

The view from the middle: U11 Match against Basel Dragons

Observations from Saturday's U11 match against Basel Dragons – 19 Oct '13. These observations are mine about what the boys did collectively well, and could work on for future matches. Gingsins lost the toss and were asked into to field, but that is what captain Ricky wanted to do any way.

Players:

Ricky Bucheli - captain	Nikhilesh Acharya - vice captain	Wilf Chisolm
Charlie Martin	Ari Schlein	Gianni St Hilaire
Oliver Steele	Gregor Wellard	Hamish Williams - wk
Archer Martin - wk	Alex Bucheli	

There were a few new faces in the team. Well done to Gianni and Hamish.

Overall: Our players all moved into fielding/bowling positions quickly, and that kept the innings moving along at a nice pace. We lost the match, but there were a number of positives each boy could take from this match. This was the first time for many of our boys to play at Rankhof, and it took a while to get used to the playing conditions.

Fielding: The fielders ran towards the ball to pick it up quickly, and threw it in nicely. The field was very fast. Once the ball was hit into a gap, it was difficult to stop the ball from going for a four. However, I think each boy had done well to save runs.

Things to work on:

- 1) It is also the job of the captain to ensure that the fielders move to the space where the batsmen are scoring runs.
- 2) All fielders must encourage each other in the field.
- 3) Remember to use the long-barrier to stop the ball that is rolling towards you.
- 4) Once you have fielded the ball to throw it into the wicketkeeper quickly, and at a pace and accuracy in which he will be able to catch it.
- 5) Backing up from the fielders in case the ball is not thrown accurately, to avoid overthrows.

Bowling: This area was a very big improvement compared to the last U11 match I saw in June. The bowlers did not concede very many wides or no-balls.

Things to work on:

- 1) It is important for the bowler to be happy with his field setting, and that the fielders are ready for the next delivery.
- 2) Each bowler should have a plan of what he wants to do with the ball on each delivery.

Batting: Even though we got out a number of times, I thought that the boys generally batted very well. The batters tended to hit more balls, rather than leaving or playing and missing. The most wickets were taken by being bowled or caught:

Being bowled - From what I saw, this happened because the batsmen would not retake his mark before the ball was being bowled. Many kept shuffling towards leg-side and leaving the stumps exposed.

Being caught - when our batsmen were caught out, often they were through the shot too early and simply spooned the ball up to the fielders.

Things to work on:

- 1) When taking the initial stance, it is important for the batsman to get back into the initial position before each delivery.
- 2) Wait on the ball and hit it along the ground. Especially indoors when balls can be caught off the walls and ceiling.
- 3) Have a look where the fielders are standing and try to hit the ball through the gaps.

Calling and running between wickets: The calling was generally loud and clear, maybe too often 'no' instead of 'yes'. There were still a number of runs left on the field. It is difficult to run with pads and a box. We need to figure out a way to get the confidence into the boys to leave the safety of the crease after a shot has been played. Backing up by the non-striking batter to make the journey to the other end a bit shorter.

Finally: It was a good team effort, and the boys played well. Notable individual performances: Oliver for claiming his first wicket. Hamish for his bravery behind the stumps in the last few overs. Gregor with his rapid-fire opening to the batting innings. Wilf for his consistent bowling, and steadfast batting.

Arnold Bucheli