

***2016 5th Grade (Red) Report –Cam Mortimer***

After a slow start to the season with some mixed results, dropping a few close games, the boys found their grove at the right time of the year. The wins started coming as did a push for a finals berth along with it. With a bye in the last round, we had to sit back and wait to see what would unfold. Scraping into 4th place of a very tight to of the table, unfortunately at the expense of the Grizzly Bears, we went into the semi against the Rebels with high hopes, having beaten them just a few weeks earlier. In a very tight game, we couldn’t quite get our bats firing, but some strong fielding, behind an outstanding performance on the mound by Pop, kept us in it right till the end. Falling just short this season, the boys are looking forward to next year and going further.

The Team

**Brenton Cox** – Coxy moved across the diamond this year, finding his grove at 2nd base. Unfortunately he missed out on the final due to family commitments. I’m sure he’s already looking forward to next year, and a few more training appearances.

**Peter Crutchfield** – Crutchy made my life easy this year, being a source of advice, and the first to give up his bat, and his spot after 2 innings on the mound, to anyone else on the team. Always a pleasure to have him around.

**Lincoln Devlin** – With work getting in the way of more games than he would have liked, Linc was a solid glove in the outfield, and his batting and game knowledge increased each game.

**Nick Fisher** – Nick was great fun to have with us, not just to help bring down the teams average age, but with his perfect relationship with Crutchy as his DH. Nick was a great team guy, willing to do anything I needed, even giving up a game with us, to go help out one of the other 5th grade teams.

**Chris Hamill** – Still learning things about the game, Chris found himself floating between short and third this year. A strong arm and solid bat, is a great guy to have on a team. We just need to do something about his love for the Dodgers……

**Todd Hennessy** – the most athletic person on our team, Todd got to sit behind the plate all year. Not a bad spot with Pop pitching, less fun when he had to chase balls I tried to throw. Solid as a rock all year, and gracious enough to care for the kit too.

**Mick Hoorweg** – Coming back after a few years away, Mick was a great addition for us. Heaps of game knowledge, and a great arm off the mound, was a shame that Mick wasn’t available for the second half of the season.

**Greg Kent** – A menace on the mound to opposing teams, and a guy that can place a ball where he wants with the bat, it was a privilege to get to play with Pop. Not one to ‘chat’ a lot, when Pop had something to say we all listened, and learnt from it.

**Brett McIntyre** – The gentle giant of the team, Dish was the first guy to come up and offer to ride the pine each and every game. Moving to the outfield for parts of the season, and showing us all just how useful that extra height is, laying himself out for a great catch in the Semi.

**Scott Moore** – Skip was my Utility guy for the year. Being versatile enough to move around the outfield and the infield, made my life easy on a week to week basis with changing lineups. With good speed and a great eye, he got us started each week as our lead off.

**Simon Rolfe** – One of the nicest guys you’ll meet, Simo is such a pleasure to have on a team. A solid short stop, and a great bat, able to hit the ball over the closest of fences, when he remembers to swing. I’m looking forward to more years playing with him.

**James Winefield** – And Jim…. What can I say about Jim that Bill hasn’t in the past already?? Definitely the character of the team, Jim always managed to make us laugh and help pump us up for a game. Learning more and more with each game he plays, Jim is a solid outfielder and now he’s learnt to keep his feet on the ground, his batting gets stronger each week.

I just want to take the chance to thank all of the team for putting up with me this year with my first manger role. Being able to turn up each week and play with a great group of guys, who are also my mates, made it all that much easier. To all the board, the umpires, the guys that filled in for us, the supporters who came and watched, the scorers and our partners who let us come out each Saturday and play I say thank you also.

GO BEARS!

Cam Mortimer