

Junior Match Reports 2011/12

Round 10

Under 14 - Fitzroy Lions (6) defeated by Melbourne A (9)

If only we could have played the first hour with the same spirit and character as we did the second hour today, the result could have been a lot different. We started where we left off from the week before and gave up 8 runs in the first two innings through a combination of errors and hits.

Fortunately we sparked into life in the second hour and took it right up to our opponents. Riley and Ben did their job on the mound. Both boys threw enough strikes to get sufficient outs and Adam and Ethan were solid behind the dish.

Mitchell Whinnen, Bailey Neilson, Cailen Clancy and Riley Cleeve took some great flies in the outfield and Adam Malcolm, Mitchell McCulloch and Mitchell Edwards made some clutch plays late in the game.

We only registered two safe hits for the game but it was pleasing to see all batters making their at bats count and going deep into the count. We managed to draw 11 free passes which put our opponents under pressure.

Hits & RBIs: Ethan Appleby 1dbl (2); Riley Cleeve 1; Bailey Neilson (1); Adam Malcolm (1); Mitchell McCulloch (1).

Many thanks to Dean and Brad for their help coaching, Wendy for scoring and Ange for collecting the cash.

Next week – Newport away. We can win, but we'll need to be switched on for the full two hours.

Peter Wilson
U14 Lions Coach

Round 8

Under 12 - Fitzroy (1) defeated by Melbourne (24)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Fitzroy	0	0	1	0		1
Melbourne	6	7	7	4		24

Last week we had only 5 players attend training out of the 25+ listed players and I think it showed in this week's game against Melbourne. This wasn't helped with a few players being exhausted from the Little League Summer Championships that had just been held for the preceding 3 days.

I'm not going to talk too much about the game this week, suffice to say that we need to ensure we are both physically and mentally ready to play when we arrive at the ground. Physically we need to ensure we attend training, practice our drills and improve our techniques. We also need to ensure that on hot days that we have sunscreen applied (20 mins prior to being in the sun) and access to plenty of water. Below are some basic fluid replacement guidelines to ensure players do not become dehydrated:

- 1 - 2 glasses of water 45mins prior to game.
- 1 glass of water every 15mins during game.

Being mentally prepared for a game is just as important if not more important than physical preparedness. Our concentration levels seem to have dropped over the past few weeks. I'm guessing school holidays may have a lot to do with this. When a player lacks concentration, they not only let the team down, but may put themselves in a position of being injured. Players need to ensure that when fielding they are mentally ready to receive the ball and have an attitude of expecting the ball to be hit to them with every pitch. The same goes when batting. We had a lot of strike-outs on the weekend against a pitcher that is no better than anyone in our team. The only difference was we swung at a lot of pitches that were way outside the strike-zone.

With players back at school this week and hopefully life returning back to normal we should be in a position to be both physically and mentally ready for this weekend's game.

Thanks to James Hope for assisting with the Warm-Up and as 3rd Base Coach.

Parents – please remind your children to have all their baseball gear ready the night before and to ensure they bring along water bottles and have sunscreen applied before arriving.

"Early in my career, I decided I never wanted to get out of shape." - Cal Ripken, Jr.

"Go Lions"

Cheers – Jason

Under 14 - Fitzroy Cubs (6) defeated by Doncaster A (28)

The Fitzroy U14 Cubs had a tough game this week against Doncaster in hot weather conditions.

Carl was our starting pitcher and tried very hard but struggled to find the strike zone. Cailen pitched next and also tried very hard, showing great stamina and concentration over two and a third innings. Billy closed the final inning and showed some real potential getting two outs.

Highlights from the game included:

- A lead-off 7 pitch At Bat from Cailen in the first inning that appeared to unsettle their pitcher as he walked the next three batters.
- A double to Billy that was very close to a Home Run.
- A hard hit double to Curtis.
- A two-strike double to Connor Bond.
- Luca played very well catching for the entire game. His enthusiasm is a great example for the rest of the team.

The fielding was very good all day although we still need to work on each fielder knowing what to do if the ball gets hit to them.

Well done to everyone for giving it their best for the whole game.

Hits and (RBIs): Connor Bond double (1); Billy 1, double; Curtis double (2); Luca 1 (2); Taylor (1);

Thanks to Cam for filling in as Assistant Coach, Lesley for scoring, Lil for collecting the money and supplying oranges, and Samuel as Bat Boy.

Next week the Cubs play Essendon Black at Merri Park.

Eamon Clancy
Temporary U14 Cubs Coach

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Under 14 - Fitzroy Lions (1) defeated by Springvale A (23)

Once again we faced a very strong opposition in extreme heat. Unfortunately this week we were not up to the challenge and were comprehensively outscored and outplayed. That's not to say we didn't try hard, but we came up well short.

Riley Cleeve, Bailey Neilson and Mitch McCulloch gave their all on the mound and Ethan Appleby and Mitch Whinnen did a great job behind the mask.

Unfortunately our bats went missing against some quality pitching and we were outthit 14/4. Special mention to Riley Cleeve and Mitch Edwards who registered 2 singles each.

Our boys played the game in the right spirit throughout and hung in there to come up with our only run in the bottom of the last. We were thankful to our opponents who provided a sub fielder for us throughout the game, with one of their boys even throwing out a teammate 9-3. It was interesting to note though, that the experienced coach of the opposition felt it necessary to keep steeling bases until they were 15 runs ahead, even when our fielders had been instructed not to hold runners on. We must have looked very threatening at 12/0 down in the top of the third! Maybe their boys would have learnt more about the game had they hit their way to a 15 run lead.

Hits & RBIs: Riley Cleeve 2 ; Mitch Edwards 2; Ben Wilson (1).

Many thanks to Dean for his help coaching, Tim for scoring and Josh Loveridge for umpiring. Also, thanks to our supporters for keeping the boys as cool as possible, watered and shaded.

Next week – Sandringham away.

Peter Wilson
U14 Lions Coach

Round 7

Under 14 - Fitzroy Cubs (1) defeated by Cheltenham B (26)

Last Sunday the U14 cubs took on Cheltenham B at Fitzroy and lost 26 – 1. It was a tough day at the office for the cubs, we only had 7 players and disappointingly the Cheltenham Manager decided to enforce the blanks.

Our pitchers toiled hard in hot weather, Carl was a bit rusty after the break and a few extra weeks off due to illness, Billy tried hard and did well striking out 4. Brendan finished the match as best he could.

With two blanks in the line up it was hard to get any sort of rally going. Billy hit a nice double and scored when Connor drove one to right field. The rest of the guys managed to get on base with walks etc.

