

Masters Match Reports

January 30th Fitzroy (17) defeated Williamstown (15)

Last Monday night the Masters took on Williamstown away and had a comfortable 17 - 15 win. Okay the scores look close but we were well in control most of the night and with a 9 run lead going into the bottom of the last we were never going to lose, so the 7 runs they scored really didn't count for anything.

The story of this game were the elements, with the pitchers throwing into a force 9 gale and the outfielders blinded by the setting sun it became a hitters paradise.

Luckily after a poor showing with the bat last week we managed to get our groove back. We hit 4 home runs among our 15 hits, Troy dispatched one over the left field fence. Eamon hit 2 inside the park, and Jason also collected an inside the park homer.

Overall a better performance and hopefully we can keep it going into the next game against Newport.

B.O.G.: This week went to a hitter who has been on fire since coming back from injury. Eamon went 3 from 4 with 2 home runs and a single, 4 RBIs and scored 3 times.

Injury update: 2 weeks in a row without an injury, must be a record, even Seth didn't get hurt.

Thanks again to our hardy scorer Wendy who braved the wind and did a great job.

Hits (rbis) : Jamie 1, Jason 2 (HR) (3), Eamon 3 (2 HR) (4), Troy 2 (HR) (2), James 1 (Dbl) (1), Tony 2 (Trpl) (3), Lou 2 (Dbl) (1), Brett 1 (1), Seth (1).

Brett Bennell
Masters Wind Sock

January 23rd Fitzroy (2) defeated by Werribee (5)

Last Monday night the masters took on Werribee at Werribee and went down 5 - 2.

On a hot night in Werribee 10 of us made our way down the freeway to take on the bees. But alas it wasn't to be after scoring 18 runs the previous week on a million hits, the bats just didn't fire and 2 runs off 6 hits won't win you many games.

Tony took the mound and did a great job going 4 innings and only giving up 2 runs. He was well backed up by James who threw 2 innings for 3 unearned runs.

Our defence was good, but the few errors we made did hurt us.

So it came down to the offence who couldn't buy a hit, throw some dodgy base running into the mix and that was what brought us undone,

B.O.G.: This week had to go to a pitcher . In only his second start for the year, Tony shut down a good hitting team, he threw 78 pitches, 47 strikes, giving up 5 hits and 2 walks, for 2 runs and he struck out 2. With a bit of run support should have got the win.

Injury update : no injuries to report this week, (phew).

So next game is Williamstown away, let's hope the offence returns and we smash them.

Hits (RBI): Jamie 2, David 1 (1), James 1, Dean 2 , Jason (1)

Masters Black Cloud
Brett Bennell

January 16th Fitzroy (18) defeated Geelong B (7)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Geelong B	2	5	0	0	0	7
Fitzroy	7	4	7	0	-	18

Our first game back from the long break and we were up against 2nd placed Geelong out at Altona on what turned out to be a very warm evening.

Troy started off on the mound and continued from where he finished last year by throwing consistent strikes, unfortunately the umpire had a different opinion.

A very rusty infield failed to support our pitcher in the first two innings and allowed Geelong to score 7 runs in the first two innings including 3 unearned runs.

For some strange reason our batting seemed to improve with the break – must have been all those arm strengthening exercises. We scored 7 runs in the first innings followed by 4 in the second. We knocked up 7 hits across these innings including 2 triples. Good thing Tony was looking after our health by holding up most that rounded 3rd Base heading for home otherwise the shotgun and the tent may have been required.

Troy threw minimal pitches in the next dig and was starting to get some support from the field as we keep Geelong scoreless in the 3rd. We continued to smash the ball in the bottom of the 3rd with a string of 8 hits putting an additional 7 runs on the board.

Troy was rewarded with a rest for the 4th as James came to the mound. James followed in Troy's footsteps and managed to close out both the 4th and 5th innings with 12 pitches a piece keeping Geelong scoreless in both.

A great fly ball from Lou closed the game out securing us an easy win.

B.O.G.

What a tough week to give a B.O.G with so many outstanding players, so I've decided to split the votes again this week between Troy & Steve.

- Troy was on fire on the mound and threw a fantastic game. He also did the job with the bat driving in 4 RBI's from 2 hits.
- Steve lead with the bat all game and went 4 from 4 including a solid double.

Special mention to Eamon who hit 2 Triples and was close to turning them both into infield HR's.

Hits: Steve (1 Double, 3), David (3), Eamon (2 Triples), James (1 Triple, 1), Troy (2), Tony (1 Double), Lou(1), Dean (1)

Team batting average for the night was .615

Cheers

Jason
Retired Masters Coach (2 Wins, 0 Losses)

December 12th Fitzroy (10) defeated Williamstown (2)

JASON

Retired Masters Coach (2 Wins, 0 Losses)

December 12th Fitzroy (10) defeated Williamstown (2)

Last Monday night the Masters assembled at our home away from home (Altona) to take on a resurgent Williamstown. After a tight early game where the scores were 2-1 after 3 innings, the bats broke free and we put on 8 over the next 3 restricting the opposition to only 1.

