

Junior Match Reports 2012/13

Team Photos

Under 14 - AAA Champions



Under 16A - AAA Champions



Under 16B





Round 9

Under 14 - Sandringham (3) defeated by Fitzroy (11)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Fitzroy	3	4	3	0	1		11
Sandringham	1	2	0	0	-		3

Long drive this week out to play against Sandringham. With Sandringham only having 8 players, the game didn't really challenge us a great deal this week, however it was great to see a number of players stepping up their focus this week.

The request from the team last week was to concentrate during warm up and take this concentration into the very first innings - we did exact that. "Best warm-up all year" was the comment from specialist warm-up Coach Pete "Flippa" Wilson. This concentration certainly made an impact with Mitch smashing the second pitch of the game and almost clearing the fence and with Callum taking a great fly ball at Right field. Unfortunately Callum's catch occurred while he was fielding for the other team which didn't impress Adam.

Our pitchers Darcy and Adam both threw a great game restricting Sandringham to 3 runs with only 1 earned run.

Batting this week was a lot better with each batter a lot more aggressive in the batter's box. Great to see Connor and Callum picking up two hits each and driving in several RBI's for the team. Ben as usual was running hot with the bat hitting 3-3 followed closely by Angus with 2-2.

Great game all round this week. Let's approach this weekend's game against Sunshine with the same attention and focus.

Hits: Ben(2B, 2), Angus(2B, 1), Connor (2), Callum(2), Mitch(2B), Adam(1), Nick(1)

Next Game: 17th February: Fitzroy v Sunshine @ Fitzroy
Please arrive early ready to commence warm-up at 8am with cleats on.

"I never smile when I have a bat in my hands. That's when you've got to be serious." – Hank Aaron

Go Lions.

Jason Cleeve
U14 Coach

Round 8

Under 14 - Fitzroy (12) defeated Ormond (4)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Ormond	0	1	1	0	0	2	4
Fitzroy	2	2	1	3	4	-	12

This week we were back at home for a game on the back paddock against Ormond.

Ormond was a bit of an unknown this week and appeared strong during their warm-up. Angus was given the task of starting pitcher and threw 3 solid innings restricting Ormond to 2 runs whilst picking up 6 K's. We appeared flat in the batter's box in our first three innings. However this may have been a result of the umpires inconsistent strike-zone. As players we need to adjust our batting strategy based on the umpires zone. Often the first strike you see is the best one to swing at. All players get three strikes to swing at, so make the most from each at-bat by having a good swing at each of them.

Darcy came to the mound in the 4th innings and threw two quick digs stopping Ormond from scoring any additional runs. Adam followed on from Darcy and limited Ormond to only 2 additional runs in the final innings. Overall our fielding wasn't tested a great deal during the game as the pitchers took control of most of the game and limited the number of hits from Ormond.

Ormond's second pitcher was a step up from their first and threw hard consistent strikes in the final two innings. It was encouraging to see our team still swing the bats and putting the ball in play. We picked up 7 additional runs from this pitcher which should give us plenty of confidence for when we face stronger pitching in the competition.

Mitch was outstanding as usual behind the plate and provided all the pitchers plenty of support whilst shutting down Ormond's running game.

Our warm-up this week certainly wasn't our best and we once again entered the game with a lack of focus. Whilst we can get away with this against the weaker teams, stronger teams will take full advantage of this in the early parts of the game. Our aim this weekend will be to warm-up with a focused positive attitude and take this into the first innings of the game.

Hits: Adam (3B, 2B), Mitch (2 x 2B), Steven (3B), Nick (2B)

Next Game: 10th February: Sandringham B v Fitzroy @ 25 Tulip Street, Black Rock
Please arrive early ready to commence warm-up at 8am with cleats on.

"I was such a dangerous hitter, I even got intentional walks during batting practice" – Casey Stengel

Go Lions.