Our fielding was okay, with limited opportunities.

Next week we play Doncaster A and with a full team should give a better account of ourselves

Good luck to Eamon and the boys.

Hits (RBI) Billy 1 (double), Connor 1 (1), Owen 1.

Brett Bennell
U14 Cubs Coach

Under 14 - Fitzroy Lions (2) defeated by Waverley A (12)

After a number of weeks off, the Under 14 Lions performed admirably in very trying conditions against a star studded opposition. After an hour of the game we trailed only 2/5, and if not for one innings where the Waverley hitters got on top of us, we could have finished a lot closer.

Waverley used 4 pitchers against us and each of them threw hard consistent strikes. They even needed to go to their ace to close out the last two innings when the game was a lot closer than they anticipated.

A credit to our boys as each of them made their at bats count and worked their pitchers deep into counts. Special mention to Sheeds who had 2 hits, with one landing a couple of metres short of the cones, Adam who stroked an RBI single up the middle and Apples who hung in there and smashed a double late in the game.

A highlight of the game was a 2 out, 10 pitch at bat by Bailey that finished in a BB. During this at bat he fouled off 7 straight pitches, allowing Hush Edwards to score on a PB and setting things up for Adam to follow him with a single to score Sheeds. A great example of team batting.

Hits & RBIs: Sheeds 2 1dbl; Adam 1 (1); Apples 1dbl.

Many thanks to Dean for his help coaching, Lesley for scoring and John Edwards for umpiring.

Next week – Springvale at Merri Park Outer.

Peter Wilson
U14 Lions Coach

Round 6

Under 12 - Fitzroy (5) defeated by Newport (27)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Fitzroy	0	0	0	5	0	5
Newport	4	7	7	4	5	27

This week we welcomed Noah Seiderman for his first game in the Under 12's and we also welcomed back Ethan Epifano.

We knew going into this game that Newport would be a solid team that were capable for hitting the ball. Our challenge was to do the same, hit strikes and minimize any errors in the field.

Newport held nothing back and started with their best pitcher who threw fast, accurate strikes and managed to keep us scoreless for our first three innings with 8 "K's".

Steven started on the mound for us and did a fantastic job throwing 60% strikes in the first innings and chalked up two "K's" for himself. Newport proved to be the team we expected with most batters swinging the bat and putting the ball in play. At the end of three innings we trailed Newport 0-18.

We managed to come back in the forth with Jonah leading off and getting himself on base with a single. Asher then followed with a single of his own. Better pitch selection in the batter's box and we finished the fourth innings with 5 runs of our own.

With Newport hitting the ball we had the opportunity to test out a few pitchers this week. Jonah, Adam, Noah and Mitch all had an opportunity to pitch to enter a batting line up. Each of them did a great job and together they managed to

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A highlight of the day was Steven's solo double play catching a line drive at short-stop followed by a "commando roll" across 2nd base to claim the 2nd out.

It was encouraging to see the team never give up and always maintain a smile on their faces.

Thanks to James Hope for once again providing guidance and support as Assistant Coach.

Hits: Asher (2), Jonah (1), Vikram (1)

Next Game #7
22nd January 2012
Fitzroy v Cheltenham @ Fitzroy, Outer

Fixture and Ladder

"Anyone with talent can play in the Major Leagues; for someone like me to stay around as long as I did, I think that's a much greater achievement" - . Bob Uecker "Mr Baseball"

Wishing all players and their families a very Merry Xmas. Have a fantastic break, stay safe and see you all in the New Year.

Go Lions !!

Cheers – Jason

Round 5

Under 14 - Fitzroy Cubs (6) defeated by Waverley B (17)

Last Sunday the U14 cubs travelled out to a wet and cold Waverley to take on Waverley B. Unfortunately we went down 6 – 17. Although the score doesn't reflect it the boys played a pretty good game against a stronger more experienced opponent.

Curtis and Cailen again pitched and did a great job of throwing lots of strikes, and as all Waverley sides do they hit well. We struggled in the early innings to make outs and some errors hurt us.

But as the game went on the boys kept plugging away eventually we started making some good outs with Brendan again good at 1st making 6 outs, 2 of which were fly balls.

Batting was again good against some very consistent pitching. Billy was huge again with 3 hits. A hard hit double by Curtis was also nice to see and was the best hit of the match.

Thanks to Riley Cleeve for helping out when their game was washed out.

Overall a good effort against a strong team on a water soaked field. Next week we take on Melbourne B away and we will be looking to play our best and hopefully register a win.

Thanks to Lesley for scoring, Eamon for warming the team up , all the parents who came to support, and a big thanks to Seth who line umpired his first game.

Hits (RBIs): Billy 3 (1), Curtis 1 double, Luca 1 , Brendan 1 (1)

Brett Bennell
U14 Cubs Coach

Under 18 - Fitzroy vs Berwick B

After overnight rain out at Greens the field was looking a bit poor with lateral water laying and rain falling we tried to wait it out. After mopping up the water ready for play the mound was still boggy. This left us with no choice but to call off the game.

Thanks to Lou and Con for trying to get the field up also.

After the Christmas Party next Saturday we need to finish with a win to take us into Christmas in front on the ledger.

Bring on SANTA

Coach King

Round 4

Under 14 - Fitzroy Cubs (10) defeated by Preston B (11)

Well what a difference a week makes. The guys that turned up on Sunday came ready to play. Against a bigger, stronger and more experienced Preston 'A' team they gave it a red hot go only to come up a little short at the end.

The pitching by Curtis and Cailen was fantastic. Both guys took a bit of pace off their pitches and had the Preston batters struggling to make good contact.

The fielding was a big improvement over last week with very few errors and some nice plays being made, including Brendan's diving catch at 1st, Billy's throw from right field to get the runner out at home and I shouldn't forget Owen's fly ball at centre field.

The batting also improved, still a few too many strike outs, but at least the guys were more aggressive and didn't watch as many 3rd strikes over. Highlights were Owen's double up the third base line, Curtis's double through the cones and Billy's three hits from 4 at bats.

Overall a vast improvement and it shows if they put the effort in over the full 2 hours we can match it with the stronger sides in the competition. A big test looms this week against Waverley. Let's see if we can match or better our effort against another good side.

Thanks to Liz for scoring, Lesley for taking our money and as always Eamon.