With Troy out this week Tony started on the mound and was miserly giving up only 1 run in 4 innings. James closed out the final 3 innings also only giving up a solitary run. The batting was good with everyone getting involved, and the fielding was excellent with only a couple of errors on the night.

It was good to see Eamon and Dean back off the DL and not missing a beat. Dave didn't let a few stitches get in his way and Ian's hammy held up for most of the game.

B.O.G.: Couldn't go past the starting pitcher on this one. He has been itching to get his hands on the ball and when his opportunity came he made the most of it. I'm talking about Tony Bullen if you weren't sure. He pitched 4 innings, only 42 pitches, 1 run off 4 scattered hits, 1 K and no walks. He also hit a double with 1 RBI scored 2 runs and drew 1 walk, good job Tony.

Injury update: Quite a few guys coming into this game with pre-existing injuries so our fingers were crossed. Luckily the only victim this week was Seth re-injuring his calf muscle, but he assures me he'll be fine.

Next week we are at home (Latrobe Uni) against Preston, so bring your kids and family down for a 7pm start.

Thanks to our awesome scorer Wendy, and the kids for their support.

Hits (RBIs) : - Jason 2 (1 triple), Tony 1(double) (1), David 1 (2), Ian 1 (3), Dean 2 (1 double)(2), James 1 (1), Eamon 1 (double)

Brett Bennell
Masters Lolly Dealer

December 5th Fitzroy (12) defeated Newport (7)

Last Monday night the Masters took on Newport late at the home of baseball (Altona) and won 12 – 7.

Our first game against Newport was washed out so we were keen to see how we would go against them. We were the home side so they batted. Troy on one leg went to work and before we knew it we were back in the dugout getting ready to bat ourselves. Jamie led off and promptly took one for the team only to be called back as the pitch was so slow the umpired deemed he should have been able to avoid it.

We managed 3 runs and set about playing defence, 3 batters later we were in the dugout again.

This time we failed to score, Newport then managed 5 runs after we had 2 quick outs, a couple of errors not helping our cause.

So we were behind 5-3 and under pressure, the guys responded to get another 3 and put us back in the lead. To their credit Newport kept coming and managed 2 runs to retake the lead.

So down to our last bat and the bottom of the order coming up it was all to play for, and as we have done all season we did what was needed and blasted 6 runs to take a comfortable 5 run lead with 3 outs to get for the game.

James came in and shut their power hitters out to get us a good win.

B.O.G.: This week was tough and in the end I couldn't split them so joint winners were Steve Bride and David Jones. Steve went 3 from 3, 3 runs and some nice plays in the infield, David also went 3 from 3, 3 RBIs and as always strong behind the plate.

Injury update: Apart from Troy bringing a strained calf into the game we were unscathed this week.

Overall a good win especially as Newport tested us and we came from behind twice to get the points.

Next game is vs Williamstown at Altona.

Thanks to Wendy for scoring again and being our sole spectator

Hits (RBIs), David 3 (3), Steve 3, Jamie 1, Cam 1(1), Troy 2 (1), James 1, Brett 1, Seth 1 (2).

Brett Bennell
Masters Merchandise Salesman

Just a side note: I've been asked by the stadium management to ensure players turn their car ignition off before playing otherwise he will have to start charging for jump starting cars.

November 28th Fitzroy (7) defeated Werribee (1)

On the 28th of November the Masters travelled to Werribee to take on the Bees and again came away with a good win 7 – 1.

With a 6.15 start I wasn't sure how many were going to be able to make it, but by game time we had 9 and a few minutes after our 10th arrived.

This was always going to be a tough game and a good start was important, so when their catcher dropped a fly ball right in front of the plate off our first hitter I thought we might have a good night. We managed to plate 3 in the first.

With Troy on the mound and carrying a leg injury we set about playing some defence, After walking the first 2 Troy found his spots and 4 innings later they had only scored 1. Meanwhile we'd managed 4 of our own.

James came on to throw the last 2 innings and had them tied in knots.

Batting wise everyone did well with many of us getting multiple hits. So a very good game probably our best so far this season

B.O.G.: This week it had to be our one legged starting pitcher Troy. He had been real close in a few games but he was awesome in this one. He threw 4 innings giving up only 1 run off 2 hits and 4 walks striking out 3, and picking off 1. Throw in 2 hits and 3 RBIs for good measure and all with a leg injury - nice game Troy.

Injury update: Not a good game injury wise. Troy, David and Jason all came into the game with injuries. During the game Ian pulled a hammy and Tony also tweaked his. So we finished with 5 fit players.

Next week it is back to Altona to take on Newport - the only team we haven't played yet.

Thanks to Wendy for making the trip out to score even though Tim wasn't playing. and the kids for spectating.

