

Match Reports 2012

Round 4, 12th May

Second nine

Monash University @ La Trobe University, 3:30pm Saturday May 12, 2012

La Trobe University defeated Monash University 9-2. (D. Turner 1s, R. Hill 1s, A. Wembridge 1d, A. Kirkland 2s, D. Bennett 1d, L. Brookes 2s, D. Lever 2s)

The sparkling, soft sands of the Latrobe diamond had been judiciously manicured by the hands of the good **Groundskeeper Freeth** in preparation for a special Saturday; for this very day and eve would behold the annual LTUBC 'Night Game' against fellow tertiary team, Monash University.

Although the Fourth IX did take a little sheen off the surface with an earlier match, Marc 'Manager' Heenan was delighted to see his steadfast Seconds hit the turf punctually with nine red shirts on the ready for a full warm-up session. Unfortunately, it was soon noted that one of these shirts was being worn by team mascot and **bat-boy Zac Kallis**, who at around ten years old and 4 foot 1 failed to qualify for the final selection based on both age and height criteria.

It eventuated that the previous evening had seen a drop too much of *vin rouge* consumed by the **absentee** and Latrobe looked to sullenly accept the horrors of competing with a mere eight men. However, this was to be a day of good fortune for the Twos as Theo 'Teddy' Kelegouris was ready to fill the blank having earlier managed to misjudge the location of his match in the Fours by some forty kilometres or so to the east.

Hurling the first over the plate for the day, Daniel 'Smiley' Bennett tempted the 'Nashers with a few extra balls early in the piece but the opposition failed to capitalise, trailing a hefty six-nil after the first with singles to Riley 'Junior' Hill, Adrian 'AK' Kirkland, Liam 'Blondie' Brookes and **David 'Doc' Leaver** leaving the 'trobbers in a commanding position that was never to be seriously challenged.

Unsatisfied with allowing base advances scot-free, (or possibly as the result of a temporary vision issue) Bennett had decided that the plate must have shifted eighteen inches to the right as the three leading Monash batters limped to first base rubbing (their own) various limbs and extremities. Despite this, the visitors were restricted to a solitary run due to a combination of the pitcher's precision realignment with **flawless** efforts by in and outfielders alike.

What was very nearly a case of 'three-up-three-down' in the bottom of the second ended up becoming a three-run thwarting after doubles to **Andrew 'StrikeOut Charlie' Wembridge** and Bennett were supported remarkably with second singles by AK, Liam and the Doc.

The remainder of the match was relatively uneventful, excepting a nice single to 'Uncle' Dave Turner, another Monash University run, and a marked improvement evident on the hill by the younger, er, Hill. One may argue that the umpire had a rather itchy finger on the **'balk' button**, but one point requiring little debate is that this young gentleman has a very bright future with the ball which we are all looking forward to watching unfold.

Thus endeth the fourth match for the successful Seconds with sweat, smiles and a sunset. Special thanks are extended to scoring wizard Kerrie 'Heeno's Mum' Heenan and to all those who contributed to the success of the evening function with the flavoursome feast and fanciful **'festivities'** that followed into the depths of the now-starry night.

Wendi-Meg Beward

Round 3, 5th May

Big improvement since the first game we lost, 6-13 but kept them down the last two innings
Jeremy and Tyler pitched
Mitchell and Tyler caught
Well done to Theo and Joel for their hits,
Steph and Eamon were on base from a HPB's bad luck,
But we are steadily getting better.
Nice work team.

Round 2, 28th April

Third Nine

LTUBC Vs GMBC

We had a bit of a shaky start to the game and were down 6 - 9 to come back 11 - 10.
Simon pitched the whole game,
Mitchell and Tyler caught
Well done team.

Round 1, 21st April

Second Nine

vs. Waverley WildCats @ Napier Reserve, 12:15pm Saturday April 21, 2012

Latrobe University defeated Waverley 7-2. (M. Heenan 1d, J. Flannery 2s, A. Kirkland 1s, A. Wembridge 2d 1s, D. Bennet 1s)

Although only a short absence from the sport for **Summer Lovin'** baseballers, an agonising 184 (or so) days had elapsed since the closure of the previous winter season and it was finally time to hit the field in the 2012th year of Our Lord.

Despite the enthusiasm and excitement evident on the training track, the 'trobbers most certainly failed to 'hit' the field with any real intensity whatsoever, with players' arrival at the field being most accurately described as tardy, haphazard, and, in some cases, non-existent.

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However, unanimously elected manager and clairvoyant **Marc 'Heeno' Heenan** was at his administrative best en-route to the match, managing to simultaneously break multiple road laws whilst belting away at a well-thumbed iPhone keypad and screaming down the barrel of its largely-inaudible 'speaker-phone' accessory.

But why? An unforeseen vacancy in the Club's 4th IX had forced the 'promotion' of **Darren 'King of the Hill'** from the 2nd squad. Heenan, however, with his car engine still lukewarm, had successfully mustered nine players for the first pitch, with Andrew 'Wembo' Wembridge and baseball debutant **'My Name is' Earl Michelle** being summoned from the 3rd IX.

An exceedingly short warm-up preceded a first inning fling of two runs to Latrobe with 'Disco' Dave Turner and Adrian 'Adrian' Kirkland casually completing their circumnavigation of the diamond courtesy of a Wembridge **McDouble**. Latrobe looked a little rusty in the field with Turner struggling to glove the haplessly wayward hurls in the vague direction of **first base**. Despite the errors, some wavering Waverley base-running techniques left the hosts scoreless, trailing 2-0.

The second inning was highlighted by hefty hitter Daniel 'DB' Bennet's solid single, sliding steal of second, and stoic, steam-rolling stride home to increase the lead. The bottom of the inning saw a marked improvement in Latrobe's fielding display, finding the second and third outs with a swift **McDouble-play**.

After the relatively uneventful third and fourth innings (albeit yet another double play in the field by Latrobe), **Josh 'JFK' Flannery's** second single of the day came to good use after a Waverley balk with the bases loaded pushed him past home plate. Keen-eyed base-runners Kirkland and Riley 'The Younger One' Hill also advanced and eventually made it home after another Wembridge double, putting the score at 6-2.

However, Bennet's talent on the mound cannot escape mention either, with his five-inning fling conceding a mere two runs through no fault of his own. Relieving pitcher Flannery managed to maintain the tight stranglehold until the final handshake with his pulsating projectiles.

Waverley errors in the sixth inning allowed Latrobe's majestic manager to convert his magnificent double into a run. Kirkland opened his hit account for the season with a single to shortstop but was unable to add to the score.

The score had been set firm at 7-2 in favour of the 'trobbers and an uneventful and final seventh inning (beside a spectacular right-field catch by Michelle) saw the University squad through as first-game victors. A super start to what will undoubtedly be a successful season!

- *Wendi-Meg Breward*

Third Nine

First game against waverley we all played really well considering as we haven't played as a team before
Score was 15 - 1 in the end, we lost but played well.
Mitchell caught to Tyler and Anna ,
Well done team.