Jason Cleeve
U14 Coach

Round 7

Under 14 - Fitzroy (23) defeated Cheltenham (13)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Fitzroy	7	7	3	4	2		23
Cheltenham	0	0	4	3	6		13

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Fitzroy	7	7	3	4	2		23
Cheltenham	0	0	4	3	6		13

The first game back from the break and we make the trip towards the small airport. With the coach and assistant battling to be scorer, the boys eased out of their long holiday layoff. They looked pretty good from the warm up and carried that form into the game. The first two innings were some of the best we have produced over the season with the boys scoring seven runs each time to Cheltenham's three up and down. Ben was totally dominating with the ball, throwing only 20 pitches, while the team were being patient and selective in the batting box collecting nine hits over this time. The game was quickly becoming very one sided.

The ball was tossed to firstly Nick, then Connor and finally Angus for the next three innings and the boys did well in controlling the Cheltenham line up. All had some control issues, but some poor fielding did let the young opposition back into the match, as did some very ordinary baserunning – an area that needs improvement. The batting was still good, however the runs dried up and the score was closer than expected at the end.

Mitch was again good behind the plate and both Peter and Adam collected three hits each, while Ben and Mitch both hit doubles in their two hits each. We made some good plays in the field; however with tougher teams to face in the finals, the side cannot have fielding lapses like those in the last couple of innings. Let's face Ormond this weekend as a committed and united team. Maybe the coach will be better rested this week.

Hits: Peter (3), Adam (3), Darcy(2), Ben (2), Mitch (2), Vikram (1), Nick (1), Steven (1), Angus (1)

Next Game: 3rd February: Fitzroy v Ormond GH @ Fitzroy
Please arrive early ready to commence warm-up at 8am with cleat on.

Thanks to Dean Malcolm and Peter Wilson for coaching the team this weekend and to Dean for writing the Match Report.

Go Lions.

Jason Cleeve
U14 Coach

Round 6

Under 14 - Fitzroy (8) defeated Newport Pistons (7)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Newport Pistons	1	0	2	2	0	2	7
Fitzroy	5	0	1	0	0	2	8

Another tough game made even tougher by the extreme heat.

In an effort to mix things up again and test our players in different positions, Darcy was given the ball and started on the mound throwing to Connor. Darcy did a great job in the two innings he threw, restricting Newport to just one run and picking up 6 K's along the way. Connor was great behind the plate and provided Darcy with plenty of support.

We were fortunate in our first innings at bat, as the Newport pitcher struggled to find the strike zone and we were provided with a few walks. After two innings we lead Newport 1-5.

Darcy was replaced by Mitch in the 3rd and once again threw well. A couple of costly fielding errors allowed Newport to pick up 2 runs this innings and then 2 more in the fourth.

We struggled with the bat in innings 3,4 and 5 and only scored 1 run. More fielding errors in the 6th innings allowed Newport to pick up 2 more runs and give them a 7-6 lead.

Pressure was now on us as it has been in the past to win the game in the final inning. Adam started off strongly running a ball out he hit to 3rd. Adam stole 2nd, followed by third where he then scored off a pass ball.

Score was now tied with Angus at the plate. Angus picked up walk and then stole 2nd and then 3rd similar to Adam. With the winning run at 3rd, Darcy was at-bat. A costly mistake by the Newport catcher throwing to 1st on a dropped 3rd strike allowed Angus to score the winning run.

This certainly wasn't our best display of batting. We only picked up two hits for the day off average pitchers. We are one of the few teams I've seen so far that has solid batting line-up with all players capable of hitting the ball hard. Whilst batting is an individual task it's also about batting for the team. Players need to be more selective about the pitchers they are swinging at and also consider the game situation and where they should be aiming to hit the ball. When runners are in scoring position, the focus needs to be putting the ball in play rather than swinging for home run glory.

We were a little fortunate this week to get away with the win, but none the less we did end up with the win. This now puts us in first position on the ladder. This is great recognition of the hard work the team has put in to date. If we want to maintain this position, then we will need to work even harder next year.

But let's leave that until next year. I'd like to wish all players and their families a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Please stay safe, have fun and be ready to start next season all fresh.

Good luck also to Mitch Edwards over the holidays when he plays in the Victorian Under 14 team at the National Championships.

