

During the 1960's Wests won 10 A Grade premierships in a row. They had a great side full of top quality cricketers. Wests offered "free cricket" to their top players as the club received good financial support from Walkers Bakery across the road from their club house because two Walker boys played in the team. There was nothing wrong with that but we felt that it skewed the competition a bit as some players left other clubs and went to play for Wests.

Norths countered this by being very active in recruiting players who were transferred to Townsville in their work. One such player was Dave Applegarth who had played for Queensland Colts in his younger days and had played A Grade cricket for South Brisbane for many years. Dave became the captain for the 1969/70 season.

At that time, the premiers were the team that finished top of the ladder as grand finals were several seasons away. All our games in those days were two days duration with no restrictions on overs batted or bowled. Also, all games were played on three turf wickets at the Townsville Sports Reserve.

Round one saw Norths dismiss Suburban/Parks for 137 and we made 191 with Subs/Parks 2 for 110 in their second innings.

The all important round two game was against Wests, premiers for the last 10 years and still a force to be reckoned with. Norths batted first and were dismissed for 96 and we seemed doomed to defeat yet again. However, our captain, Dave Applegarth, gathered us in the dressing room and gave us a rallying speech along the lines that we had the runs and they had to get them. It worked and we bowled Wests out for 89. We declared 5 for 133 in the second innings giving Wests no chance and they were 1 for 20 at the end of the game.

Norths only lost one game during the season and that was to Subs/Parks in the second round. In the second round we dismissed Wests for 69 and we passed them with only 5 wickets down in a rain affected match.

Dave Applegarth was transferred back to Brisbane at Xmas time and John Morrissey took over as captain and I became vice-captain.

It was a very memorable season which gave Norths its first premiership for many seasons.

Regards,

Ray