

BHRDCA U18 CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Round 4 Report

Last round before Xmas, time has really flown.

Maddocks Sports Championship



Vermont v Heathmont

The Eagles hosted Heathmont who won the toss and elected to bat. Wickets tumbled quickly with only Ryan Quirk (52) holding up an end supported by James Kelly (26). At 6/116 on a slow outfield Heathmont were struggling for runs. Steven Brown answered the call with a well struck 56 to allow Heathmont to reach a defendable 187. Vermont's bowlers shared the spoils with Matt Servior and Sam Matthews getting 2 apiece.

Vermont began their run chase under cloudy skies with an solid opening partnership before wickets began to fall around opener Shehan Kudage-Don whose 77 formed the backbone of the chase. At 5/130 it was still anyone's game. Ben Gibson tried hard to see off the runs but it was Nathan Mullenger-McHugh's (4/44) bowling that swayed the day Heathmont's way, the Eagles falling just 15 runs shy.

Croydon Ranges v Forest Hill

The home side batted first and were quickly in trouble at 4/39. Opener Michael Hendley grafted hard for his invaluable 20 but apart from some stubborn defence by Mitchall Crozier (33) and Callum Thornton (27) the batsmen struggled against Jamie Cornwell (3/24) and Ben Matthews (2/14) and the final scoreline of 9/136 was going to be difficult to defend.

In replay the Zebras also found runs hard to get with a very slow outfield hampering them. Issac Delaney was bowling well and 136 seemed a long way away. Dean Veenendaal (22) held up the early running but as the overs ticked by an upset was in the making. Sam Tippet (22) and Jamie Cornwell (22) got the Zebras close and when Ben Cornwell (17) was run out Forest Hill had to rely on a last wicket stand to limp home at 9/141, a great game.

Vermont South v Heatherdale

Batting first the Vultures Ronan Prigg (53) and Matt Sunderland (18) combined to post an opening 48 run partnership. Three cheap wickets put the game back onto level pegging and even with a late 34 from Grant Weaver a score of 5/140 was well short of expectations. Sam Brooks (2/21) and Hugo Morgan (2/9) were the main destroyers for Heatherdale.

The Dales run chase was awesome with all the top six batsmen making sound contributions to the cause. Matt Stewart (50*), Sam Heron (50*) Josh Kral (40), Rodrigo Arguello (36) and Sam Brooks (30) made light work of the conditions and the attack and the Dales ran out easy victors at 3/227.

Rebel Sport Championship



Blackburn North v Vermont

The Doggies continue to be the benchmark of the Rebel competition. Evan Smeed (67) and Rudi Hunt (63) made short work of Vermont's opening attack before Conor Spinks (54*) and Liam Smith (101*) scoring his second century of the competition put the rest of the bowlers to the sword to post a huge 4/316 at the end of their 45 overs. Despite that total Lachlan Jackson kept up his end of the bargain with 3/37.

In reply Josh Keyte (30) and Ben Stoikos (33) started promisingly but of the remaining batsmen only Matthew Jenkins (33) put up a serious challenge. In an excellent double Conor Spinks (5/36) ably supported by Tom Rimmer (2/26) were just too much for the batsmen and the Eagles innings closed at 179 still well shy of the target.

Doncaster v East Box Hill/Box Hill Nth Super Kings

Again it was the combined teams batting that proved the difference in this game. An excellent century from Gavin Carusi (107*) formed the spine of an excellent performance. Russell Peowrie (53) and Janit Ratnayake (40) were perfect partners and the final scoreline of 4/268 was a daunting target.

The loss of an early wicket did not deter Rafael Epstein (63) and Brad Davis (33) as they put on 88 runs for the second wicket before Matty Sorell busted open the top order with 3/17 and Doncaster capitulated well short of the target at all out 144 giving the combined side a percentage boost.

East Doncaster/East Burwood v Mitcham/Blackburn

Mitcham/Blackburn were sent in to bat and with Mitch Maloney (44) and Tom Maccrokakis (23) quickly among the runs, it looked like a risky strategy. Lachlan McKenzie (50*) and James Feltham (19) kept the run rate flowing and a final closure of 6/200 had the match on a fine balance. Joshua Exley (3/35) was the pick of the bowlers for the Easts combined.

Any thoughts that there were enough runs on the board were quickly dispelled by the East combined batsmen Michael Baysinger (29) and Josh Exley who batted with great maturity to reach an unbeaten century. Griffin McComb (72*) continued the pain as did Adam Chan (19*) to reach the target losing only the one wicket.

Wrap-Up

In the Maddocks competition Heathmont sits atop of the table alone on 24 points closely followed by Vermont 18 and Forest Hill 15 with 4th spot held on % by Heatherdale from Eley Park both on 12 points. Forest Hill host Eley Park in a must win for both clubs this round Heatherdale take on Vermont in another must win showdown and Heathmont welcome Vermont Sth to H E Parker Reserve. Croydon Ranges have the bye.

In Rebel it is a closer affair with both Blackburn North and East Doncaster/East Burwood undefeated on top of the table. East Box Hill/Box Hill North Super Kings are nibbling at their heels on 18 points with Doncaster making up the four on 12. Yarraleen, Mitcham/Blackburn and Vermont round off the ladder on 6 points each and still plenty of games left to make an impact. This round match's Vermont against Doncaster and Mitcham/Blackburn against Yarraleen, but it is the battle between EBH/BHNSK and Blackburn North that shapes as the match of the year.

Players of the Round Awards as always were tough to award. In Maddocks I have settled on Shehan Kudage-Don's excellent 77 for Vermont whilst in Rebel with apologies to magnificent tons from Gavin Carusi and Liam Smith I could not break the fantastic all round performances by Blackburn North's Conor Spinks (54* and 5/36) and East Doncaster/East Burwood's Josh Exley (100* and 3/35).

Peter White