Hits (rbis): Jason 2 (2 doubles) (1), Steve 2, David 2 (1), Ian 2 (1 double) (2), Troy 2 (3), Tony 1, Brett 1.

Brett Bennell
Masters Triage Nurse

November 21st Fitzroy (8) defeated Preston/Reservoir (4)

On the 21st of November the Masters team took on Preston at Altona and came away with an 8 - 4 win. Now I was away for this game and Jason was managing so the report might have a few holes in it.

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So this is what I heard: We got a couple of runs they got a few and hit the front after 2 scoreless innings. We came out and put on 5 to go back in front then they got one in the last, so we won. Apparently Troy and James both pitched well, nearly everyone got a hit and they all had a good time.

B.O.G.: As voted by the assistant GM was David Jones, 2 hits from 3 at bats and as always great behind the plate.

Injury update: None the I know of but a few guys came into the next game carrying injuries.

Another good win by the team with everyone contributing, next game vs Werribee away

Hits (rbis) :- David 2, Ian 1 (1), Jason 1 double, Cam 1 (1), Steve 1, Tim 1 (1), Tony 1 (1), Seth 1 (1), Troy (1)

Brett Bennell
Absent Masters Manager

November 14th Fitzroy (4) defeated by Geelong (6)

Monday night the Masters team made their way to Altona for the early game to take on Geelong. We had eleven starters again, with new guy Chris Baldwin arriving just before the first pitch (you need to park closer Chris).

After a really tight game we ended up giving up a 1 run lead in the bottom of the last to go down by 2. Finishing at 4-6 . After last weeks good performance we were a bit lacklustre this time, A great pitching effort by Troy kept us in the game, our fielding was fair to average and our batting was sporadic, well hopefully that's our bad game out of the way and we play better next time we meet the Baycats, the positive I guess was that although we were poor we only just lost.

B.O.G.: This week the coveted award goes to Ian Sheedy who made his return after only playing 1 1/2 games last year due to injury. And after getting some batting tips off Nick had a great night with the stick, a double and a single from 3 at bats with 3RBI's.

Injury update : Just one injury from this game, Seth took a leaf out of Ian's book and attempted a heroic sliding catch at left field late in the game and ended up tweaking a hamstring, it was a long limp back to the dugout, hope it's better by next week.

Were back at Altona late again next week to take on Preston/Reservoir,(Troy's looking forward to this one).

Jason will be at the helm as I'm unavailable so good luck boys.

A big thank you to the nice lady from Geelong (sorry I forgot her name, old age) for scoring for us as well as Geelong - great effort.

Hits (RBI) :- Ian Sheedy 2(double) (3), Jamie Catt 1, Lou Scolia 1 (double), David Jones 1, Steve Bride 1.

Brett Bennell
Masters Zoo Keeper

November 7th Fitzroy (12) defeated Williamstown (6)

After a delayed start to the season (due to weather and horses) the masters gathered at Altona for the late game against Williamstown. With off season retirements and pre season injuries I was wondering who was going to turn up, we had 11 starters when James eventually arrived.

We came away with a good win 12 - 6 after what was a close game for most of the night.

Three new players turned up and all had an impact early in the game, Troy Hellingman back in Fitzroy colours pitched 4 great innings giving up only 3 earned runs, striking out 4 and only allowing 1 walk, he also chipped in with a hit and a walk from 3 times at the plate.

Seth Seiderman came down to have a look and maybe play a little after not swinging a bat for 30+ years, I threw him right in at the deep end and he came up big taking a deep fly ball in the 1st inning. He also smashed one past 3rd base off the 1st ball he faced.

Lou Scolia also started well fielding a well hit ball and throwing the runner out from 3rd base, he also took a good infield fly and almost pulled off a sliding catch in left field. He also got a hit and scored a run.

B.O.G.: In a dominant display of batting Tony Bullen was voted best on ground tonight. Not many players get to hit for the cycle, if only he had 1 more at bat I'm sure he could have done it. The fact the he only needed a home run didn't matter, Tony was on fire. He also closed out the game on the mound giving up 1 earned run with 1 K.

Injury update: Losing 3 players before the season had started wasn't good, so only getting 1 minor injury in this was pleasing, that honour went to Tim Synott who got a bruised elbow taking one for the team in the batters box.

Overall a good first game, so with the rust oiled and the cobwebs blown out we will be looking forward to being a lot more competitive this year and maybe pushing for a finals berth. Is it too early to start talking finals?

Hits (RBI): Tony Bullen 3 (triple, double, single) (1), Jamie Catt 2 (double) (3), Steve Bride 2 (2), David Jones 1 Troy Hellingman 1 (1), Lou Scolia 1 (1), Seth Seiderman 1, James Hope 1(1).

Thanks to Wendy for scoring and Ethan or chasing foul balls.

Brett Bennell
Masters Number Cruncher