Hits: Mitch (1), Adam (1)

Next Game: 27th January: Cheltenham v Fitzroy @ Cheltenham
Please arrive early ready to commence warm-up at 8am with cleats on.

Merry Christmas.

Go Lions.

Jason Cleeve
U14 Coach

Round 5

Under 14 - Waverley Cougars (8) defeated by Fitzroy (13)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Fitzroy	2	1	3	2	0	5	13
Waverley Cougars	4	0	2	1	0	1	8

Firstly another tough game and another good win for the team. However ...

The majority of the team were clearly not mentally prepared again for today's game. Whilst our warm up session was 2/10/2013 9:15 PM

Waverley Cougars

Firstly another tough game and another good win for the team. However ...

The majority of the team were clearly not mentally prepared again for today's game. Whilst our warm up session went well, as soon as we jumped onto the diamond for an infield / outfield warm up it looked like we'd forgotten how to catch or throw the ball.

There were however a couple of good examples of players who performed well during the warm-up and continued with this confidence in the game. Connor smashed the ball during warm up and did the same at his first at-bat with a great stand-up triple to left-field.

Nick gave his best in warm-up catching fly balls and followed this up in the game catching a solid line drive in center-field, not to mention his great base-running.

Our pitching staff had another great outing today, with Angus, Ben and Adam all throwing plenty of strikes. Adam threw almost 90% strikes in the three innings he pitched – a great effort.

There was a handful of great at-bats today, but many players are still not picking the right pitches to swing at. As a batter it's our job to make sure there is plenty of pressure on the pitcher. We can afford to give the pitcher the upper hand by swinging at wild pitches.

Today's game was clearly not what the players were expecting. Waverley played a good solid game of baseball by playing the basics. They out hit us today 13-8 and probably out fielded us as well.

A good sign is the fact that the team is capable of rallying together when it counts. We put on 5 extra runs in the 6th innings giving us a strong 13-7 lead.

Baseball is a team game and we need to play as a team. We can't afford to rely on two or three players to perform each week. Every player has their strengths and every player needs to contribute.

Just think how good we could be if everyone in the team played to the full potential – think what we could achieve.

Hits: Adam(2), Mitch(2), Connor (Triple), Ben(1), Angus (1), Nick(1), Peter(1)

Next Game: 23rd December: Fitzroy v Newport Pistons @ Home
Please arrive early ready to commence warm-up at 8am with cleats on.

"The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime." – Babe Ruth

Go Lions.

Jason Cleeve
U14 Coach

Round 4

Under 12 - Fitzroy defeated by Blackburn

Merri Park on Sunday against Blackburn

9 starters and then Finn turned up as well

Game started well with us holding our own for the first half of the game only being 5-2 down

Pitching changes at this age group are always telling and while we unearthed some new guys on to the hill we gave up 2 x7 run innings and the game slipped away

Highlights

Jonah behind the dish blocking and chasing after pass balls all game and staring down runners on 3rd

Phoenix having his first outing on the hill and performing well

George for battling on after being hit pitch ball

Lisa for scoring with the Merri park doctor blowing in her face

The whole batting line up who swung the bat all day a hard thing for kids this age to do keep it up

Base running very much improved

Ethan holding them down until his pitch count ran out

Special thanks to Gabriele Turlea for the positive effect he is having on the team the kids are listening and trying to

implement what he is teaching

Lastly to the parents your positive barracking and encouragement is a pleasure to watch

Next win coming soon

Coach King

Under 14 - Fitzroy (6) defeated Preston (5)

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

This was definitely the hardest game we've encountered all season. The game was predominately a battle between pitchers. The team with the best pitching depth that could throw consistent strikes would have the best chance of winning.

Ben started on the mound for Fitzroy and threw a sensational game picking up 10 K's in four innings and only giving up a few hits. Preston's starting pitcher basically did the same collecting 8 K's with only a few hits. It was a close game for the majority until the 4th innings when Preston busted it open with 4 extra runs.

