with West's in the final. They eventually declared at seven down for 301, the highest total for the season.

Brothers used 10 bowlers.

Tail-enders Ray Kohn and Bill Wellington were associated in an unbroken eighth wicket stand of 90 runs.

Kohn featured 'n an overdue return to batting form to score 73 runs from an array of well-executed shots.

Wellington lashed out to rattle up 44 not out. Lee Cairns took the bowling honours with 2-28 from nine overs.

Fred Edwards declared West's' first innings closed at last week's score of 8-110, a lead of 71 over Wanderers.

Wanderers however fared little better in their second attempt, collapsing again for only 58 runs to lose by an innings.

Wickets fell in steady succession after openers Frank Stephens (11) and Alan Carter (10) were dismissed. Eddie White hit out hard, only to run out of partners after scoring 13.

Dave Ridoutt was the West's' bogey man on this occasion, when he delivered 10 overs to return the fine figures of 5-25.

Wanderers' innings folded in 20 overs.

Fixtures ended on a buoyant note for West's whose skipper, Fred Edwards, was named captain of the Australian Railway Institute XI after a recent interstate carnival in Adelaide. Sub-Parks' wicket-keeper Rod Rice also won selection to the side.

In reserve grade on Saturday, Wanderers defeated Yabulu outright. Sub-Parks' defeat of University secured them second place with 96.76 meet Brothers in next points, and they will now weekend's final.

Brothers had an unbeaten record to notch up 113.74 points for the season.

By GLEN STEPHENSON

Both Norths and Western Suburbs maintained their unbeaten records in local A grade cricket fixtures following the completion of round three on Saturday.

Norths gained a hard fought win over Suburban-Parks at Pioneer Park, whereas Wests survived with a slender one-run margin over University.

At Endeavour Park Wanderers scored a handsome victory over Brothers on the first innings.

Less than five points separates the top four teams on the premier-ship ladder. The unofficial points score is: Norths 29.70, Wests 29.62, University 26.42, Wanderers 25.17, Brothers 15.28, Suburban-Parks 13.29.

Wanderers batted first the previous Saturday to compile 222 runs from 38 overs. A determined third wicket stand between John Dempster and Dave Murdock realised 57 runs and set a solid foundation for Wanderers sizeable innings.

Dempster top scored with a somewhat restrained half century, whilst Murdock notched up 41 runs against his former club.

Eric Adams contributed a brisk 28 and Gary Colledge threw caution to the wind in a magnificent display that gained him 39 runs.

Brothers' bowlers Peter Clarke, Glen Lyne and Jim Cullen each captured two wickets on an unresponsive pitch.

Three Down

Not-out batsmen Dick Young and Jim Cullen resumed Brothers' chase at three down for 48. They combined well to add a further 43 runs for the fourth wicket.

Young batted determinedly to contribute an invaluable innings of 30. He was followed by youngster Bruce Boniface, who displayed some talented shots to score 24.

However, Jim Cullen stole the batting limelight with his top-scoring innings that produced 37 attractive runs.

Skipper Alan Barrett and Peter Lyons were associated in a last ditch stand that produced 38 runs, before Barrett was dismissed for a gallant 21.

Brothers finished with 183 runs to fail by 39.

Wanderers' bowlers Dave Murdock, John Casanovas, Gary Colledge and Eddie White picked up two wickets each.

In their second innings Wanderers had lost three wickets for 47 at the close of play.

Norths dismissed Suburban-Parks for a tally of 138 the previous Saturday.

Top Score

Promising youngster Alan Palmer batted soundly to top score with 34 runs. Ray Garrett jr. provided stout resistance to contribute 21 while Errol Wenck ran out of partners after hitting up 18. Ray Garrett snr. also knocked up a handy 24.

Baldwin and Ray Kohn had the opposition under considerable pressure and most batsmen were forced into a defensive role.

Baldwin exploited the pitch to the utmost advantage to capture the first seven wickets to fall. He bowled 16 overs and conceded 73 runs.

Kohn's cutters mesmerised the batsmen to such an extent that they could manage only 23 runs from his economical spell of 13 overs.

North's opening batsman Paul Lawson resumed his not-out innings at the score 142. He partnered Dave Lee in a solid stand that stabilised their team's innings. Lee contributed a steady 21.

Lawson executed some fluent stroke-play in a match winning innings of 65.

Wests-Uni.

Western Suburbs were at home to University at Cutheringa Park.

University batted at the start of the match to be five wickets down for 145 at one stage.

Opening batsman Ashley Moller again hit top form with the willow to score his second half

century from three matches this season.

Puller punished several loose deliveries to rattle up 52 runs.

Captain-coach Lindsay Ferguson also performed solidly with the bat, but the students suffered a minor collapse to lose four cheap wickets.

Ferguson then declared his team's innings closed at 9-181.

Wests' opening bats Silvio Spidaleri and Colin Page resumed the crease at the score of 20 without loss. They again combined well in a

foundation partnership of 80.

Page was dismissed shortly after reaching a creditable half century. However, Spidaleri was content to provide the backbone of his team's run-getting. His patient innings ended at 62 and Wests appeared well set for victory.

Broke Back

But University's bowlers broke back and Wests' lower-order batsmen were subjected to considerable pressure.

They proved equal to the task, but were considered fortunate to surpass the students' total by only one run before the last wicket fell.

In the Reserve grade Brothers 158 and 1-88 d. Wanderers 122 on the first innings; Subs-Parks 7 declared for 251 d. Norths 68 and 55; University 75 and 73 d. Yabulu 69 and 4-41 on first innings.

Reserve grade points: Subs-Parks 36.02, Brothers 29.53, Norths 27.87, Yabulu 20.75, University 19.41, Wanderers 11.33.

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N.Q.R.L. option maintained

The North Queensland Rugby League has decided to keep its options for a berth in the Amco Cup competition open — at least for now.

The league yesterday voted against a motion from the floor calling for the league's withdrawal from the competition.

Mr. K. Whitehouse Mackay called for the N.Q.R.L. to withdraw on the grounds that the Amco Cup may be a threat to club competition.

"I think we've got to draw a line on just how much outside football we are willing to play," said Mr. Whitehouse.

"We have all seen a dramatic rise in the number of matches we play each year."

"If we keep going the way we are it is going to kill club football and that will kill the game."

Up in smoke...

CAIRNS, Nov. 14 — (AAP) — Four tobacco barns and their contents were severely damaged by fire on Saturday night.

The Mareeba Fire Brigade was called to the fire on Paglietta's farm about 15 km out of Mareeba.

They fought the blaze for two and a half hours