Hits (rbis): Billy 3 (2), Curtis 2 (1 double) (2), Cailen 1, Luca 1 (1), Joseph 1, Owen 1 double (2)

Brett Bennell
U14 Cubs Coach

Under 14 - Fitzroy Lions (5) defeated by Geelong (12)

Our opponents came out to play, but unfortunately several of our players didn't. For two teams that are pretty evenly matched, we looked way out of our league. In a complete turn around from the previous two weeks, we seemed flat and disinterested. The score line is deceptive as we scored 4 of our runs in junk time after the horse had bolted.

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It was great to see Apples, Cleevey, Bailey and Sheeds applying themselves throughout, and it's no fluke that each of them hit well. Apples was very impressive at right field, working hard all day and stopping at least two certain doubles.

If we want to compete in State League, we need to be more switched on than we were on Sunday.

Hits & RBIs: Cleevey 2 dbls; Sheeds 2 1dbl (2); Bailey 2 (1); Apples 1 (1); Ben 1; Hush Edwards 1.

Many thanks to Dean for his help coaching, Tim for scoring, Ang Cleeve for money hunting and Carl Wilson for umpiring.

Next week – Blackburn away.

Peter Wilson
U14 Lions Coach

Under 18 - Fitzroy (6) defeated by Doncaster B (7)

Out to deep creek reserve to take on the might of Doncaster.

Off to a shaky start - not scoring heavily enough to put the game beyond doubt early which kept them in the game.

Billy battled hard on the hill and Lucas behind the dish was his usual solid self and with the outfield playing well we were in the game.

One bad inn that gave Donc 4 runs and put us behind for the first time in the game. With 2 out and running out of time up to the plate went BOOM BOOM Jacob and with one swipe of his mighty bat sent the cockatoos scattering from their gum tree at left field to hit his first home run.

The game ended pretty ugly with a wild pitch on ball four bringing home the winning run and now leaving us at 2 wins and 2 losses.

Need a win next week to get us back on track.

Some other highlights were Philippe smashing a triple, Jacob at second base, Jordan's pick off at 2nd, and Cameron's fielding in the outfield.

Coach King

Round 3

Under 14 - Fitzroy Cubs (6) defeated by Springvale B (12)

Last Sunday the Cubs took on Springvale B at home and went down 6 - 14.

After last week's strong finish we were hoping for a good start this week against an easier opponent than we had faced the previous few weeks. Unfortunately that wasn't to be. With Cailen doing a great job on the mound this week it was the defence that let us down. So at the end of Springvale's first at bat we were 7 runs down, 5 errors is just too many in one innings.

The rest of the game was quite even and if we had been able to push a couple of runs over at different times the outcome might have been different.

Cailen and Curtis pitched well only giving up 3 earned runs between them. The fielders have to back them up.

Ethan had a good day at 2nd base making some good plays he also lined a nice drive up the 3rd base line for a double. Brendan was again solid at 1st getting another 5 outs.

The batting was very undisciplined against some average pitching. Too many batters were swinging at high pitches then watching the 3rd strike over the plate.

Hopefully next week against a stronger opponent we can lift our game to a better level and play the type of game we are capable of.

Remember guys - turn up ready to play.

Thanks to Lesley for scoring, Henry for umpiring, and Eamon my trusty assistant.

Hits (rbis) : Ethan 1 double (2), Connor M 1 (1), Nick 1, Owen 1.

Brett Bennell
U14 Cubs Coach

Under 14 - Fitzroy Lions (7) defeated by Cheltenham (8)

With Coach Earl not able to attend, this match was going to be a real test for the Lions, and they proved to everyone (and more importantly themselves) that they can compete with any team in this competition. To push the competition leaders to within a run was an outstanding effort – especially without Hush Edwards (missing due to a school infraction). If we were given the option at the start of losing by just a run we would have taken it – but by the end of the two hours our boys knew they should have won and were rueing missed opportunities.

Sheeds again took it upon himself to stamp his authority on the match, pitching well after giving up an early monster homerun. The field were backing him up and when we came in to bat the second time the side broke loose. Clever pitch selection forced their starter (one of the six Victorian players in their side) to give up several walks and some excellent hitting (Apples' double was brilliant, while Braddles was robbed of his double by some poor umpiring) allowed us to accumulate seven runs and scare a side that has never had to play catch up before. However, the introduction of one of the fastest pitchers our kids have ever seen (and some of the adults), limited our scoring and allowed them to peg us back.

Some simple errors (one by the coaches – we really need to know how many are out before bringing our side off the ground), let Cheltenham back into the match and they grabbed the lead just before time. They had not won it; rather we had let one get away. The boys had put together an excellent game with the highlights being Sheeds on the mound (with good relief from Ben), Apples, Bails and Braddles hitting, Ads behind the dish and the general fielding up until the last innings.

The boys are to be congratulated, but now know that simple errors can turn a game very quickly.

Hits: Braddles 2; Apples 1; Bails 1; Cleevy 1

Many thanks to Jason, for helping calm the coach, and to Wendy for scoring.

Let's welcome Earl back next week with a good win over a Geelong side we know we can beat.

Dean Malcolm
Sacked U14 Lions Coach

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Dean Malcolm
Sacked U14 Lions Coach

Under 18 - Fitzroy (3) defeated by Upwey FTG (9)

Our first game at greens and against UFTG got off to a good start scoring in the 1st to give us the lead - but this was the only time for the game as we then went on to walk 12 batters in 5 innings to run out losers 9-3.

Our hitting, while not showing a lot of hits, was a bit deceiving as we hit the ball hard but to fielders.

Billy and Jordan were solid with the bat and Matt did a good job in relief. Jacob played ok at 2nd base and got a tag out play from Jordan wheeling around from the mound.

Shane was a bit worse for wear from his gig as event organizer and it was painful to watch him on the bench going downhill fast.

Come to play next week.

Coach King

Round 2

Under 12 - Fitzroy (0) defeated by Sandringham A (20)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Sandringham	7	5	3	0	5	20
Fitzroy	0	0	0	0		0

Big thanks to James Hope and Gael Kirk for managing the team while I was unavailable. James' Match Report is provided below.

The Fitzroy U12 team had a tough game against a strong opponent, Cheltenham. We started well with Marek on the hill getting the first two outs but faltered trying to get that final 3rd out.

In our turn at bat Mirza hit a brilliant double off excellent pitching and even though Darcy later followed with his own single, we weren't able to score the run.

When we were in the field, Cheltenham kept us on our toes, running extra bases and taking opportunities wherever they appeared. If it weren't for some good pitching by Callum, Marek, Darcy and Steven the Cheltenham side would have put an even bigger hurt on us.

An awesome display of pitching from our opponent kept our bats very quiet and we struggled to score runs (zero, to be precise).

