



THE PITCH

December 2009
January 2010

Summer first half wrap

Happy New Year to all our club members — senior and junior.

As we head into the second half of the season a number of Saints senior and junior teams are well positioned for the post-season finals.

In the Junior competition, all eleven Saints teams are in the top 4 in their competition. In the first season of an U19B competition, our team currently sits in first place. The U11B team also leads its series.

Those teams currently

placing second include the U16A, U14C, U12B, U10South and U8South teams.

Placed third in their series are the U16C and U12A teams.

The 14A and U9North teams are currently fourth in their competitions.

Amongst the 8 senior teams, at the Christmas break the B1 team is a clear leader in its division. The B2 team, sitting in fifth, is not out of contention for the finals.

In D Grade, the Blue Division 1 team is third whilst the Blue Division 2 team is a clear second.

In F Grade, the Division 2 team is first in its competition.

Finally, in G Grade, the Division 1 team is leading in a close competition whilst in Division 2 our two teams are in second and third position.

Well done and good luck to all our teams.





Saints Junior Umpires



The club has had a great result so far this season from all those associated with our 'Junior Blues' Program !

The 'Junior Blues' is a developmental umpire program available to our U14A's and U16A's kids in Macquarie Saints. To join this program they have all completed the Level 0 NSW Baseball Umpire Accreditation and have been actively umpiring many of our junior home games.

So far this season our Junior Blues have umpired over 35 junior home games, covering U7 Lightning League, U8 Tee Ball, U9 Zooka, U10 Zooka, U11 & U12 live baseball !

Our goal with this pro-

gram is to develop junior umpires within our club, encouraging further participation of our kids, improve their understanding of the game and allowing the kids to learn & demonstrate leadership skills amongst our most junior players. For this effort every Saturday morning the club then supports them financially.

Our 'Junior Blues' for 2009 / 2010 season are:

- Taylor Holling
- Forrest Johnson-Fischer
- Jun Kamiaraiso
- Zachary McAlister
- Latham McGrath
- Ross Trodden
- Sebastian Giulieri
- Sean McCrohan
- Lachlan Bush

Behind the scenes the

program is seamlessly co-ordinated by Sue Nicoll, our club Tee Ball Co-ordinator and mentored by our resident senior umpire Rob Wells. So a big thank you to Sue & Rob, and to the many other team umpires, committee members and parents that have fulfilled the role of supervising adult at each game. Without which we could not run this program.

We look forward to plenty more updates about our Junior Blues program and would encourage any upcoming U14A's or U16A's to consider joining this program in the 2010 / 2011 season.

Dave Rubie
VP Juniors



T-Ball Gala Day

The parental highlight of the year was again a huge success on 29 November. Yes, it was the annual parents TBall gala day and the weather this year was kind to us.

We had four teams eagerly competing for the trophy this year, although we could have squeezed in five teams—there’s a target for next year! Unfortunately some of our junior rep players and sen-

ior teams had to play on the day, so some hard hitters were missing.

It was great to see our junior team parents forming teams and getting into the spirit (spirits?) of the day. It was also great to see team getting into team uniforms for the occasion.

As always, it was a hard fought competition. Those teams who couldn’t adequately

bribe the umpires were handicapped as the umpire’s eagle eyes sought to bring back the big hitters to the field, forcing those who showed excessive skill and power to hit left handed and/or one handed.

Many parents (including coaches!), eager to show off their t-ball prowess, striding up to the T with confidence, were humbled by air-swings to the great merriment of the



Saints Trivia Night

On Saturday 21st November Macquarie Saints ran their Trivia Night.

Firstly lets thank Pearl Stuart for organizing such a great night. We sat with other baseball

parents from our under 10’s team, and each and every person got into the spirit of the night by wearing a “SPECIAL” hat. In fact just about everyone on the night had a great chapeau.

The host was very entertaining keeping the night moving along, except he disqualified me for answering a question too boisterously, I got my own back though since I was

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Saints

Under 8

The Under 8 team have had a great season so far, only 0.5 game behind the top team North Ryde (and that's only because of a forfeit due to a draw misunderstanding). Great work considering almost all of the team have never played teeball before.

