



STOP PRESS: SPECIAL UNDER 17 GOLD SUPPLEMENT

Season 2010/11 was yet more fodder for those believing God is not a cricket fan. Heavily punctuated with rain, the season proffered numerous frustrations and challenges - and far too few cricket matches. Despite having to endure arguably the worst summer since Noah got the oars out, the U/17's remained upbeat and always on the improve. Whether it be Kaan stoically coping yet another blow in the nets, Ash producing an unbelievable catch, Jake attempting to bounce anyone who dared put a bat in their hands, or the entire team mocking their coach for not wearing any shoes; the bi-weekly training sessions were always conducted in an enjoyable, yet competitive atmosphere.

The undoubted highlight for most this season would surely be the stirring victory at Banyule. To label this game as merely a victory, simply does not do it justice. The release of Nelson Mandela was a victory; the fall of the Berlin wall, abolishing slavery; all great victories for mankind. The "Miracle at Banyule" was a triumph for the ages. Defending a paltry total, and with their proverbial backs against the wall, the U/17's took to the field with renewed focus and proceeded to play hard, fair cricket. With a mere handful of deliveries remaining and the clouds darkening overhead, the boys were rewarded with a much deserved win. Whilst the pitch invasion and ensuing scenes of unbridled jubilation will live long in the memory; this scribe will reminisce on a far less celebrated moment in that game: With Banyule's best batsman looking to take the game away from the good guys, Ash induced him into a false stroke and he edged the leather into Nathan's safe gloves. So loud was the deflection, that anyone within a 20km radius was casting the eyes skyward, searching for the accompanying lightning. It never came, and nor did the raised index of the man in yellow. In fact, the only person in the southern hemisphere that evening who didn't hear the nick, was the most important: the umpire. Not out. The boys had every right to feel aggrieved and angry - and no doubt they were - but they did not show it. They collected themselves, continued encouraging one another and steeled themselves to finish the contest. The rest is glorious history.

Another unlikely highlight of season 2010/11 stemmed from the heartbreaking and mystifying result at Lower Plenty. The utterly disgraceful stalling tactics and pitiful win-at-all-costs attitude exhibited by the opposition that night, further serve to re-enforce the type of positive cricketers and men we aim to produce at Edinburgh. Controlling my own emotions as stumps were pulled was a matter of extreme difficulty - I cannot imagine how the boys must have felt. Robbed of what would have been their first win in over a year and a half; the Edinburgh U/17's once again exhibited maturity beyond their years. They did not remonstrate with the umpires. They did not retaliate to the constant verbal taunts from the sidelines. They did not sulk. Instead, they shook hands, strode off the ground and, after a brief chat as a group, agreed that we would only

discuss the game amongst the sanctity of our own team, in our own time - and that the moral victory was definitely in our corner. These young men displayed an alarmingly prescient display of maturity, nobility and mateship throughout the entire season; none more so than that night at Lower Plenty.

In a season where all fourteen men produced significant and notable contributions, it would be remiss to mention individuals. . .

. . . So I will mention them all:

ASH ROSOWSKI is a natural cricketer. Planned, to execute freakish acts of supreme athleticism in the field; conceived to lead, by both sporting prowess and off-field encouragement; born to play cricket. Family Planning 101. When scanning through the highlight reel that was Ash's season, it would be easy to wax lyrical on innumerable examples of his talents. I could labour on his exquisite strokeplay or vocal encouragement, congratulate him on earning representative honours, or possibly even try to describe the gravity-defying reflex catch he took at training. However, of all his myriad moments of brilliance, the most impressive, in my eyes, was his stint as 20/20 vice captain. Illness and results dictated that it was to be the very briefest of tenures, but Ash displayed ample in such a short time, to suggest that he is to be a future leader of men. Should he so desire, Ash has a massive cricketing future at Edinburgh. If he continues to knuckle down and do the hard work, the results will be plain for all to see. A treat to have amongst the ranks this season, Ash would be one of the first picked in any side.

BENNY MCGREGOR's level of commitment and willingness to work on improving himself as a cricketer, are quality, essential traits, which will hold him in great stead throughout his cricketing life. I had the pleasure of playing some senior cricket with Benny this season past and, as such, was privy to many exceptional contributions, often in high-pressure situations. Batting at the death with Sam Wilcox, his impressive not out innings against Banyule was not only a composed, intelligent display of pressure batting; it was to prove vital in our coming away victorious. One of the true unsung heroes of the U/17's, Benny's positive and responsive attitude, coupled with his laid back demeanor, made him a joy to coach.