Our defence was not bad but has areas for improvement. With several players occupying positions they were not accustomed to, including new catchers and first time pitchers, we learned some new skills and had a good time (despite the lopsided score!).

With some hard work and training we can be competitive against all opponents.

Hits: Mirza (1 Dbl), Darcy (1), Thomas (1)

Next Game #3 – Geelong Baycats Blue vs Fitzroy @ Geelong

Please arrive on time ready to being warm-up at 8am.

Fixture and Ladder

"I watch a lot of baseball on the radio." - President Gerald Ford, 38th President of the United States

Cheers – Jason

Under 14 - Fitzroy Cubs (4) defeated by Essendon Red (12)

Last Sunday the U14 Cubs played Essendon Red away. Like last week we had already played them during the grading games and lost 21 - 6, so again our goal was to try and improve the score line - which eventually we did - losing 12 - 4.

It turned out to be a strange game played in 2 halves, for the first hour the boys looked flat, sleepy and resigned to losing. Carl started on the mound and tried his best but feeling a bit unwell and without his usual zip was replaced in the first inning after giving up 6 runs. Curtis came on and did well with a few errors not helping his cause. He also gave up 6 in the 2nd innings.

The batting was okay. Nick was unlucky after smashing one down the 1st base line and getting caught by a great play from the fielder there. But we only managed 3 base runners in our first 3 innings.

So with the score at 12 - 0 their way, it looked like it would be a long day without much joy.

But then it happened - with Curtis throwing strikes and some great plays being made we shut them out and before we knew it we were batting again. Our next at bat was much better with more patience being shown and some good base running we managed 3 runs from 2 hits and 4 walks.

Callen came on to pitch after Curtis and after facing only 4 batters we were again batting. We managed to put on another run before time and game was called. So in the second hour we scored 4 to their 0.

The second half of the game saw the boys play their best baseball of the season with some nice plays by Callen, Ethan and Carl in the infield. A great throw by Curtis to throw out the runner at 1st from right field.

A special mention for Brendan who made 7 outs at 1st base, 3 unassisted. Well done.

Joseph was big with the bat again getting 2 hits from 2 at bats.

I guess the message to the team is to turn up ready to play and not wait till the game is half over.

Thanks to Lil and Lesley for scoring, Eamon the assistant coach and Seth for taking the role as bench coach.

Hits (RBIs): Joseph 2, Owen 1 (1), Ethan (1)

Brett Bennell
U14 Cubs Coach

Under 14 - Fitzroy Lions (9) defeated Melbourne (6)

Under 14 - Fitzroy Lions (9) defeated Melbourne (6)

An all round team effort where every player did his bit saw us register a very impressive win against quality opposition. This week we made a commitment to ensure we were 'up' for the full game, as this is an area that has let us down in recent weeks. The boys delivered in spades.

Unbelievably 3 of our first 5 outs were 2 to 1 put outs at the plate. You'd think the coach would have learned after the first one, or at worst two! However we rallied to put this behind us and play great team baseball for two hours.

Sheeds did a tradesman like job on the hill throwing his 70 pitches over 4.33 innings. He threw 26 balls, 44 strikes and gave up only 8 hits and 4 earned runs while striking out 3 and only issuing 2 free passes.

The big difference this week was the way we backed Sheeds up in the field. Ads was rock solid behind the plate making several blocks to stop runners advancing. Chainsaw McCulloch, Hush Edwards and Cleevy were magnificent in the infield making 7 plays between them, without an error. Bradley put in a terrific game at first base with 8 put outs. The outfielders Apples, Ben, Rowdy Whinnen and Sheeds did everything right throughout the game. Bailey was stiff, as the minute he came out of the game the ball was hit to third base with monotonous regularity.

Our hitters showed a lot of maturity and discipline in the box, drawing 10 free passes while registering 9 hits. We scored 6 in the bottom of the second, and like a good team, scored in 2 of the remaining innings to hold our fast finishing opponents out.

Well done Lions. We have now set our standard and know what we are capable of if we turn up each week for the entire game.

Hits & RBIs: Cleevy 3 (2); Braddles 2 (2); Apples 2 (1); Ads 1 (1); Ben 1 (1); Sheeds (2).

Many thanks to Dean for his help coaching and Tim (Robert Plant) Synnot for scoring.

Keep an eye on the website for next week's opponents and the venue for training this week.

Earl Hickey
U14 Lions Coach

Under 18

After playing grading games and coming up a bit short we have begun our season proper with 2 wins from 2 starts.

Game One against arch enemy Preston was a solid hit out - running out winners by 4 runs.

Highlights were a plenty with our pitching staff of Billy and Jordan having a great outing, some great fielding and controlled hitting leading the way to give us a comfortable lead and win in the end.

An in ground home run from big bad Billy had the crowd on its feet and our play to gun down their attempted in the ground homer was copy book baseball with Cameron hitting the cut off and Jordan's strike to home plate to gave Daniel a great chance to show off his tagging ability to finish the job. Well done guys.

Game Two and out to Mulgrave - Dandenong. Our bats led the way scoring 3 runs in the first to set the tone for the game. With Billy once again pitching well we looked as though we would control the game all day, but baseball is a funny game, and with a comfortable 8-0 lead our bats went to sleep. Mulgrave staged a comeback and at the end had a chance to win - only snuffed out by a ground ball to Billy at 3rd to finish the game at 9-8.

Highlights Boom Boom Jordan launching a bomb in the first, Matt Johnson's welcome return to form, Elliott's leadership in all things he does, Shane (get a haircut) Bennell at first base, Jordan's fielding and the entire team for picking up their game from 2 weeks ago.

Thanks Lukas for catching. We need you and Daniel to have any chance of winning this thing.

John King
U18 Coach

Round 1

Now that the grading games have finished, junior teams have been divided into Major / Minor League divisions for the rest of the season.

Under 12 - Fitzroy (10) defeated by Malvern (13)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Fitzroy	2	1	1	0	6	10
Malvern	6	1	2	2	2	13

This week was our first test playing against an experienced Malvern in the Major League division. Malvern had won 4 out of their last 5 games by fairly significant margins so were bound to be very competitive.

We started off strongly with a double from Darcy and a hit from Mirza putting two runs on the board for us. Darcy started off on the mound throwing to Adam for his first time as catcher. Darcy struggled to find the strike zone early on and made it difficult on Adam. Adam wasn't helped with a back net the size of a tissue. Malvern had a 2:6 lead after the first dig.

The next three innings were very competitive with both teams only managing to score a few runs each. Darcy continued to throw consistent strikes and was replaced equally well with Mirza doing the same. In the batter's box we were very selective and managed to get on-base most times, however Malvern fielded the ball well and managed to maintain a 4:10 lead after the 4th innings.