The 12th December saw us play the top team North Ryde who we had drawn with once and been beaten by 1 run once. The boys were ready to turn the tables!! After some great batting from Sam, Beau, Jack and Liam, and great fielding, particularly from Oscar, Jayesh, Nicholas, Oliver and Alex - the outfield had never seen

so much action - we were even at the end of the 3rd innings, 18-all. We went out into the field and with nerves of steel and a great pitcher - first base combination of Luke and James, we kept North Ryde to 1 run for the innings!! All we needed was 2 runs in our last innings to win! However with a couple of early outs things were very tense, but luckily Oliver and Luke made it home before we were all out and the boys ended up with a 1 run win. Nail biting stuff but very exciting and congratulations to the boys on a fabulous win.

The 19th December saw us play Five Dock with a slightly depleted

team due to the Christmas holidays. Again the game was tight and 15-all at the end of the 3rd innings. Both teams were fielding well and the runs were hard to come by. Alex, Jayesh and Oscar made some great fields, stopping valuable runs, and Jack and Luke were strong at pitcher and 1st base. In the last innings, Five Dock got 4 runs and with our first 2 batters out, we were pushing it to come out with a win, but again the nerves of steel held and after some great batting by Beau and Liam and a fantastic home run from Sam, we managed to get 6 boys home and score a 21-19 win. Great stuff everyone!!



Under 9 North

Saturday 7 November

The game was a tale of 2 halves. Steelers displayed solid batting in the first 2 innings but petered out in the last 2. Macquarie came back strongly in the last 2 innings and won 10 to 3. Macquarie displayed more consistency throughout and batted strongly.

Player highlights included Marcus displaying good throws to 1st base as pitcher and good catches as catcher; Alison batting consistently and scoring 2 runs; Ethan's batting was consistent scoring 1 run and taking part in a double play; Nicholas's great comeback in the last 2 innings to improve his batting and score a run; Mitchell was player of the day, hitting the ball like Babe Ruth, scoring a run and taking part in a double play; Georgia fielded solidly and im-

proved her batting towards the end, scoring a run; Adrian's improved batting in the 3rd and 4th innigs and scoring a run; and Jacqueline's batting in the first innings and scoring a run.

Saturday 21 November

Greenway got off to a good start with some strong hitting in the first innings. Ethan and Nick came close to taking catches. Macquarie had some strong hitting with Marcus getting to second base.

The second innings saw a good catch from Ethan and a throw to Nick on first base. Lachlan took a good catch on second to get the runner out. Our second innings saw some good batting by Mitchell, Georgia and Jacqueline.

In the next innings there was some great

fielding with good backing up by Mitchell to throw to home plate and a great take by Nick at home to get the batter out. There was also a great catch by Ethan at right field. Jacqueline did a great job as pitcher to throw many times to first base to Georgia.

When we came out to bat Lachlan had a great hit to get to first. Maddy also had a great hit to get to first. Ethan had a great hit to get 2 batters home. Then Mitchell hit a home run to get 3 batters home. 6 home in that innings—WOW.

Fielding again and the team was now really psyched up.

Last innings and Georgia put bat to ball hitting a great shot to get to third base. We were all out and Greenway won 10 to 7.





Under 10



Saturday 7 November

The Macquarie 1 under 10's travelled down Epping Road to Magdala Park on Saturday to take on North Ryde.

The team played very well with all members contributing equally.



Allan batted tremendously with great hits and was rewarded by crossing home base in the second inning. Laura was fearless at catcher and kept the North Ryde runners on their toes even after taking a nasty hit in the fourth inning and at bat she managed to cross home plate for the team's second run.



Hugh and Justin combined early in the game to gather and throw out two consecutive runners at first base. Riley fielded well and made a solid hit in the second inning to get around to second base. Matthew hit the ball cleanly getting to third base twice and in the field he threw one of the North Ryde batters out on first base.

Josh always threatened a big hit when at bat and covered second base very safely throughout the game.

Although we went down 9-2 everyone enjoyed the game and did very well.

Saturday 14 November

This week Macq1 under 10's hosted Concord at Pioneer Park on a beautiful warm morning. All our players put in 100% with many highlights to mention.

Laura at catcher and Hugh on third base worked well to throw out a runner who was threatening to round third for home. With the bat, Hugh also hit a great high ball that got him to second.

Matt hit strongly and made it to first base while Justin only just got run out on first after a strong hit. Allen nearly pulled off a spectacular outfield catch but still slowed the ball down which was backed up with a

great throw from Riley. Josh set up a terrific example of relay throwing which the rest of the team followed throughout the game to keep several Concord runners from scoring.

