

## Masters Match Reports 2009/10

November 22

Monday Night November 22nd 2009- Masters Match Report Fitzroy (Benny Hill All Stars) 8 defeated Werribee (Pyjama Gang Bees) 6.

We ring roaded it out to Altona and the night started out as most do in masters, with us wondering who was going to walk through the door next and of course the batting and fielding line ups were numbered in that order. In the first innings we had some chances but they managed to push a run across the plate after a walk. If you hung around second base with 1 out you may have heard the Benny Hill theme as our pitcher, 2nd baseman and shortstop teamed up and managed to turn a strong double play chance into a run scoring opportunity for the other team.

In reply we made contact and were unlucky not to score early with some fortuitous out fielding from the yellowed pants pin striped brigade. To their credit they threw strikes and made us play, the ball just didn't fall where we wanted it to. They scored again in the second and we did well to leave them with the bases loaded and keep in touch on 2-0. Our middle order then came out over the next two innings and put the runs on the board taking us to a 6-2 lead.

Later in the game it didn't pay for us to get too comfy, as they levelled up the score in the 5th (6-6), sending us to bat with a mission.

We could then taste our first win for the year when the forced pitching change (after four) gave us a knuckle baller to swing at. We were ahead by two when Kingy flyed and Dean did the true Benny Hill job by over running the base at first when returning to tag, come on he only missed by about six metres!!

That was enough, Tony Bullen hit his spots from the mound and shut them out to call it a night.

Highlights were, Deans' speed to beat a couple of throws at 1, Much improvement in the field, Karl's catching, Hits all round and winners grins in the car park. Werribees BEES bright yellow pants with light blue pin stripes had to be seen to be bee-lieved.

October 10

Fitzroy V Sandringham

The Many Ways of Measuring Success

Many think that the winner of a sporting event is the person/team who scores the most – this isn't always so. Take golf for example; the winner is the person who scores the least. A similar philosophy should apply to Masters baseball. Sure, scoring runs is a good thing, but as any true Masters baseballer would understand, the victor is the team with the least number of injured players at the end of the game. Based on this philosophy, the Fitzroy Masters were winners over Sandringham by a count of one (quad) to three (2 quads and 1 impressive hamstring). Late in the game and with the injury tally in our favour, we seized on the poor lighting to request an early termination to the game – all agreed.

For those who need to know the score, Fitzroy 7 lost to Sandringham 10.

With our top order dragging the chain (1 hit in 12 at bats), our middle and lower order kept us in the game with a trio of singles to Steve Bride and timely hits to Geoff and Jamie, mixed in with a sprinkling of errors and HPBs. We scored 5 runs in the second inning, giving glimpses of the Fitzroy juggernaut that could be. But our scoring cooled later in the game and our defense, despite good intentions, wasn't quite strong enough to keep the sandflies from scoring more runs than us.

Following Bridey in the batting line-up was rookie sensation Dean "Signals are for Panzies" Malcolm who clearly needs to give the scorers some under-the-table encouragement as he reached base all three of his at bats but was given two fielder's choices and one error for a grand total of 0 for 3. Dean, playing his first Masters game, was given the job of acting as backstop for the game. We told him this was an honour, a compliment to his obvious athletic prowess but in truth, with Crazy Karl out with a calf injury, Dean was the only player remaining on the team with two fully functional knees.

Worthy Mentions:

No game is complete without a hidden ball trick. We pulled it off twice in this game, sadly to our own detriment. The first magic trick occurred at second base with a firmly hit ground ball finding its way into Storm's outstretched glove but then going on to play hide and seek for a while around his ankles. Storm was clearly having immense fun searching for the ball (I thought for a moment he was going to start calling "marco", as in "marco polo"). The second magic trick was even more ingenious than the first, especially considering that it was our rookie catcher who pulled the wool over everyone's eyes, including his own. A pitched ball surprisingly found its way into the catcher's mitt but Dean thought it had passed to the backnet. Spinning quickly to find the ball, Dean commenced the catcher's sacred passed-ball dance, head darting from side to side searching unsuccessfully for the ball. After a few moments had passed (to allow everyone the pleasure of watching the sacred dance) someone suggested "try your glove", at which point the ball flew out of Dean's mitt.

Welcome to our other first timer, Martin "Detroit" Price, who embraced the spirit of Masters baseball by succumbing to a quad injury partway through the game. Thanks also to Karl Leake for keeping score. Next time feel free to add a couple of runs to our score – it may be our only hope.

February 15th

We arrived at the great park of the Waverly baseball club with fear and trepidation in our hearts as we have never tasted victory within it's leafy, green confines. Another reason for the feelings? After extensive warm up sprints and embracing each other in a team huddle, and with only 8 players, we took the field of battle with a steely resolve. A number of our player already bat like 'A.Blank', a non-player who was to loom large in the game later in the game.

James Hope was on song from the start and shut down the mighty Red Machine after we had scored runs in the 1st, this theme continued with our hitting and fielding all night. Our form was so good we even had the rare (rare as rocking-horse poo) pleasure of scoring an innings-ending seven runs, eventually to run out winners 11-1, with the added piquancy of the game ending mercy rule having being applied in the 5th.

The first time this season we have scored 7 in an inning! (Ed: This is the first time in history FBC Masters has scored seven runs in an inning surely?)

Early in the game we were bringing batters to the plate and converting them to runners with some regularity. Imagine our social horror when we asked bluntly "When is the blank due up"?. We were taken aback that our opponents wished to enforce the blank in the first place (mostly in Masters a team just bats on through) and secondly the implication that we would somehow be cheating by ignoring the blank. We never need a reason to try hard against Waverly, but that sure gave us a good one.

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good one.

Martin fielded brilliantly and batted well. James had a blinder on the hill. Jamie Catt batted up a storm. (Did I say storm? Well some things need to be seen to be believed - Storm Arnott popping up to the pitcher and standing in the box like a little boy who had lost his lollipop. You guessed it - they dropped the ball and still threw him out at first. Sad day for baseball. Pick it up. you are a leader in the team.) Thanks to Chris for turning up, albeit late, to fill our blank. The tradition of John King hitting into a double play continued, but this time we scored a run, as he did the right thing: hitting behind the runner, doing the team stuff. Way to go JK.

JK.

Sandy somewhere next week - stay tuned - but do not ring me (Kiny) because I will just tell you the same as I have told everyone for the last three weeks - we are playing Geelong. We still haven't played them.

JK