We now need to come together as a team and show Malvern what we were made of. We started off slowly and only managed to get 1 runner on base with 2 out. The turning point must have been when Adam took one for the team with a fast ball straight into the middle of the back. I think the entire crowd felt Adam's pain. After this we had consecutive hits from Darcy, Marek and Vikram. Whilst we came so close to catching Malvern, it wasn't enough. In the end we went down 10:13.

This final innings really scared Malvern and proved to ourselves that we are capable of taking it to the most experienced of teams in the Major League competition.

Hits: Darcy (2 Dbl), Vikram (1 Dbl), Steven (1 Dbl), Marek (1), Mirza (1)

Next Game #2 - Fitzroy vs Sandringham A @ Fitzroy

Fixture and Ladder

"You can't think and hit at the same time." - Yogi Berra

Cheers - Jason

Under 14 - Fitzroy Cubs (5) defeated by Geelong B (13)

Last Sunday the Cubs travelled down to Geelong to take on the Baycats. Having played the same team two weeks ago the goal for this game was to improve on the last game. In the previous outing they beat us convincingly 20 - 8. Although we didn't play a great game we achieved our goal going down 13 - 5. We let them get away in the first inning where they scored 7 but after that we played some solid baseball.

Curtis led off on the mound and had a shaky start hitting 3 batters and walking 2. a couple of errors didn't help. To his credit

Last Sunday the Cubs traveled down to Geelong to take on the boys from Fitzroy. Having played the same team two weeks ago the goal for this game was to improve on the last game. In the previous outing they beat us convincingly 20 - 8. Although we didn't play a great game we achieved our goal going down 13 - 5. We let them get away in the first inning where they scored 7 but after that we played some solid baseball.

Curtis led off on the mound and had a shaky start hitting 3 batters and walking 2, a couple of errors didn't help. To his credit he came out in the second and looked much better and although we made 2 more errors he got the 3 outs without giving up a run. Carl came on for the next two innings and struck out 2 of the first 3 batters he faced, then had a bit of a lapse and walked 4 in a row before getting his groove back striking out the last two batters.

The batting this week was good. We actually out hit Geelong but we had far too many strike outs. A bit more patience needs to be shown in the batter's box. Joseph had a good day with the bat getting 2 hits and 2 RBI's. Billy also smashed a double to centre field as did Taylor which was good to see.

Fielding was the area where we let ourselves down this week with way too many errors and wild throws. It is important for the fielders to back up their pitchers and know what you are going to do if the ball comes to you.

Next week we play Essendon Red again so we need everyone there switched on and ready to play.

Thanks to Lil for scoring, and to all the parents for making the long trip to Geelong, also Eamon for his help as assistant coach.

Hits (RBI): Joseph 2 (2), Taylor 1 double (1), Billy 1 double, Cailen 1.

Brett Bennell
U14 Cubs Coach

Under 14 - Fitzroy Lions (12) drew with Newport A (12)

While a draw is better than a loss, we left this game once again with the feeling we let one slip away by playing sloppy baseball in the early innings. We gave up 2, 3 and 6 to find ourselves trailing with a couple of innings to go.

To our credit, we fought it out right to the end and scored a run in the bottom of the last to tie it up. Bradley drew a walk, Rowdy executed a perfect sac bunt down the 1st base line, Bradley stole 3rd and Bailey smashed a ground ball to tie it up. Apples then lined one to left field that would have been a double had it been a meter either side of the fielder.

We'll need to lift our game if we are to be competitive in future games. There are many strong teams in State League who will demolish us if we don't play heads up baseball for the full two hours. Something to work on boys!

Hits & RBIs: Ads 1dbl (2); Cleevy 1dbl (2); Sheeds 1dbl; Bails 1 (2); Apples 1; Braddles 1.

Many thanks to Dean for his help coaching, Wendy for scoring and Storm for umpiring.

Peter Wilson
U14 Lions Coach

Round 5

Under 12 - Fitzroy (21) defeated Essendon Black (13)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Fitzroy	7	0	7	7		21
Essendon Black	0	7	1	5		13

This week we welcomed Adam Husovic and Jonah Hope for their first game of the season with the Under 12 team.

Essendon's starting pitcher struggled to find the zone and when he did we hit the ball hard to drive in runners on base. This included a single from Asher and a Grand Slam from Angus giving us a great start with 7 runs. Adam started on the mound for his first game for Fitzroy and did a fantastic job keeping Essendon scoreless.

The game did a full 180 in the second innings with both teams changing pitchers resulting in 0 runs for us and 7 runs for Essendon. Score after two innings was now 7:7.

We were back to the top of the order and needed to score a few runs to give ourselves a strong lead. We did exactly that with a string of hits from Henry, Osker and Angus. Max then drove in two runs with a great display of team hitting sending the ball to Right Field. We now lead 14:7 and brought Marek on to pitch in an attempt to shutdown Essendon. Marek threw spot on as usual and restricted Essendon to 1 run giving us a solid 14:8 lead after 3 innings.

Angus lead off and wanted to bet me \$5 that he could hit a home run. In hindsight I'm glad I decided not to take the bet as Angus hit his second Home Run for the day. Great team hitting again from Max, Vikram and Jonah put another 7 runs on the board putting us further ahead 21:8.

Our closing pitchers, Osker and Darcy together with Jonah as catcher helped close out the game giving us our 2nd win for the season.

Hits: Angus (2HR, 1), Darcy (2), Max (2), Osker (2), Marek (1), Vikram (1), Jonah (1), Asher (1), Henry (1)

Next Game #6 – To Be Advised

Fixture and Ladder

"Hitting is timing. Pitching is upsetting timing." - Warren Spahn

Cheers – Jason

Under 14 - Fitzroy Cubs (6) defeated by Essendon Red (21)

On Sunday the U14 Cubs played their last grading game against a pretty good Essendon team.

Carl was back this week and pitched 2 good innings, Curtis took over and again did a good job. Brendan came on late and got the last out. Overall the pitching was better than previous weeks, a lot less walks were given, and although they scored a lot of runs most of them came from hits.

The fielding was good too. With Essendon hitting very well, a lot of plays needed to be made, and to the boys credit they did a good job. A highlight was Ethan's plays at second, a hard hit line drive which was well caught and the very next pitch a hard hit ground ball which he took and made the out at first. There were also some very good fly balls caught, and some good efforts to try and snag others.

A couple of run down plays were unsuccessful, something we will address at training this week.