Adam headed to the mound in the 5th and retired for first three batters with K's. At the bottom of the 5th we trailed 5-2 and needed to dig deep to get back in the game. Vikram took one for the team to get himself to 1st base followed by Connor with a walk.

Callum then stepped up to the plate and hit a hard line drive to left field to drive in a couple of runs closing the gap to 5-4.

Callum quickly moved around the bases to 3rd where Mitch sacrificed himself to drive Callum as the tying run.

We were now back in the game and well positioned for a win.

Adam keep the ball low to the first few batters in the top of the 6th, picking up two outs. With a runner on 3rd, he picked up the "K of the Day" by striking out their number 4 batter and keeping Preston scoreless.

All we needed now was to manufacture 1 run to win the game. Asher lead off win a walk and was pushed to 2nd by Ben with a hard hit to 3rd, but was unfortunately put out himself.

A couple of wild pitches and Asher quickly moved from 2nd to 3rd and then from 3rd to home to win the game.

When the pressure was on, the team stepped up as individuals, but more importantly supported each other as a team should. Another fantastic win for the team.

Hits: Vikram (Db), Ben(1), Angus(1), Callum(1)

Next Game: 16th December: Waverley Cougars v Fitzroy @ Waverley
Please arrive early ready to commence warm-up at 8am with cleats on.

"Boys, baseball is a game where you gotta have fun. You do that by winning." – Dave Bristol, MLB Manager.

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Go Lions.

Jason Cleeve
U14 Coach

Under 16 B - Fitzroy (5) defeated by Sandringham (12)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Fitzroy	0	0	1	0	3	1	5
Sandringham	2	1	5	0	4	-	12

The Under 16 B team headed out to Sandringham this week with confidence after defeating Preston last week. Although with only the bare minimum of seven players it was going to be an uphill battle.

The Sandringham pitcher was on target from the start, taking out our first three batters. Warwick took to the mound for Fitzroy and after a shaky start quickly settled into a rhythm getting his first strikeout for the game. The third out of the inning came from first baseman Ethan throwing home for catcher Matt to tag the runner.

Fitzroy's second time at bat started well with Ethan reaching on a dropped third strike and rounding to second on a wild throw by the catcher. Patient batting from Cailen saw him draw a walk. However, two strikeouts later brought up the "blank" and that was the end of the inning, stranding two runners.

Sandringham's second inning was a quick one with Warwick striking out two batters and Owen taking a catch in right field.

Back to the top of the line up saw Riley get on base with a walk and Warwick drive the run home with a double to left field.

The next inning saw Sandringham score five runs with Warwick striking out two and then Ethan pitching to get the third strikeout of the inning.

Fitzroy scored three runs in the fifth inning with Riley and Matt drawing walks. Warwick then brought home two runs with a stand up triple to centre field. Ethan and Cailen walked to load up the bases but unfortunately with "blanks" in the order the runners were left on base.

The highlight of Fitzroy's last time in the field was a 1-5-2-5 run-down play for the third out. It was an excellent heads up play by pitcher Ethan when he picked off to third on a 2 out full count to catch the runner starting for home. Well supported by catcher Matt and third baseman Riley.

The last inning of the game saw Ethan hit a triple to centre field.

Final score for the game was 12-5 in Sandringham's favour. The Fitzroy players showed excellent application in the field today with no errors and batted very well.

Hits:

- Warwick Double, Triple
- Ethan Triple

Walks:

- Riley 3
- Matt
- Ethan 2
- Cailen 2
- Owen

RBI:

- Warwick 3
- Ethan
- Shane

Next Game: 16th December: Fitzroy B vs Doncaster/Footscray @ Fitzroy

Round 3

Under 14 - Fitzroy (6) defeated Moorabbin (4)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Fitzroy	1	2	1	2	0	0	6
Moorabbin	0	0	1	0	2	1	4

It was an early start again this week travelling to Moorabbin.

Moorabbin started off well showing good defence in the first innings and restricting us to only one run. Adam walked to the mound first for Fitzroy throwing to Mitch behind the dish. Both did a great job limiting Moorabbin to only 1 run across the first four innings. Adam was sensational on the hill picking up 8 K's along the way. After four innings we held a respectable 6-1 lead.