DAVE HERBERT I wish I could lay claim to holding a stake in Dave's emergence as a quality cricketer. Unfortunately, it has absolutely zero to do with his coach. Disco Dave Herbert is simply a really good cricketer. A beautiful rhythm bowler with an alarming burst of pace, Dave could always be relied upon for a breakthrough wicket or miserly spell. Always attentive with an authentic desire to learn, his steady improvement and seamless entry into senior cricket, does not come as a surprise. An ever-present voice of positivity in the field, Dave's jovial, polite manner often masks his highly competitive nature. A young man with a bright cricketing future, I look forward to hopefully seeing Dave back at the club for round one of next season; no doubt in high spirits.

JAKE KYROUSSIS Every team needs a red-haired fast bowler. That is cricketing fact. In all he approaches on and off the field, Jake knows only one speed- and it isn't slow. A fiery fast bowler and entertaining dasher with the bat, Jake is the sort of player who can take the game away from the opposition quicker than you can say "is Jake's dad getting us all fish 'n' chips again, tonight...?" Playing at home, in one of the best spells of the season, Jake not only took the game away from the opposition; he obliterated it (along with the stumps) right under their noses. Securing career-best figures of 6/12 that

evening, simply re-enforced what we all already knew; that Jake is a wicket-taking bowler, and there is no substitute for that on a cricket field.

KAAN TEKIN-SARI is one of the most fearless fieldsmen i have ever seen. His total and utter commitment to halting the progress of any ball struck his way - with any part of his body - illustrates either immense bravery or a complete lack of self-preservation. Either way - I love it. In the weekly battle between Kaan and seven & a half ounces of stitched leather, even the most foolhardy of pundits would dare not risk tipping against Kaany. Whether it be hands, torso, limbs or head; nothing was getting past the ubiquitous Kaan. His uncanny knack of producing the sublime, was clear for all to see, when throwing down the stumps after a rapid-fire release, early in the season at Brunswick Street Oval. During a 20/20 game, played at a ground cultivated with grass thicker than Brendan Fevola, Kaan once again defied the odds, somehow bludgeoning the only boundary of our innings. Kaan possesses a positive attitude and effervescent approach to cricket; key attributes for anyone looking to succeed in the sport.

MINH VO The term 'improvement' gets bandied around sporting clubs ad nauseum. Never has it taken on as much significance as with Minh Vo. Initially sporting a bowling run up that's major consistency was that it would inevitably take his leading foot over the popping crease, Minh Vo has seamlessly transferred himself into a consistent, dangerous, intelligent and economical swing bowler, with the ability to take wickets. The kid can bowl. Well. But it doesn't end there. Already showcasing the best leave in the club, Minh's phenomenal judgment of line and length, has seen his range of stroke play expand at break-neck speed. From smooth cover drives to subtle lap sweeps, if Minh continues to enhance his repertoire at this rate, I fully expect to witness him reverse-hooking, come the tail end of pre-season. Minh Vo was superb for the U/17's this season and I look forward to seeing him return for more of the same, next season . . . I only hope I don't have to face his guile in the nets.

MAX WILSON had the honor, and somewhat unenviable, duty of captaining the side this season. Juggling the batting and bowling line-ups for fourteen players; where to place your fieldsmen; keeping on top of, and controlling, the game situation; all whilst finding the time to work on your own game - is not the simplest of tasks. Thankfully, Max holds a rare level of maturity and awareness, which made him an obvious choice for captain. It is these traits, which will surely serve to enrich all his future endeavours, both on and off the field. Miraculously, the captaincy-juggling-act failed to scupper Max's personal contributions throughout the season, as he regularly took wickets and notched up valuable runs. His candour and general demeanor around the boys, coupled with in-built determination and belief, helped set the tone for the way we went about our play. The U/17's played hard, fair cricket all season and Max Wilson had a major factor in that.

MURRAY WHITE is an excellent all-round cricketer. The ability to consistently deliver runs and produce wickets is not one to be taken lightly. His epic spell of full, fast bowling in the victory over Banyule was as good as I saw from anyone at Edinburgh last season. It was also in that game that Muz manufactured two run outs and snaffled a contender for catch of the season. His game-changing screamer in the slip cordon, holds bitter sweet reflection; as it was also the closest any of us will come to seeing Murray take a full length dive. Always quick to encourage his teammates, Muz utilised his experience to provide fantastic vocal leadership around the group. With continued hard graft and a burning desire to improve, Murray can look forward to many more successes on the cricket field.