Batting wise the boys battled hard against a very good pitcher, no one struck out looking at a third strike and everyone was aggressive in the batting box.

We managed 5 hits - 2 of which were doubles and 7 walks, for 6 runs.

Well done to Billy playing his first ever game, in his only at bat got a nice hit.

Ethan also registered his first hit.

We managed 5 hits - 2 of which were doubles and 7 walks, for 6 runs.

Well done to Billy playing his first ever game, in his only at bat got a nice hit.

Ethan also registered his first hit.

Connor B and Luca did a good job behind the plate and are starting to look a lot more comfortable and confident.

Overall a good effort against a strong opposition. Next week the season proper starts so guys turn up ready to play.

Thanks to Gavin for umpiring, Lesley for scoring (and the oranges), Lil for collecting the money and Eamon for being my right hand man (even though it's broken).

Hits: Luca 1 (double) (3 RBI), Cailen 1 (double) (1 RBI), Ethan 1 (1 RBI), Joseph 1, Billy 1.

Brett Bennell
U14 Cubs Coach

Under 14 - Fitzroy Lions (22) defeated Essendon White (2)

Contrary to what the score may indicate, this was a very entertaining game of baseball with both sides displaying some excellent skills. We had a great deal more experience on our side, which was the difference between the teams.

Going into the game we knew that our opponents were inexperienced, so we made a commitment to represent the FBC with pride and to play the game in the right spirit. We led from the beginning and hit the ball well throughout the game, apart from a patch in the middle of the game where we went off the boil and hit a lot of pop ups.

Sheeds led the way yet again going 4 from 4 with 2 doubles and a Grand Slam with 8 RBI. Other notable contributions with the bat were Rowdy Whinnen and Cleevy both with 4 hits and Bailey Neilson with 3.

In one of his rare outings on the hill, Ads Malcolm threw 2 shut out innings while striking out 3. As always, he looked very comfortable on the mound. Hush Edwards was once again very impressive throwing the next 2, also striking out 3. Rowdy closed things out in fine style.

Cleevy and Apples were both impressive behind the dish and Brad, Bailey, Chainsaw and Ben were solid in the field.

Hits & RBIs: Sheeds 4 – 2dbl, 1 Grand Slam (8); Cleevy 4 – 1dbl (1); Rowdy Whinnen 4 (2); Bails 3 (1); Braddles 2 – 1dbl (3); Apples 2 (1); Ads 2 (1); Hush Edwards 2 (1); Chainsaw McCulloch 1.

Many thanks to Dean for his help coaching and Tim for scoring.

Footnote - After the game one of the Essendon dads came up to me to let me know just how impressed the Essendon people were with how our boys went about the game. He thanked us for the sportsmanship shown and commented on what a great bunch of boys we had. Well done!

Buddy would also like to publicly apologise for fouling Rosa's leg. He hopes she has it in her heart to forgive him.

Peter Wilson
U14 Lions Coach

Round 4

Under 14 - Fitzroy Lions (8) defeated Preston B (4)

What a great game of junior baseball we witnessed on Sunday on the outer at Merri Park. Two evenly matched teams went head to head and it had it all - home runs, double plays, sack flies, running bunts, fake bunts & steals, 1st & 3rd defensive plays, and runners caught stealing at 2nd, just to name a few.

The stakes were high and spectators could have easily thought they were watching a division 1 game. Add to this the fact that the game was played in appalling conditions and all participants are to be commended. This win is likely to qualify us to go on and play State League, which is a great effort.

Sheeds and Benny did the job on hill. Sheeds threw 3 for 1 hit, 2 ks and 4 runs, Benny threw 2 for 0 hits, 2 ks and 0 runs. Adam was awesome behind the dish making a crucial throw in the top of the last to snuff out the go ahead run.

Riley and Hush Edwards were dangerous in the pivot, Braddles did the job at 1st and Apples took a crucial flyball late in the game to hold our opponents out.

We went into the bottom of the last 4/4. Hush led off with a perfectly executed running bunt and 2 stolen bases, Riley drew a walk, Sheeds hit a deep sack fly to score Hush, Rowdy Whinnen drew a walk, Benny came up with a clutch hit to score Riley, Bailey got on by hanging in for a dropped 3rd strike, Apples drew a walk to score Rowdy then Chainsaw McCulloch smashed one up the middle to score Ben and seal the deal.

In a pattern similar to the Geelong game, we let our opponents get away early, but the boys once again showed plenty to hang in there and this time, come up with the win.

Hits & RBIs: Benny 2 (3); Chainsaw McCulloch 1 (1); Hush Edwards 1; Sheeds (2); Apples (1).

Many thanks to Dean for his help coaching, Wendy for scoring in very difficult conditions and Pat Wyatt for umpiring. Next Sunday we have Essendon C away. Please be ready for warm up at 8.00am.

Peter Wilson
U14 Lions Coach

Round 3

Under 12 - Fitzroy (14) drew with Preston B (14)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Fitzroy	4	2	1	2	5	14
Preston	7	0	0	6	1	14

This week we welcomed Mirza Lunicisi, Angus Turner and William Hewett for their first game of baseball at Fitzroy. It was also Mirza and Angus's first game of baseball ever and what a game they both had.

What a novelty it was this week to finally play a game in the sunshine. I think the players struggled initially to cope with these strange conditions.

My ask of the team this week was to concentrate in the batter's box and to be more selective of the pitches they swing at. The team did exactly that and we managed to score runs in every innings. The team also scored 8 hits from their 22 at-bats.

Callum started off as pitcher for his first time ever and did a great job against a strong batting line-up. He was a little nervous in his first inning, but made a massive improvement in the second inning keeping Preston scoreless. After two innings we trailed Preston by 1 run.

Mirza drove in a run in the third inning with his first ever at-bat to even the score at 7-7. Steven then came on to pitch and

Callum started off as pitcher for his first time ever and did a great job against a strong batting line-up. He was a little nervous in his first inning, but made a massive improvement in the second inning keeping Preston scoreless. After two innings we trailed Preston by 1 run.

Mirza drove in a run in the third inning with his first ever at-bat to even the score at 7-7. Steven then came on to pitch and followed in Callum's footsteps, keeping Preston scoreless again in the third.

We seemed to lose concentration later in the game whilst fielding which allowed Preston to score 6 runs in the next innings giving them a 9-13 lead going into the last inning.

To give ourselves any chance of winning, we now needed to score at least 5 runs. We did exactly that. Three consecutive hits from Peter, Mirza and Steven, combined with aggressive base running put us in front 14-13. Pressure was now back on Preston.