Darcy took over from Adam for a short period and was replaced by Ben. Both pitchers throw well when the pressure was on.

Overall our batting for the day wasn't that crash hot. We swung at too many pitchers we shouldn't have and didn't swing at the ones we should. The umpires expanding and contracting strike zone probably didn't help, but players need to learn to make adjustments in these situations.

We looked on fire during our pre-game warm-up, but something must have happened on the walk from warm-up to our infield / outfield warm-up on the diamond. Maybe it was the shock or playing people out of position, as we struggled to catch fly-balls and pick up simple ground balls.

This lack of concentration unfortunately crept into our game as we made several errors that allowed Moorabbin to close the gap towards the end of the game. We need to ensure that we approach our training and warm-up sessions with the same levels of concentration that are required during the game as this often sets the tone for the way we play.

In the end Moorabbin played good defensive baseball and put a lot of pressure on our batters. We left 8 players in total stranded on bases and only picked up 3 hits for the entire game. On this occasion, it was our pitching that gave us the win.

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Thanks also to Angus who assisted the Under 16 team this week. I hear he did a great job pitching too.

Hits: Asher (1), Steven (1), Nick (1)

Next Game: 9th December: Fitzroy v Preston Raiders @ Home

"I've come to the conclusion that the two most important things in life are good friends and a good bullpen." – **Bob Lemon**, MLB Pitcher & Manager

Go Lions.

Jason Cleeve
U14 Coach

Round 2

Under 14 - Fitzroy (15) defeated Upwey FTG Gold (3)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Upwey FTG Gold	0	0	0	1	2		3
Fitzroy	4	6	4	0	1	0	15

Upwey were a bit of an unknown having won a couple of their grading games by good margins.

With some of our usual pitchers unavailable, this now provided the opportunity to test the depth of our pitching staff. Mitch headed to the hill first and threw to Darcy at the plate. Mitch was a little loose in his pitching to begin with, but slowly found his spots. He picked up four K's in the first three innings and more importantly kept Upwey scoreless.

In our first at-bat we definitely came out swinging, with Mitch chasing the second pitch and hitting a great line drive to left field. This was followed by a double from Darcy to center and a single from Ben. Our second innings batting was even better with plenty of singles, doubles and even a triple to Callum who hit the ball hard to right field and ran the bases even harder. In our first three innings almost everyone pickup up a hit as we totalled 9 hits to drive in 14 runs, giving our team a very strong 0-14 lead.

Nick was next to the mound throwing to Connor. This proved to be another good combination as we limited Upwey to only 1 run. Asher was brought on to close the game in the fifth innings and collected himself two K's along the way.

Whilst Upwey were slightly under-manned, it was great to see our team focused on playing our game. This game proved that we have great pitching depth and are strong batting side all the way through the order.

Hits: Ben (3), Asher (2 Dbl), Angus (1 Dbl, 1), Callum (Trpl), Peter (Dbl), Darcy (Dbl), Mitch(1), Nick (1), Connor (1)

"Baseball is a simple game. If you have good players and if you keep them in the right frame of mind then the manager is a success" - **Sparky Anderson**, MLB Manager

Go Lions.

Jason Cleeve
U14 Coach

Round 1

Under 12 - Fitzroy Defeated by Mulgrave

With the rain tumbling down at Mulgrave's ground I sat all alone pondering how the game would pan out. Well when we started I soon had my answer 3 up 3 down for us in the 1st and Mulgrave piling on 6 runs in their turn at bat. The game pretty much went that way for the rest of the game with us not scoring a run and Mulgrave scoring 16.

A couple of highlights:

- Duke belting one out to left field.
- Michael once again doing a great job on the hill.
- Ryan taking 2 flys in one dig and then pitching in the last.
- Finnian behind the dish.

Next week is a new day.
Come to play.

Coach King

Under 14 - Fitzroy (6) defeated Waverley Panthers (1)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Fitzroy	4	0	0	0	0	2	6
Waverley Panthers	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

First game in the AAA division and we were up against a strong opponent in Waverley. This game would be a true test to see how we would complete in AAA.

