

## NSW Little League Easter Tournament 2008



### Wrap Up

The scene was set for a great weekend of baseball at Samuel Marsden Reserve, home of the Colyton St Clair Baseball Club. The only drama seemed to be the weather would it or would it not hold out only time would tell. The forecast was rain for all 3 days of the tournament this was not something we all didn't want to hear.

All 10 teams arrived on Friday morning ready for a 9:30am start, to play for the right to represent NSW at the National Little League Tournament in June in Queensland. The sky was grey the temperature was in the high teens, it felt more like a cold winter's morning then an autumn morning, all the kids and parents were rugged up with jackets and hot coffees in their hands.

Before the first pitch was thrown on Friday morning all the children participated in the opening ceremony and recited the Little League Oath.

I WILL PLAY FAIR  
AND STRIVE TO WIN  
BUT WIN OR LOSE  
I WILL ALWAYS  
DO MY BEST

The tournament was a hybrid tournament of Pool play and Double Elimination. Day 2 and Day 3 games were not known until the completion of the previous day play which caused great excitement throughout the weekend, with teams not knowing who they were going to play next.

### Day 1

Play started at 9:30am with four games being played on 4 outstanding diamonds prepared by the Colyton St Clair Club. The first four games got under way with no problems, no rain came and all the games were completed. The results were as follows:

**Game 1:** Greater Western **7** def Hornsby Eagles **2**

**Game 2:** Hills North **7** def Cronulla North **2**

**Game 3:** Hills South **9** def Ryde Falcons **5**

**Game 4:** Cronulla South **18** def Macarthur **9**

This completed our first timeslot of games for Good Friday. Our second timeslot was 12:30pm. The two teams that didn't play in the morning, Bankstown and Manly had the chance to sleep in and were ready to go for their first game of the tournament. The sleep in didn't do both teams any favours at all. Both teams went down quite convincingly and were now in danger of going home after Day 1 of the tournament. Game 5 between Hornsby Eagles and Cronulla North and Game 7 between Macarthur and Ryde Falcons both turned out to be elimination games, as all four teams lost their first game; this meant that the loser of each game would not be coming back for Day 2 of the tournament.

## NSW Little League Easter Tournament 2008



The conditions didn't get any better over the afternoon, a slight drizzle swept across the field, not enough to stop any of the games going ahead. The results of games 5 to 8 were as follows:

**Game 5:** Cronulla North **7** def Hornsby Eagles **4**

**Game 6:** Greater Western **12** def Bankstown **1**

**Game 7:** Ryde Falcons **6** def Macarthur **5**

**Game 8:** Hills South **13** def Manly **0**

Macarthur's close lose to the Ryde Falcons and Hornsby Eagles loss to Cronulla North meant that Macarthur and Hornsby Eagles were out of the Little League Tournament and Cronulla North and Ryde Falcons would survive into day 2 of the tournament.

The last 2 games of the day started at 3:30pm with both Manly and Bankstown requiring a win otherwise they would also follow the same fate as Macarthur and Hornsby Eagles.

The results of the two games spoke for themselves. The results were as follows:

**Game 9:** Hills North 15 def Bankstown 6

**Game 10:** Cronulla South 19 def Manly 0.

Manly endured there second loss in 2 games and were unfortunately eliminated from the tournament. While in game 9 some controversy evolved. Bankstown put in a protest at the end of the game which saw the result reversed. Then the next day the protest was overturned with both teams awarded a win, no loss was recorded for either team.

This meant that 7 out of the 10 teams that started Day 1 of the tournament were coming back for Day 2 on Easter Saturday. Day 1 saw a bit of everything but most importantly the children got onto the park without any disruptions and played some fantastic and a very hand baseball.

## NSW Little League Easter Tournament 2008



### Day 2

#### Results

**Game 11:** Ryde Falcons 11 def Cronulla North 7

**Game 12:** Bankstown Vs Bye

**Game 13:** Hills North 21 def Greater Western 6

**Game 14:** Cronulla South 13 def Hills South 14

**Game 15:** Bankstown 7 def Ryde Falcons 0

**Game 16:** Hills North 12 def Hills South 11

**Game 17:** Cronulla South 12 def Greater Western 5

Day 2 once again saw some great baseball played by all teams. Game 11 proved to be an elimination game for Ryde Falcons and Cronulla North as they had both lost a game each on Friday. A tough contest it was with Ryde coming out on top and progressing through to the afternoon game while Cronulla North unfortunately their tournament was over.