Marek came in as our closing pitcher and threw consistent strikes. With two outs and bases loaded, Steven took a great fly-ball in Center field to close the game at a 14-14 draw.

I'm sure all spectators would agree, that this was a fantastic display of baseball between both teams. Every player should be extremely proud of the efforts they displayed.

Hits: Angus (1 double, 1), Mirza (2), Darcy (2), Steven (1), Peter (1)

Next Game Round #4 – (Bye)

We have a bye scheduled for this weekend, so we are planning to run a game on Sunday morning involving ALL Under 12 players. Details will be provided at training this Wednesday night.

"It took me seventeen years to get three thousand hits in baseball. I did it in one afternoon on the golf course" - Hank Aaron

Cheers – Jason

Under 14 - Fitzroy Cubs (8) defeated by Geelong B (20)

Although the score doesn't reflect it - the Cubs had a red hot go against a pretty good Baycats team.

Our batting is really coming along, with everyone having great at bats, being very patient and waiting for the right pitches to swing at. The pitching is improving, although were still giving up to many walks especially when ahead in the count.

While some good plays were executed in the field, some work will have to be done on knowing what to do when fielding the ball with runners on base. One play in particular that caught my eye was executed so well it surprised everyone. A routine hit to left field was fielded by Owen who immediately threw to second base, Ethan who was waiting there to received the throw and touched the bag to get a force out on the runner coming from 1st. I think it even surprised the base runner. Well done guys.

The boys are starting to bond well as a team and that will only improve as the season continues.

Overall a good effort by the team, next week is a bye for us, our last grading game will be the week after at home against Essendon.

Thanks to Cam and Eamon for umpiring, Lesley for scoring and the oranges, and Andy for helping out when Eamon was umpiring. And the other parents for packing up the ground (must let them know that the boys should be doing it).

Hits :- Curtis 2 (1 double), Brendan 1 (double), Luca 1, Joseph 1.

Brett Bennell
U14 Cubs Coach

Under 14 - Fitzroy Lions (25) defeated Essendon Black (3)

At last some warm weather and our boys came out to play. We scored 7 in the top of the first through good team batting and another bomb, this time a Grand Slam, to big Nick.

Nick, Bailey and Ben did a great job pitching, Adam and Mitch E were solid behind the dish and Riley and Mitch W made some great plays at second base.

Ethan came good with the bat and smashed one up the middle, Bradley continued his good form with a hit, 3 walks and a HPB and Mitch Mc got on base all 3 appearances and scored each time.

Hits & RBIs: Ben 2 1dbl (4); Mitch E 2 (2); Adam 2; Nick 1HR (4); Bailey 1dbl (3); Mitch W 1dbl (3); Riley 1dbl (1); Ethan 1 (3); Bradley 1 (1); Mitch Mc (1).

Many thanks to Dean for his help coaching, John for his skills coaching and Tim for scoring. Next Sunday we have Preston at Merri Park. Please be ready for warm up at 8.00am.

Peter Wilson
U14 Lions Coach

Round 2

Under 12 - Fitzroy (5) defeated by Bay Cats White (22)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Fitzroy	0	0	4	1		5
Bay Cats White	7	6	2	7		22

Welcome this week to Max Johnstone, Luke Triscari and Callum Ryan for their first game this year in the Under 12 team.

Playing at Geelong is always difficult. It requires players and parents to wake up hours earlier and make the long drive to the back of Geelong. This game was even more difficult due to the cold and wet conditions.

Full credit to Bay Cats team, as their first pitcher consistently threw quick and accurate strikes and managed to keep us scoreless after the first two innings. Osker, Steven and Vikram all did their best as pitchers and tried to slow down a strong Bay Cats batting line-up. Bay Cats lead 0-13 after two innings.

With the weather improving at the start of the third innings, I think the players all started to thaw out and we managed to score 5 runs in the next two innings. Better pitch selection and some good heads up base running combined with a couple of hits from Peter & Asher helped put some much needed runs on the board.

Hits: Peter (1), Asher (1)

Next Game #3 – Preston B v Fitzroy @ Preston [La Trobe University]

hits from Peter & Asher helped put some much needed runs on the board.

Hits: Peter (1), Asher (1)

Next Game #3 – Preston B v Fitzroy @ Preston [La Trobe University]
 Enter via Carpark 2A off Kingsbury Drive Bundoora [MAP](#)

Please arrive early with baseball cleats on ready for warm-up at 8am.

Fixture and Ladder

"Just take the ball and throw it where you want to. Throw strikes. Home plate don't move." - Satchel Paige

Cheers – Jason

Under 14 - Fitzroy Cubs (19) defeated Preston B (17)

Last Sunday the U14 Cubs took on Preston A (which was actually there B side) and came away with a good win.

We started the game well with everyone getting a bat in the first dig, plating 5 runs on 3 hits and 4 walks. Carl started on the mound in his first game for the season and struck out 3 while only giving up 1 run.

Our turn to bat again and we only managed 1 run ourselves. Their second innings produced 5 runs with Carl getting another 2 Ks in a ,, great effort 1st game back.

So all tied at 6, game on.

Our next at bat and the boys fired up and hit their way to 6 runs with a lot of good base running and patience in the batters box.

Caillen came on to pitch and was very unlucky with a few soft hits not getting gloved, they managed to bring home 7.

Behind for the first time in the game the team responded magnificently smashing their way to seven runs with 6 hits in a row.

So with a lead of 6 the ball was given to Curtis to close it out. Luckily for us their lead off was injured and couldn't bat - so only 2 outs needed. Curtis walked 4, gave up 4 runs, struck out 2 batters and was cool under pressure.

Overall a good game by the team, a few things to work on at training though.

We welcomed 2 new players Ethan and Connor M and although they only played half a game performed well. Special mention to Connor B who caught the whole game and did a great job.

Thanks to Liz for scoring, Eamon, Lesley and also James Hope who took the kids for some batting practice pre game.

Hits:- Carl 2 (1 double), Caillen 2, Taylor 2, Curtis 2, Nick 2, Connor B 1, Brendan 1, Connor M 1

Brett Bennell
 U14 Cubs Coach

Under 14 - Fitzroy Lions (15) defeated by Geelong A (16)

What looked like a possible drubbing early in the, game, turned into a high standard affair where the U14 Lions went down in a tight one against a very strong Geelong outfit.

Through poor fielding and mental errors we gave up 7 runs in the top of the first. Nick Sheedy was doing an excellent job on the hill, but unfortunately our infielders failed to back him up. Starting 7 runs behind was always going to be a huge challenge. To the credit of all our boys, everyone showed plenty of character and fought the game out to the stage where we had the tying run on second base in the bottom of the last with only one out. Unfortunately we couldn't score the run.