Waverley came out with clear intentions by throwing their best and most experienced pitcher. This had no impact on our team as we did exactly what was required: swing at strikes and hit the ball hard. We managed to score four runs in the first innings putting plenty of pressure on Waverley.

Ben began strong on the mound by throwing solid strikes and was provided with plenty of support in field. Together we managed to keep Waverley scoreless for the first two innings. Whilst Waverley struggled against Ben, he unfortunately needed to be relieved due to a sore arm. Adam took his place and continued where Ben left off again keeping Waverley scoreless for two more innings. At the top of the fourth we still held a 4-0 lead.

At the top of the 6th innings we took advantage of some weaker pitching and put 2 extra runs on the scoreboard. All that was needed now was to limit the number of runs for Waverley so that we could walk away with a great win.

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At the top of the 6th innings we took advantage of some weaker pitching and put 2 extra runs on the scoreboard. All that was needed now was to limit the number of runs for Waverley so that we could walk away with a great win. The team provided Adam plenty of support on the mound and we once again shut Waverley down without scoring. Final result was a solid 6-1 win

Everyone in the team contributed to the win. Our pitching staff Ben and Adam both threw a great game and were heavily aided by Mitch behind the plate. Infield did their job knocking everything down and making great outs. The outfield backed up the infield and swallowed up everything that came their way.

Hits: Mitch(1 Dbl), Connor (1), Angus (1), Asher (1)

"Little League baseball is a very good thing because it keeps the parents off the streets" – Yogi Berra

Go Lions.

Jason Cleeve
U14 Coach

Grading Games

Round 5

Under 12 - Fitzroy (19) Defeated Geelong (18)

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day at Merri Park and up against old foe Geelong. Game got off to a strange start with Geelong scoring 6 and us biting straight back with 7. This was to be the tone of the game high scoring and entertaining for the spectators.

Highlights:

- Finnian leading off with a hit to get is rolling in the 1st.
- Osker batting a thousand for the day with 1 hit and 2 walks.
- Ethan fielding great at 1st base.
- Jonah 2 hits and catching the whole game.
- Michael closing out the game on the hill.
- Marius with a great hit to 8 in his last turn at bat.
- Chris and Thomas solid in the field all day.
- Ryan,s great force play at second.
- Riley 2 base hit to 8.
- Phoenix picking to walks and running the bases like a rabbit.
- Duke solid in the field.

Well done guys our first win coming from behind in the last to steal a win 19-18

Sorry for the late report basking in the win to long.

Coach King

Special mention to the way both teams stood silent to remember the fallen from world war 1at 11AM a credit to all.

Under 14 - Fitzroy (7) defeated by Geelong White (11)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Fitzroy	0	1	1	1	4	7
Geelong White	7	1	1	1	1	11

It was an early start for players and parents this week as we travelled to Geelong to play the last of our grading games.

Geelong started strongly in the first innings shutting down our first three batters in succession. Vikram took to the mound for Fitzroy for his debut outing, but struggled to find the strike zone early on. He was provided plenty of the support by the team, especially Connor behind the plate, however Geelong managed to take a 0-7 lead at the end of the first innings.

We started off a little stronger in the second with Steven leading off with a single to right field. Ben then drove in an RBI by following Steven with another line drive to right field. This was the only run we scored in the dig and we still had a long way to go to catch Geelong.

Fortunately Angus threw well for us in the 2nd and 3rd innings restricting Geelong to 1 run in each inning and by the end of the 3rd innings we still trailed Geelong 2-9.

Surprisingly our batting, the part of our game that has been the strongest in previous weeks, seemed to let us down a little this week. Geelong were by no means the strongest pitching we have faced, yet the team struck out 10 times from only 30 at-bats.

Maybe it was because of the early start and the long drive to Geelong, but our concentration during the game seemed to disappear at crucial stages of the game. Players must be aware of the play before each pitch is thrown and know what the count is when standing in the batter's box. These may seem like small things, but it will help to remove some of those mental errors that impacted our game on the weekend.

