

Dytes' finals agony

Rogers the all round champ



Ayrton Demhel: an outstanding young prospect.

Our future's in the very best of hands

Despite a disappointing finals campaign, Warrandyte Cricket Club have unearthed a number of junior players who seem destined for long and successful careers.

Fourteen-year-olds Ayrton Dehmel and Chris Barry, along with Tyson Rees, 15, were outstanding performers in the Second XI and Fourth XI finals.

Dehmel took six wickets in the Second XI preliminary final win over North Ringwood and a further five wickets in a stand-out performance in the Grand Final loss to Norwood.

Barry, who has played in the Second XI this season, was the key player for the Fourth XI, making an unbeaten 63 in the second semi final win over Montrose and 73 in the Grand Final loss in the re-match with Montrose.

Rees, who played a key role in the Second XI's last home and away win over Montrose which enabled the team to play in the finals, hit the winning runs in the closely fought preliminary final against North Ringwood.

"They are all wonderful talents," said club president, Robert White, who also captained the Second XI.

"Ayrton mesmerised opposition batsmen with his sharp-spinning off breaks from the first game he played with the Second XI just before Christmas," White said.

"He has the ability to be a senior player next season and I would expect that with further improvement, he could play at a much higher level.

"Ayrton also played a key role with the bat twice this season, especially in the first semi final when he put on a 50-run match-winning ninth wicket partnership with senior player, Adam Beardall."

White said that Barry was a ready-made Second XI player next season and with further natural development, may also press for a First XI position.

"Chris is a determined young cricketer and he just loves batting. He was awarded man-of-the-match in the Grand Final in a losing side which is a remarkable performance for one so young."

White said that Tyson Rees also had an outstanding future at senior club level.

"He was just out of Under 14s yet showed a remarkable maturity in pressure situations. He is also a very handy leg spinner who loops and turns the ball. He will be a wonderful asset to the club."

White added that other young players such as Tim Hookey who made an unbeaten century in the last round of the Fourth XI season; Ross Brown who continued to improve as a medium paced bowler; Jack Wright whose batting and off spin bowling improved greatly as the season wore on and Jake Sherriff whose all-rounder capabilities had proven valuable to the Fourth XI all season, would provide the basis for a very successful season team in future years.

"It really is a very exciting time for the club despite the premier-ship disappointments this season," White said.

"The good thing is that all these players are home grown and they see their future at Warrandyte. They have had a taste of senior cricket and they want more."

Goalden opportunity

By SONIA RAPPPELL

Warrandyte Netball Club still have vacancies in two age groups for the Doncaster and District winter season, which started last month.

The club are fielding 19 teams — from Under-11s to Open — and vacancies exist for players in the top section Under-11s and Under-17 teams of all standards.

The contact is Vicki on 9844 1351.

The Netball Skills clinic program for five to nine-year-olds begins at the Taroona Avenue courts on Friday, April 22.

Cost is \$48 (including VNA registration), numbers are limited and the contact is Peta on 9844 4898.

Warrandyte are constantly seeking badged umpires for afternoon games at the Templestowe Leisure Centre Courts (contact Lesley on 9844 2068).

Warrandyte's hopes of a Ringwood District Cricket Association premiership were snuffed out before they even reached the Grand Final following a disappointing preliminary final performance against St Andrews.

Hoping to mark the club's 150th anniversary year in style, the First XI finished on top of the ladder and were hot favourites to take out the Division 2 title and earn promotion to the prestigious Chandler Shield competition.

But a loss to North Ringwood, the eventual premiers, in the second semi final and then a loss to St Andrews the following weekend left Warrandyte's title hopes in tatters.

Not only did the First XI fail to reach the Grand Final but the Third XI, which also headed the table at the end of the home and away series, failed to make the Grand Final after being all for 63 after dismissing Croydon Ranges for only 102 in the preliminary final.

The Second XI also failed to complete a Cinderella story when they were defeated by Norwood in the Grand Final while the Fourth XI also went down in the Grand Final to Montrose.

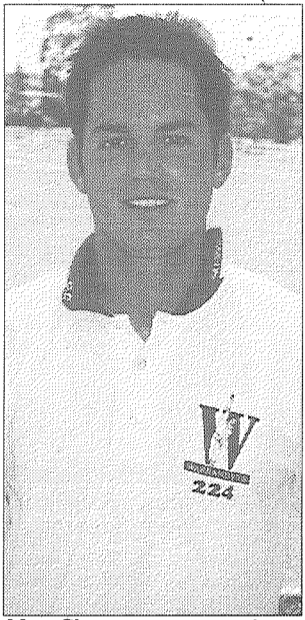
At the end of the home and away season, Warrandyte had all five senior, all three junior and its Veterans team in the finals. At the end of the finals only the Veterans and the Under 12s came away with pennants.

The First XI result was shattering as Warrandyte had been the best team in the competition all season and their top placed finish was just reward for the efforts.