Without doubt the highlight of this game was the performance of Nick Sheedy. He did a fine job on the hill and carried us all on his back with three blasts over the cones and a late double that nearly decapitated the left fielder. In all he finished with 8 RBI in an outstanding performance for his team and the Fitzroy Baseball Club.

Mitch Edwards did a great job in relief, giving up only one hit, one BB and 0 runs over 2 and 1/3 innings. Mitch also had 4 solid at bats where he made the opposition pitchers work hard. Bradley hit the ball hard all day registering 3 from 3 including a big double that went very close to a bomb.

Our outfielders were solid, taking a number of flies, which was pleasing.

All in all the game was a real wake up call to show us that we need to be switched on and ready to play from the time we commence warm up each Sunday. If we are, we will have a great season.

Hits & RBIs: Nick 4 (3HR, 1dbl) (8); Bradley 3 1dbl (1); Riley 1 (2); Ben 1; Mitch E 1; Mitch Mc 1; Adam (1); Mitch W (1).

Many thanks to Dean for his help coaching, Tim for scoring Ian Sheedy for umpiring at short notice.

Next Sunday we have Essendon B away. Please be ready for warm up at 8.00am.

Peter Wilson
 U14 Lions Coach

Round 1

Under 12 - Fitzroy (13) defeated Port Phillip (11)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Port Phillip	0	1	6	2	2	11
Fitzroy	0	0	6	7	-	13

Firstly welcome to the 2011/12 Summer Baseball season. Welcome back to those that played last year and a big welcome to all new players, playing their first season in the Fitzroy Under 12 team.

The first game of any season is always interesting as you never know what to expect. In this case it was the weather. This is supposed to be Summer Baseball, so why was it so cold and wet. To the players credit they didn't allow the weather to affect them (just the Scorer and Coach).

Marek started somewhat reluctantly on the mound and did a sensational job keeping Port Phillip to one run in the first two innings.

This is supposed to be summer baseball, so why was it so cold and wet. To the players credit they didn't say, do, let allow the weather to affect them (just the Scorer and Coach).

Marek started somewhat reluctantly on the mound and did a sensational job keeping Port Phillip to one run in the first two innings.

Port Phillip's starting pitcher was also on target and managed to keep the score 1-0 after two innings.

We keep the scorer busy over the next two innings by frequently rotating positions allowing Ethan, Darcy & Steven to all have a pitch. Peter, Vikram and Henry rotated through the catching position and all did a great job.

In the end it was our batting that helped us win the game. In the last two innings we scored 13 runs from 6 hits.

Congratulations to the team on our first win for the season.

Hits: Steven (1), Vikram (1), Asher (1), Darcy (1), Marek (1), Osker (1), Ethan (1)

Next Game #2 – Baycats White v Fitzroy @ Geelong, Diamond 3.

Please arrive early with baseball cleats on ready for warm-up at 8am.

Fixture and Ladder

"I don't want to play golf. When I hit a ball, I want someone else to go chase it." - Rogers Hornsby

Cheers – Jason

Under 14 - Fitzroy Cubs (1) defeated by Newport A (22)

The U14 cubs played their first game last Sunday at home against a strong Newport A side. With rain threatening Luca started the game on the hill. Although he tried hard he was unable to throw enough strikes to put any pressure on their batters. Mitchell took over and had the same problems as Luca, so I threw the ball to Callen and although he did walk a few managed to force their batters to swing and struck out 3. Brendan came on late and faced 2 batters.

So the lesson for next week is more strikes. They ended up scoring 22 runs on 5 hits and 20 walks.

Our performance in the field was good given our limited opportunities. Mitchell made a nice play at shortstop. Luca took a good infield fly and Callen fielded a sharp hit ball straight back at him on the mound.

Our batting was also good given that we spent a lot of time in the field. It was nice to welcome two of our new players Taylor and Owen to the club with both hitting hard singles and Taylor scoring our only run on a pass ball. All our other batters had good turns at bat going deep into counts and not swinging at many out of the strike zone.

Another really good effort was from our other new player Joseph who volunteered to catch and did a great job in tough conditions. Well done to Nick and Conner who also had a go at catching.

Thanks also to Lil for scoring, Lesley for being team manager and Eamon for taking on the role as assistant coach.

The boys play Preston A away next week so hopefully with some more control on the hill we can push for a win.

Hits: Taylor 1 single, Owen 1 Single

Brett Bennell
U14 Cubs Coach

Under 14 - Fitzroy Lions (21) defeated Newport B (6)

Summer baseball, yeh right!! In freezing conditions the U/14 Lions registered a first up win against Newport B on a beautifully prepared field. We welcomed new players, Ethan Appleby and Mitchell McCulloch to the club. Mitchell Edwards, Ben Wilson and Adam Malcolm stepped up for their first game of under 14s and old stagers Nick Sheedy, Brad Synott, Riley Cleeve and Curtis Hancock returned for another season.

We scored in all of our innings registering 3, 4, 7 and 7, which was a great result. Our hitting and pitch selection were very good and all players batted with discipline and the team foremost in their minds. Base running was excellent.

Defensively we were very solid and made some great heads up plays. Special mention to Adam, who caught a solid game and threw out three runners attempting to steal. Ben, Mitch E, Mitch Mc and Nick all showed glimpses of form on the hill in their first outing for several weeks.

Hits & RBIs: Adam 3 (3); Riley 3; Mitch E 2 (5); Ben 2 (2); Ethan 1dbl (4); Nick 1dbl (3); Mitch Mc 1dbl (2); Bradley 1 (1); Curtis 1 (1).

Many thanks to Dean for his help coaching and Tim for scoring. Next Sunday we have Geelong A at Merri Park. Please be ready for warm up at 8.00am.

Peter Wilson
U14 Lions Coach

Under 18 - Fitzroy (4) defeated by Geelong (6)

Down to Geelong for our first game of the season with the coach introducing himself to some guys he has not met before.

Players picked and sent out onto the field of battle.

Billy Trovato to Jordan Hill and off to a scratchy start giving up 3 runs in the first, settling down after that we took the lead in the middle of the game only to give it straight back to be chasing tail again.

The Lions showed some character to fight it out to the end. A bitter pill it was, going down 6-4 but I said to the guys that it was one that got away.

Chris Godbold got a hit to start our revival and the team responded behind that to hit the front again.

Class pitching from Billy and backed up by a solid performance in the dish from Jordan.

Our team has a good vibe about stand I think we are in for a good season providing we play for 2 hours each week.