

BHRDCA U18 CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Round 6 Report

Maddocks Sports Championship



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Perhaps it was the changeover from the two day to a one day format, there were a couple of unexpected results in both grades that have resulted in a tightening of the race for finals spots. After a week of wet weather, we lucked out again with a fine and barmy evening.

Vermont v Croydon Ranges

The Eagles won the toss and elected to bat. Croydon Ranges were soon on top as 3 wickets fell with only 23 on the board. The ever reliable Angus Hands (50*0 and Jack Morrison (55*) put their heads down and resurrected the Eagles fortunes with a very good 92 run partnership, closing at 3/123. Dave Killen returned Ranges best figures with 2/22.

Ranges reply also got off to a rocky start and it took another partnership this time 106 runs between Michael Hendley (50*) and David Killen (49*) to see Croydon home in an excellent win that lifted Croydon Ranges into the 4.

Forest Hill v Heathmont

Batting first at Forest Hill Reserve, Heathmont struggled early against some fine bowling from Nelson Lane (3/27). The scenario was perfect for the big hitting Josh Merrett (50*) who with some late order support from Steve Brown (43) Heathmont gradually built a competitive 7/165 from their overs.

Apart from a back to the wall 25 from Ben Cornwell, the Zebras bats came and went at an alarming rate. Nathan Mullenger-McHugh (2/16) and Tyson Henry (2/22) were the main destroyers as the Zebras struggled in their overs to record a disappointing 6/83 only half way to their target.

Vermont South v Eley Park

The Vultures innings also had a shaky beginning and runs were at a premium against the Parkers steady attack. Matthew Sunderland (25) and Lockie Newton (19) ground for their runs and a final score of 5/83 was well short of expectations. Robbie Cox bowled well and deserved his 2/12.

In reply Eley Park also dropped quick wickets before Zach Tzitsikas (34) and Aaron Anderson (47) saw the Parkers through for a great win that keeps them in contention for a finals berth.

Yarraleen v Blackburn North

Yarraleen were in a must win situation against undefeated Blackburn Nth and it was the Doggies that won the toss and sent Yarraleen into bat. Yet again early wickets were lost as the bowlers were well on top. Adrian Vidajic (52*) took the attack right back to the bowlers and he was well supported by Nadi Hamzovski (23), but at 4/115 at the close, it looked as if that was not going to be enough against the strong batting lineup of Blackburn Nth.

As in all other games on the night, the run chase got off to a poor start. Adrian (3/10) was in devastating form as was Jack Dullard (3/21) and despite some sound resistance from Evan Smeed (38) and Conor Spinks (24) the Doggies were routed for only 103 – a fantastic effort by the Yarraleen team.

Mitcham/Blackburn v East Box Hill/Box Hill Nth Super Kings

EBH/BHNSK decided to put some runs on the board after winning the toss. Despite the loss of an early wicket, several promising partnerships were begun but none really went on with the job to post a big score. Gavin Carusi (46*) was the backbone of the innings with cameo roles from Mukul Pendyala (21) and Janit Ratnayake (24) and the final score of 5/123 was right on the borderline.

Mitcham/Blackburn kept to the script of the round and wickets fell at an alarming rate with only Jack O'Sullivan (20) keeping the scorers on their toes. The main destroyers were Conlan Carusi (2/11) and Janit Ratnayake (2/9) as Mitcham/Blackburn capitulated to 9/104 still 19 runs short of the target.

East Doncaster/East Burwood v Doncaster

The combined team won the toss and elected to bat. The mandatory loss of an early wicket was blunted with a healthy 2nd wicket partnership of 61 between the ever reliable Michael Baysinger (49) and Josh Exley (34). Isaac Field (2/12) was the pick of Doncaster's bowlers and the final score of 5/129 was a pass.

Again the run chase staggered from the outset when Daniel McNeil (4/23) cut a swathe through the lineup. Brad Davis (32) fought hard for his side but as the overs slipped by the target seemed to get bigger and bigger, Doncaster closing at 9/89 and East Doncaster/East Burwood had leapt to the top of the ladder.

Wrap-Up

For the Maddocks competition it is equally as tight. Heathmont have cleared out on 36 points, 12 points clear of Vermont on 24 and then it is a really tight race with Forest Hill 21 in 3rd and Croydon Ranges, Heatherdale and Eley Park all on 18 points and Vermont Sth on 9. Plenty of final permutations there.

Forest Hill v Heatherdale shapes as the most important match-up this round, whilst Croydon ranges will want to consolidate against Vermont Sth. Vermont travel to Eley Park and will be well aware that any slip will push them down the ladder.

In the Rebel competition the surprise defeat of Blackburn Nth has allowed East Doncaster/East Burwood to take sole possession of top spot 6 points clear of Blackburn North. East Box Hill/BHN Super Kings are a further 6 points away and Vermont fill out the four on 18 points. Heatherdale, Eley Park and Doncaster fill 5th to 7th on 12 points separated by % so all teams are still theoretically in the running.

This week see's Vermont host Mitcham/Blackburn in what is a race for 4th spot. Yarraleen take on Doncaster and Blackburn North welcome East Doncaster/East Burwood in a top of the table clash.

The Players on the Round Awards this week are, as is so often the case in one day clash's, dominated by all-round performances. In Maddocks Croydon Ranges Dave Killen's 49* and 2/22 was instrumental in getting his side home. In Rebel Yarraleen's Adrian Vidajic is the choice with his top double of 52* and 3/10, great efforts by both players.

Peter White