After an excellent Day 1 Greater Western came into Day 2 with two wins and no losses and looking to continue their good form. With the way the draw panned out for Day 2 they ended up meeting Hills North and Cronulla South, the two eventually finalists of the tournament. Greater Western went down in both games and was eliminated.

Hills South were involved in two 1 run ball games on day 2. One in which they won and one in which they lost against their compatriots Hills North. It was evident that late on Saturday afternoon we were getting down to the business end of the tournament.

Day 2 ended leaving four teams, Hills North who hadn't lost a game yet and the three other teams Hills South, Bankstown and Cronulla South who had lost one game already in the tournament. These three teams knew that every game they played from now would be an elimination game.

## NSW Little League Easter Tournament 2008



### Day 3

#### Results

**Game 18:** Hills North 15 def Bankstown 3

**Game 19:** Cronulla South 7 def Hills South 6

**Game 20:** Cronulla South 7 def Hills North 0

Easter Sunday saw a later start to the tournament, giving families a chance to attend church and the kids to have a few Easter eggs before the game. Game 18 and Game 19 were basically seen as semi final games. The winners would progress to the potential Championship game. Hills North had the added security of knowing that losing against Bankstown would not be the end of their tournament since they had not lost a game in the tournament so far.

Game 19 saw Cronulla South up against Hills South for the second time in 2 days. Hills South got over the line on day 2 by a solitary run. This was once again was the case on day 3 but this time Cronulla South got over the line by one run. An exciting game which saw Cronulla South take an early lead in the first innings then in the bottom of the third Hills South squared the ledger. Cronulla South edged ahead in the fourth and fifth innings. Hills South came into the bottom of the sixth innings down by 3 runs, 7 – 4. They fought valiantly to bring back the deficit but only managed to get 2 runs back. So the score finished 7 – 6 to Cronulla South.

Hills North the unbeaten team in the competition came up against the surprise packet of Bankstown in Game 18. Bankstown had shown some great form in spurts throughout the tournament with some big hitting and numerous home runs by the team. Unfortunately that good hitting was not seen against Hills North. Hills North dominated the game through some great pitching which shut down Bankstown. Hills North ran out convincing winners and moved through to the Championship game.

So after three gruelling days of intensive baseball we were down to 2 teams to fight it off for a spot in the National Little League Tournament. It was clear from the tournament up to this game that Cronulla South and Hills North were the two inform teams of the competition and were well deserved finalists. The opening 3 innings were tight and could have gone either way. Cronulla South were up 2 – 0 at the top of the third innings. In the bottom of the third Cronulla South took the game away from Hills North with another 3 runs and extended the lead to 5 – 0 and virtually cemented the win. Cronulla South scored 2 more runs in the fifth innings and took the game convincing 7 – 0.

This meant that we were at the stage where both teams had lost one game in the tournament. So now we had to play one more game to decide our Champion. The game was not able to be played on Sunday as teams had already played 2 games on Sunday. Therefore the Tournament Committee decided that it was a preferable option to play the game at a later date during the week giving each team the chance to rest all their pitchers and come back on a set date during the week where we could witness the best players perform at their peak without the pitching restrictions of the tournament hovering over their head.

See Championship game report for all the details of the game which was played on Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> of March at Kelso Park (Softball Complex).

Baseball NSW wishes to thank Leigh Carroll and the Colyton St Clair Baseball Club and their dedicated volunteers who made the event such a great success. Their tireless effort before the tournament and their diligent effort

## NSW Little League Easter Tournament 2008



throughout the three days with the operation of the canteen and maintenance of the fields in between all the games were fantastic. Colyton St Clair has definitely set the bench mark in presenting a superb event for this Little League tournament. There are not enough superlatives to thank Colyton St Clair for their efforts over an outstanding weekend of baseball. Thank you once again.

Thank you to the umpires and scorers without them the game just can't precede. Thank you for dedicating your time and skill. Also Chris Conway from Medics Australia thank you for your efforts over the weekend your presence at the tournament added comfort to our competitors, families and spectators.

The tournament was a great success in all areas. Children, coaches, parents and spectators all enjoyed themselves immensely throughout the three day tournament. The weather thankfully stayed away and we were able to have an exceptional event for all to enjoy. Thank you once again to everyone and let Little League continue to grow within New South Wales well into the future.

Daniel Ristic

Baseball NSW

Communications and Competition Coordinator