

LILYDALE

10 / 198

WARRANDYTE

246 ov: 46



Warrandyte signs off on season with two sides in finals

By **JOSH HUNTLY**

FINAL FEVER took over at Warrandyte Reserve as the 4th and 6th XI carried the hopes of the cricket club into the pointy end of the season.

The 4th XI took the long way to an appearance in the E-Grade Grand Final while the 6th XI were bundled out in their Elimination Final.

4th XI

**Qualifying Final
Warrandyte 94
(Ison 28)**

def by Mooroolbark 219
(T Jackson 3/29, J Stubbs 2/20)

**Preliminary Final
Warrandyte 9/257
(Wellesley 84, Croft 82)**

def Templeton 159
(J Weatherley 3/25,
Brown/Prangley 2/15)

**Grand Final
Warrandyte 27
(Croft 8)**

def by Mooroolbark 146
(Gidley 3/16, Brown 3/21)

Warrandyte faced off against Mooroolbark in the E-Grade decider with both teams coming off strong performances in the round preceding. Mooroolbark had the better of

Warrandyte in the Qualifying Final in a 125-run victory at Warrandyte Reserve.

But the Bloods overcame Templeton in the Preliminary Final thanks to 80 runs apiece to Dan Wellesley and Nathan Croft, with James Weatherley's 3/25 and two wickets each to John Prangley and Harry Brown, propelling the team into the Grand Final at Mooroolbark Heights.

A strong Warrandyte supporter contingent watched on as Mooroolbark won the toss and chose to bat on a large, slow ground where runs would be hard to come by.

Warrandyte made early inroads with wickets to Dean Gidley and Harry Brown getting the side off to a positive start to keep Mooroolbark to 3/56 at drinks.

Skipper Shaun Ison came on to bowl and toiled hard for 17 overs, coming away with figures of 2/30.

Harry Brown continued his excellent finals form with his third and final wicket to help reduce Mooroolbark to 6/99 before a spirited fightback saw them climb to 146 until Jake Stubbs finished the job to have the Bloods chasing 147 for a premierships victory.

From here, the game began to unravel for the visitors as they came

in to bat.

Warrandyte crumbled to 4/11 but there was still a slight glimmer of hope remaining with Ison and Drew El-Moussali at the crease.

Both batsmen fell before drinks however and Mooroolbark took the remaining four wickets before the tea break, dismissing Warrandyte for 27 with Dean Gidley the last batsman standing on six not out.

6th XI

**Semi Final
Warrandyte 116**

(Rees 33, Danisch 3/12, Matthews 2/14, King 2/14)
def by Mooroolbark 8/127
(Jennings 31, Lawson 3/21,
Stubbs 2/21)

Warrandyte's other finals representative team locked horns with Mooroolbark after a strong finish to the home and away season launched them into premierships contention.

In the split-innings format, Mooroolbark were sent in to bat first and after their first stint found themselves 4/62.

Adam Lawson was the pick of the bowlers with 3/21, skipper Bill Stubbs took 2/21 while Steven Warr bowled an impressive seven maidens off his

14 overs for the match.

An early collapse left the Bloods on the brink at 4/32 but managed to rally with solid scores from Graham Rees (33) and Steve Warr (24) to finish on 116.

Warrandyte needed 6 wickets for victory while Mooroolbark required 54 runs.

At 8/107 the game was there for the taking for both sides but it would be Mooroolbark who took the chocolates over a gallant 6th XI outfit.

The side took Mooroolbark all the way in the sudden-death Elimination Final but fell agonisingly short, drawing a close to a productive season for the side.

Junior Premiers

Warrandyte's junior cricketers tasted premierships success as the Under 12-8 and Under 14-2 sides brought home flags for the club.

The U16-3s also progressed to their Grand Final after a thrilling one-run victory in the Semi-Final but couldn't topple South Warrandyte.

U14

The U14s celebrated a hard fought win against Lilydale in a genuine team performance with contributors across

the board.

A superb batting performance was highlighted by the fact that six Warrandyte batsmen scored over 20 with Hunter Hodgson's 36 and 31* from Cohen Croft driving Warrandyte to a score of 246.

Hodgson again found himself in the thick of the action with two wickets while Isaac Rakuscek backed up his astonishing 5/1 in the previous final with two of his own.

U12

The U12s were superb against Mooroolbark, with many players picking up their first premierships medallions for the Bloods.

The runs were shared around with Gus Callan, Sam McAlistar and Mason Scott-Bommert doing the majority of the damage to post 4/124.

The bowling attack could not be faulted as every player took their chance to bowl tight line and lengths.

Callan was again in the thick of the action in the bowling innings, taking a miserly 2/7 off his three overs while Lenny Reddaway took the third.

Warrandyte managed to keep the opposition to 95 runs and celebrated a fantastically fought premierships with coach Ben Taylor.