While a loss in difficult wet and windy conditions in the second semi final may have been excused, the effort in the preliminary final could not.

Set 179 to win, Warrandyte could manage only 116 in reply and again highlighted the brittleness of the batting.

Two run-outs in the opening overs of the innings did not help set the base for a good



Matt Chapman: aggressive 43 for the Second XI.

score but those following showed little resistance to a steady but far from imposing St Andrews attack.

After two unsuccessful finals campaigns in succession, Warrandyte must now regroup and look to bolster their batting line up next season.

The bowlers again continually restricted opposition sides to low scores but the batsmen could not take advantage of the situation provided for them.

The Second XI, which lost the first five games of the season and then won eight in a row to earn a place in the grand final, were beaten by a powerful Norwood side.

After finishing third on the ladder and defeating St Andrews in the first semi final, Warrandyte defeated a powerful North Ringwood line up with 14-year-old off spinner, Ayrton

Dehmel, taking 6-60.

Set 213 to win, Steve Goddard and Mark Centofanti batted with aggression to take the advantage from the North Ringwood attack.

Goddard scored a whirlwind 42 while Matthew Chapman was just as aggressive with his 43.

But it was Centofanti with 63 who batted until after the tea break and guided Warrandyte to within sight of victory which was secured by veteran, Brett Kline, and 15-year-old Tyson Rees.

In the grand final, Dehmel was again the outstanding bowler with 5-73 but Norwood were able to score 235 on what was a fast outfield.

Tyson Brent opened the batting and his 43 set a sound footing for a runs chase. But Warrandyte were unable to keep the score clicking over and were dismissed for 180.

The Third XI suffered from the success of teams above it. With all teams making the finals, skipper Eddie Cauchi was unable to field his best possible side in both finals matches and although the bowlers were on the mark, the batsmen could not chase very moderate totals.

In the preliminary final, Warrandyte dismissed Croydon Ranges for only 102 but could only score 63 in reply.

The Fourth XI, made up of fathers and sons from the junior XIs, fell 18 runs short of Montrose's total of 171 in the grand final.

Chris Barry was in great touch with 73, following on from his unbeaten 63 in the second semi final and he looks certain to press for a permanent position in the Second XI next season.

But he did not get the support required from fellow batsmen and the runs chase faltered. Barry was named Man of the Match in the grand final.

Warrandyte will hold its Presentation Night at Club Warrandyte on Saturday, April 9 starting at 7pm.

Third XI captain, Eddie Cauchi has won his second successive RDCA bowling award with an outstanding season in D Grade.

They're No 16 — just like Dad

By DENNIS J. HOIBERG

The name Tracy "Snowy" Prior is already perpetuated in Warrandyte football. And it is about to become even more so.

When his life was so tragically cut short in 1996 at age 34, Tracy had been a bit and a lot of everything in football in this town — player, runner, junior coach, great clubman. Very appropriately, Warrandyte Football Club's clubperson-of-the-year award is named in his memory.

Tracy was Victoria's third liver transplant recipient — and the transplant cause was one he embraced with trademark passion.

While nurturing a young family and running his plumbing business he still found time to regularly visit the Austin Hospital's transplant unit, encouraging those awaiting surgery, especially children, with whom he had a great affinity. He would draw them cartoons for the walls of their wards.

Tracy sat on committees to raise funds for and awareness of transplants, competed in Transplant Games here and overseas and cycled from Launceston to Hobart and from Melbourne to Sydney to draw attention to the cause.



Under-13s team manager Paul Van Der Zant with Madeleine, Dee, Loughlan, Campbell and Nicolette Prior at the jumper presentation.

While his illness forced his premature retirement from football, he was club runner in Warrandyte's 1993 senior premiership, then took on coaching the junior club's Under-16s, often transporting half the team to away games in his plumber's van.

Tracy died from complications after his second liver transplant, leaving wife Dee to raise four young children — a task she has accomplished with rare distinction, dignity and a cheerfulness which often belied hard times.

A new and heart-warming chapter has now been written to

the Prior family story. Younger son Campbell and younger daughter Nicolette will both be wearing Dad's beloved No 16 this season as members of Warrandyte Junior Football Club's Under-10s and Under-13s respectively. The jumper presentations were made recently before very proud mum Dee, elder daughter Madeleine and elder son Loughlan.

Said Dee: "Tracy would be elated to know that two of his children are following in his footsteps and playing footy for Warrandyte, which he held so close to his heart.

"Both children are very excited about playing footy this year and wearing No 16. It will be an unreal feeling seeing them running around the Warrandyte oval like their Dad did so many times before."

And how does it feel to be wearing Dad's No 16? "It makes me feel special and very proud," said Nicolette, who has no trouble mixing it with the best of the boys in the Under-13s.

"It makes me remember Dad and feel good," said little Campbell. "It makes me want to be like him."