Grading games are now finished and we are now waiting for find out which division we will be placed in for the remainder of the season. Whilst grading game are important, this is where the season really begins and we need to approach each game with deep concentration and with an attitude of always giving out best.

Hits: Ben(2), Peter(1), Steven(1), Angus(1), Nick(1), Mitch(1)

Next Game: 18th November : TBA

"Every day is a new opportunity. You can build on yesterday's success or put its failures behind and start over again. That's the way life is, with a new game every day, and that's the way baseball is." - Bob Feller

Go Lions.

Jason Cleeve
U14 Coach

Round 4

Under 12

Round 4

Under 12

Down to Newport on our sunny Sunday morning and we started out well scoring a run in the 1st. Newport then came out to bat and Michael Jones throwing lots of strikes our fielders had many chances to get the side out but made to many errors resulting in a 7 run innings to them.

The game then went a little south with our run scoring drying up and Newport continuing to pile on the runs. We mixed and matched in the field and everyone did something good. Jonah, Michael and Ethan all had their spell on the hill with varying results.

Spirits are still high and a win is only around the corner.

Coach King

Under 14 - Fitzroy (8) defeated by Newport A (11)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Fitzroy	0	0	5	0	3	8
Newport A	1	2	1	7	0	11

This week we came up against a strong and undefeated Newport A. From the selection of Newport's first pitcher it was clear that Newport felt threatened.

Newport managed to keep us scoreless for the first two innings with some strong pitching. Angus took to the mound for us, throwing to Vikram behind the dish. This combination worked well and they were provided with plenty of support by a solid infield.

Newport who are well known for being a strong batting team were restricted to only 1 run in the first innings.

Mitch took off from where Angus left off by throwing consistent strikes and by the bottom of the second innings Newport held a small 0-3 lead.

At the top of the third innings, Newport's number 1 pitcher showed signs of fatigue and was quickly removed after allowing us to take a 5-3 lead.

To maintain our lead we now need to play some good defensive baseball. Mitch once again helped the team by throwing solid strikes. The infield continued to support their pitcher with Adam catching a line drive at first and Ben Wilson performing a "Derek Jetter" like 6-3 play.

With a 5-4 lead after three innings, you could see Newport beginning to panic. With a change of pitcher, Newport wanted to make sure that we didn't extend our lead.

Newport got away from us in the 4th innings by picking up 7 runs to now give them a 5-11 lead. With time running out we now had one more inning to level the score. With Adam, Asher and Ben leading the charge we were slowly getting back into the game. However with a third pitching change, Newport were able to shut us down and get away with a 8-11 win.

This was always going to be a difficult game for us. Regardless of the score, we provided to ourselves that we are more than capable of competing against solid teams like Newport.

It was great to see many players this week, not only accepting the challenge of playing in a different position but doing well at it – I think they even surprised themselves at how well they did.

Personally I believe players develop a lot quicker when taken out of their comfort zone and where they are presented with challenging situations.

This was a great game by all players and I think each player needs to be proud of their achievements – I'm sure your parents are.

Hits: Ben (Dbl), Mitch (1), Adam(1)

Next Game: 11th November : Geelong B v Fitzroy @ [Geelong](#)

"Somebody's gotta win and somebody's gotta lose and I believe in letting the other guy lose." – [Pete Rose](#) (MLB Player and Manager)

Go Lions.

Jason Cleeve
U14 Coach

Round 2

Under 12

On a lovely sunny day at Merri park our band of warriors turned up ready to play only to find out our opposition were a no show. No biggy we used it as a training session seeing as we were already at the ball park. Training went well with the guys showing a great deal of enthusiasm. End of training finished with bunch up and the rookies out played the veterans to run out comfortable winners.

Training is now Wednesday nights 5.30PM start for those that can make it or Thursdays for anyone else.

Star of training was Jonah slash Toby Hope charging Dave Jones at batting practice

See you all next week at home against Essendon.