The final result 2-nil with Concord the winners. Everyone did really well and enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

Saturday 14 November

It was a hot start to an early game at Ermington, with the Saints going in to bat with Joshua leading the way.

After some big hits from Joshua and Hugh, it was side-away with Justin on 1st and Matthew on 2nd. We then went on with some sensational fielding with a strong throw from Riley to 1st and a well-covered home base by Laura who almost tagged the opposition's first home runner. So close.

Back in to bat, we had

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Under 10

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loaded bases with Laura on 1st, Justin on 2nd and Matthew on 3rd. It was Allen's mighty hit which got Matthew home for the first home run.

Next, our fielding saw Riley execute a good stop of the ball managing to run out the player on 3rd. We then saw a great relay throw between Riley to Laura to Matthew together with good fielding from Allen throwing to Hugh on 1st. More top fielding in the last innings with Justin tagging out the opposition on home plate.

An exciting game, 3-1, to the Tigers with both batting and fielding improving week by week. Well done guys!

Saturday 12 December

What a fantastic game to watch. The MAC1 boys and girls were absolutely outstanding today against the girls from Concord. All fired up with their new red helmets, players man-

aged to get bat on ball and running to first base. In the first dig Matthew and Hugh made it to home base - but the main action came in the fielding.

Matthew caught a foul ball just in front of third base, followed immediately by Justin, catching the ball on the full, at short stop. There was plenty of excitement off-field as well (mainly parents!!!!). Hugh threw a straight ball as pitcher to Allen on 1st base to make it the 3rd out.

Laura, Justin and Hugh all had a go as catcher and Joshua is constantly in the game and improving every week. The best play of the day came from the outfield - the opponent batter hit the ball way past 2nd base - the dug-out are yelling "RELAY THROW", the players respond - Riley runs, picks up the ball, throws to Justin near 2nd base, who blocks the ball, Allen immediately picks up the ball - just as the batter is running for home - Allan throws to Hugh standing on home plate and tags the runner - the umpires fist raises up - OUT - very

exciting stuff!!!!

We lost 8 to 5 - but all players had fun.

19 December 2009

This was one of the most exciting games of the Saints season so far, despite the team being down to six players. The first innings was one of the best to date, with strong hits from everyone and four runs on the board.

For the next two innings, the teams were evenly matched in batting and fielding. Matthew was unlucky when his huge third innings hit was caught in the outfield. This was matched during the Five Dock innings by an equally good outfield catch by a substitute fielder for the Saints. Laura and Riley combined on a deadly accurate throw from home plate to third base, narrowing missing getting a Five Dock player out.

It all came down to the

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fourth and final innings. Allen took advantage of a strong hit by Hugh to fly home from second base. Then Laura's hit to first

brought Hugh home. Josh stepped up as catcher as Five Dock batted for the final time. Good relay fielding saved a home run, and the final player was

tagged out on the way to home.

The Saints celebrated a 7-6 victory.



Saturday 13 November

The game started with great pitching by Jack and North Ryde kept scoreless in the first innings.



In the second, North Ryde scored 6 runs

In the bottom of the second Sarah led off with a base hit and Pete got her home. At the end of the innings it was 6—2.



Fielding in the next innings, Lachie and Pete seemed to be everywhere. The North Ryde coach was providing entertainment for the spectators!

Trent started off our third innings with a line drive to centre field and was brought home by James's triple.



Under 10

Under 12A

In the field again and Zach came on to pitch with the bases loaded and none out. Two strikeouts later and a tag play on a wild pitch and the Saints lived to fight another day.

run. The second innings saw Nick start us off with another of his big hits to left field. Some good at bats by Rahael, Ben and Gabby saw us load the bases with good hitting by Trent, James and Zac to bring in 4 more runs. Gabby kept the quality pitching coming with a good out before Zac came on and shut the innings down for no score—great pitching Zac! Once again through good patience and courage on Nick's part, we put runners in scoring positions with Rachael adding to her RBI total to bring Sarah in. Lachlan came on in the fourth taking 2 K2's leaving Rangers runners stranded on base and setting up the game at 8-7 to Saints. The

The ground lights then went out and the game was a draw.