NATHAN FILIERI The rock at the top. Opening the batting at any level is an onerous and demanding role. Nathan became our Mr Dependable with the bat; rarely failing to establish the U/17's with a strong platform from which to build. With a solid technique and composed manner at the crease, Nathan is precisely what you wouldn't want to see, if you were opening the bowling for the opposition. Seemingly a glutton for punishment, Nath also donned the wicket keeping gloves this season, and did so brilliantly. Between 'keeping up to the stumps and frustrating opposing bowlers, he also found the time to sling down some very handy medium pacers at training. Nathan Filieri had an outstanding season and is a cricketer you simply cannot keep out of the game.

NICK GIBBONS' laconic nature in the sporting arena should not be mistaken for apathy. A natural athlete and classical back-foot batsman, Gibbo's Mark Waugh-esque nonchalance was never more prevalent than when clutching on to a rocketing catch, in the darkness of Lower Plenty. His impression of what appeared to be a one-man pack mark will go down as arguably the catch of the season. With continued effort and desire, Nick's cricketing career can know no bounds.

RODGER PAUL If you asked me what I wouldn't like to face as I went out to bat, the words "tall left-arm pace" would probably dribble pathetically from my quivering lips. In Rodger, our fluent left-arm opener, we got exactly that. His angle and accuracy made Rodger a consistent and very real threat with the ball whenever he glided in. Somewhat dictated in stroke play by his natural ability with a golf club, anything in Rodger's hitting zone would swiftly be dispatched; driven long and high down the ground. Anything outside of his hitting zone. . he would likely still attempt to swiftly drive long and high down the ground. His most impressive drive all season, however, came not at the crease, but behind the wheel. Expertly steering his mother, coach and teammate safely home, during a monsoonal deluge one friday evening, remains as good a drive as any I've witnessed.

SAM GILL is an instantly like-able young man of immense cricketing potential. He is a player who looks better with each innings he plays, and who would greatly benefit from more time in the middle. A more than capable all-rounder, Sam need only back his own ability more often, especially in tight situations on the field, in order to succeed. A supreme team player and affable chap, Sam was an integral component of our side this season; with greater self-belief, he has all the necessary faculties to achieve all goals for which he strives.

SAM WILCOX has a massive cricketing future. His maturity and assuredness at the crease came to the fore on numerous occasions throughout the season, and as a result, he piled on the runs. Possessing an insightful cricketing mind and all the shots in the book, this gloveman-cum-(very handy)-off spinner should set his sights on dominating the U/17 competition next season, whilst also continuing to rise through the ranks of senior cricket. An approachable and enjoyable bloke to have around, Sam is an invaluable asset to any team, who has all the hallmarks of a future leader at the club.

SEAN PENNEFATHER's development as an off-spin bowler is as good an advertisement for hard work as you could hope to witness. The good folk at NASA will do well to emulate Sean's work ethic, when it comes to flight. Sean categorically has the capability to take many, many wickets down the (off stump) line, with his spin bowling. A very coachable young man, Sean was always very receptive and willing to work hard at training. Having to endure an undeserved horror stretch of low scores, despite

dominating with the blade in the nets, can only serve to teach yet another sporting lesson: sometimes, as in life, cricket can be cruel. Sean's next few seasons at Edinburgh will be interesting to watch. If he continues in this vein, they are sure to be most fruitful.

Special mention must also go to all the parents of these young men. At this stage of the season and of your lives, no doubt providing transport and tea, scoring at the games and washing stained whites week in, week out, must seem more like routine than parenting for some - yet make no mistake, without your support and nurturing, the boys would never get to enjoy such a terrific team environment and express themselves freely on the sporting field. I know I speak on behalf of all fourteen men when I offer my sincerest gratitude. As disappointed as I am that I will now be required to start cooking for myself once again of a Friday evening, I look forward to seeing your many friendly faces around the club; hopefully for years to come (... if you're already missing the cricket season, feel free to get nostalgic by continuing to bring down the teas, even in the off-season. They will not go to waste...)

To my boys, we all had ups and downs throughout a tumultuous and rain soaked season, but at no point did your enthusiasm and passion for the game waiver, nor your dedication and support of your teammates falter. For that, you can all be immensely proud. This group of fine young men leave me in no doubt that the future of Edinburgh cricket club is in very safe hands.

Sunny Munn, Coach Under 17 Gold