John King

Under 14 - Fitzroy (20) defeated Essendon Black (8)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Essendon Black	4	0	1	3		8
Fitzroy	1	7	5	7		20

Asher started on the mound for Fitzroy and looked a little nervous with the first few batters. The nerves quickly disappeared when he collected his first K by striking out Essendon's number four batter. Asher restricted Essendon to only 1 hit in the first two innings and collected 5 K's along the way. Unfortunately a few early errors in the field allowed Essendon to lead 4-1 half way through the 2nd innings.

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We now needed to put a few runs on the board ourselves to ensure Essendon didn't get further ahead. The next three batters, Adam, Connor and Steven all stepped up the challenge with consecutive hits. Essendon's pitcher was clearly rattled from this point on, struggling to find the strike zone. At the bottom of the 2nd, we now lead 4-8.

Our entire line up continued to hit well for the remainder of the game and we picked up a further 10 hits from 20 at-bats. This was backed up by our relief pitchers, Steven and Callum who continued where Asher left off and keeping Essendon to only an additional 4 runs. Great game also by Mitch and Ben who both did a fantastic job behind the plate.

Essendon may not be the most challenging team we will encounter in our division, but it was great to see all our players getting involved and giving their best for the entire duration of the game. Well done boys !!

Hits: Adam(3), Angus (3), Steven(Dbl, 1), Ben (2), Connor(2), Vikram (Dbl), Callum (1), Nick (1)

Next Game: 21st October 2012 - No Game – we have a Bye

"I became a good pitcher when I stopped trying to make them miss the ball and started trying to make them hit it." - Sandy Koufax – retired pitcher for LA Dodgers.

Go Lions.

Jason Cleeve
U14 Coach

Round 1

Under 12 - Fitzroy defeated by Geelong

Down to Geelong on the first day of daylight savings was going to be a challenge.

Off to a good start only giving up 3 runs in the first dig for 3 outs after that it sort of went south.

Ethan threw well and Toby was a gun behind the dish covering about 20KMS chasing wild pitches all game a great effort.

Everyone swung the bat which was pleasing to see and our fielding when given the chance performed well.

Good to see the rookies having a good debut.

Riley, Thomas James and Michael all did some good things during the game.

Thanks to Lisa for scoring on short notice and Mario for texting the game to everyone.

Team has good spirit at the moment so hopefully we can crack a win next week.

John King
U12 Coach

Under 14 - Fitzroy (12) defeated Sunshine (10)

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Fitzroy	6	4	1	0	1	12
Melbourne,	0	4	4	2	0	10

Great way to start the season off with a win. I'm sure there were a few nervous players at the start of the game, but it didn't show as each player appeared focused on the task from the very first pitch.

We started off strong in the first innings batting through the entire order and scoring 6 runs. Even though we mostly reached first base on walks, from there our base runners were aggressive and made the most out of Sunshine's mistakes.

Connor threw well for us in the first innings by keeping Sunshine scoreless and giving us a strong 6-0 lead.

During the second innings we started to use the bats a little more and managed to chalk up 5 hits from 9 at-bats. Unfortunately we let ourselves down by only scoring 4 runs during this inning. The concentration on bases we displayed in the first innings seemed to completely disappear in the second innings.

The next three innings we appeared very flat, both in the batter's box and on the field. This allowed for Sunshine to close the gap where we only had a 1 run lead entering the 5th inning. Whilst this may be our first game, in future we will need maintain our concentration for the entire two hours, not just the first. Great pitching from Ben plus two great catches from Callum and Mitch helped maintain our lead securing our first win for the season.

Well done to all players on a great first game. Excellent work by all of our pitchers Connor, Nicholas, Adam and Ben, not to mention two great catches in the outfield by Callum.

Hits: Angus (2), Connor (Dbl), Darcy (Dbl), Mitch (1), Ben (1)

Next Game: 14th October : Fitzroy v Essendon Black @ Fitzroy

Reminder – Training has been pushed back by 30 minutes and now starts at 5:30pm on Wednesdays and finishes at 7:00pm.

Go Lions.

Jason Cleeve
U14 Coach