Saturday 28 November

A very hot Saturday greeted us as Rofe Park against Rangers. Our first at bat saw Trent get around to post an early run. Jack's pitching started us off well in the first dig with 2 outs including a great play back to Sarah behind the plate to save a run. A terrific play from Lachlan in right field to Rachael got the last out and saved the

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Under 12A

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5th innings saw Pete unlucky not to get a 1st base start. After patient batting Ben was brought home by a great sacrifice by Trent to give us 2 runs to protect. The scene was set and, in temperatures over 40 degrees, Saints took the field. After valiant pitching Lach-

lan handed over to Pete to try to close out the match under the coach's instructions to "throw hard, don't throw like a wooz!". Rangers brought one runner home to bring it to 9-8 while we took our first out at first with a good throw from Nick. K2ing the next batter, Pete had there

measure. Their next batter drove deep to Zac for a great catch in centre field and a well deserved win. A terrific game was played by all in very hot conditions. Yet again our Macquarie players backed up the opposition with great sportsmanship. Well done team.



Saints Junior Girls Update

On Saturday 5th December one of our junior girls Gabby Ferreira played in the NSW Junior U14's team on Women's All Stars day at Northmead Reserve.

This is an exhibition day designed to showcase Women's baseball in NSW and the junior girls were given a great opportunity to play in front of some of the best women players in NSW.

The day started with a game between the NSW Junior girls and Illawara juniors, and what a great game it was, with

the NSW team getting up for a victory. Gabby played very well in the under 14's field even though she is only 11. Gabby was picking off players and taking catches in the field, but she did find batting a struggle, those 14 year olds sure do pitch faster than an U12 player.

We then went over and watched the NSW Women take on NSW Country. It was great to see such great players in the game our girls love, and the time the senior players took out of their day to come and see our

girls play, from a parents point of view was very much appreciated.

After the NSW Women took out their game our girls went back on the field for a game against Newcastle. This was a much closer affair with some big hitting and consistent pitching and fielding from both teams. This time we were lucky to come away with the win.

It really was a great day of baseball.

Parents of girl players here is a shout out to

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Saints

Saints Trivia Night



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the only one to know the correct answer!

Our table was lucky enough to win best table and the best hat went to for his welders head gear (I did question whether that was a hat by definition).

So ... parents of Macquarie Saints, next year when your coach or manager tells you the Trivia Night is on again put your name down, get a table together and put the date in your diary, you won't be disappointed you — WILL have a great night, you don't have to know

about trivia, I didn't, but everyone in that room had a blast. So be part of the fun, don't miss out next year. We will be there, still answering questions with gusto!!!

- Julianne and John Ferreira under 10's & 12's

RHBL Junior updates

RHBL has brought to all Club's attention that when an opposing team which is short or players requests to borrow players all Clubs and teams have an obligation to provide support whenever possible. Loaned players must

contribute to their full ability.

RHBL has also confirmed it has a zero tolerance policy when it comes to umpire abuse. Any reported actions will be dealt with harshly.

Player line up sheets should be available to scorers completed before the plate meeting with the umpire. This is not only a courtesy to the scorers but an official document for the umpire.

Saints Junior Girls Update

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you, the girls are coming – be part of it. Macquarie Saints are asking for interest in an all girls comp being played ifor five weeks between 7 February 2010 and 7

March 2010, Gabby would love to play with her own club mates, in Macquarie's colors. Please contact Dave Rubie if your daughter is interested in participating.

There really is a lot of opportunity for girls now in baseball and I encourage you all to have a go, you won't regret it.

T-Ball Gala Day

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crowd and temporary damage to their egos (see the photos in this edition and on the web-site).

At the conclusion of the round robin competition the final was between the undefeated Meatheads Team and the Miss-Fits (the red Lightning League team parents) with the Miss-Fits (pictured be-

low) emerging as the upset victors to hold the much coveted trophy aloft.

As always, the players underestimated the pace and demands of the day with many sore muscles emerging in the following days and at least one broken finger.

The competition was followed by the kids Xmas party and a visit

by Santa, arriving this year in a bright red MGA.

Thank you to Pearl Stuart, Dave Rubie and Janine Hunt for their efforts in organising the T-Ball and Xmas party. Thanks also to the umpires and to the volunteers who helped on the day.

Start practicing now for the 2010 game!





Saints



Saints





Saints



Key Junior summer season dates

29/30 January Season resumes
 19/20 March Grand finals

Key Senior summer season dates

16 / 17 January Season resumes
 6 / 7 March Last game of season
 13 / 14 March Semi-finals
 20 / 21 March Grand finals



Coaches and Managers can send game reports (approx 200 words typed) to david.lawrence@optusnet.com.au or delawrence@optusnet.com.au

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Provider of venues for Saints Club meetings