

SUB-DISTRICT CRICKET

# Hungry Tigers stand tall

## WERRIESE DOMINATES NOBLE PARK WITH BAT, BALL AS DEAN BROTHERS PILE ON THE RUNS

**Ross Couzens**

LADDER-TOPPING Werribee further underlined its finals credentials with an emphatic win in Sub-District Cricket on Saturday.

The Tigers took Noble Park, also a likely finalist, to the cleaners at Pat Wright Sr Oval.

They won the toss, sent the home side in and then throttled its batting line-up to the extent that it could only manage 9-121 from its 45 overs.

The Tigers eased to victory by making 1-124 off 33.5 overs with the bat.

"It was probably the best that we've played all year," said Werribee captain Shaun Dean. "It was very comprehensive with both bat and ball so we're happy."

"We definitely set ourselves for this game. We knew that Noble Park were a good side, we recognised that."

"This was a game that we

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- Shaun Dean

really eyed off to come with our A-game, which we haven't really done for most of the season.

"We've sort of got away with a couple of wins without playing great, but we want to start playing some good cricket coming to the back end of the season."

"I couldn't have faulted anyone on Saturday and I think it was a big statement to the competition," he said.

In what was an even bowling display by Werribee,

Heath Pritchard grabbed 3-18 off his nine-over allotment (four maidens), while Jonathon Burton (2-14, four maidens) and Jake Purton (2-29) were also excellent.

"The wicket was quite conducive to seam bowling early on. There was a lot of grass on it and a bit of moisture there," Dean said.

"So we made the most of that; the bowlers didn't let us down."

"Heath Pritchard and Jonathon Burton really set the standard and put them (Noble Park) right behind in the game."

Matthew Dean topscored with 55 not out for the rampant Tigers and Shaun Dean remained unbeaten on 42 — the brothers putting on 117 for the second wicket.

"If you look at the scoreline it seems like we did the job easily, but it wasn't the case," the Tigers skipper said.

"The wicket was stopping and actually took a lot of

turn towards the back end of our innings.

"We had to get through a tough period ... it's just that they didn't have a lot of runs on the board to defend."

"Matt's past four innings have been over 50, three fifties and a hundred."

"He's the leading run-scorer in the competition at the moment so we're lucky he's in such good touch."

ALTONA suffered a gut-wrenching loss off the second-last ball of the day.

The As had compiled a competitive tally of 7-188 from their 45 overs after being sent in by Oakleigh at Warrawee Park Oval, but the home side chased down the target at the death to finish with 9-190.

Altona skipper Shane Jones led the way with the bat with an unbeaten hand of 68 — his biggest knock of the summer — that included six fours and two sixes.

Aaron Maynard added 23 for the As and Lee Elmore

made 22.

Tim Collins bowled Altona into a strong position by taking down Oakleigh's middle order to claim 4-31 off eight overs.

And when Andrew McCammond snared Oakleigh's ninth wicket with the total at 170 the points appeared to be in the As' grasp, but a 20-run last-wicket stand broke the visitors' hearts in the final quarter of an hour of play.

WILLIAMSTOWN held its own with the ball in hand, but was humbled when it picked up the bat.

The Seagulls, coming off their first win of the summer in the last round before Christmas, were able to bowl Roxburgh Park-Broadmeadows out for 149 in 44.2 overs at Williamstown Cricket Ground.

Captain Craig Sheedy led the way with 4-18 off 8.2 overs (two maidens), Cain Speakman took 3-30 off eight (two maidens) and Mitchell

Knight grabbed 2-20 off four.

But Williamstown's run chase was something akin to a natural disaster as it was skittled for 59 in just 19.5 overs.

Only two Seagulls strikers reached double figures while a further five registered ducks — the side losing 5-1 in the middle order.

YARRAVILLE made much of the running yet was itself run down off the final delivery of the day.

Opener Matthew Love's season-best hand of 76 helped power the Eagles to a competitive tally of 7-178 from their 45 overs against Sunshine at Dempster Park, but the home side eventually made its way to 6-180 despite cutting it as fine as it could.

Yarraville's Curtis Maguire chipped in 20 with the bat while Bradley Jones (13) and Ryan Cox were the only other Eagles to reach double figures.

All six Yarraville bowlers picked up a single wicket.

**SOCCER**

## Jets get fired up for addition of women's side

**Luke D'Anello**

POINT Cook is set to add a women's arm to its on-field operation this season.

The Jets' men's team earned promotion in its first year in 2013 and club president Steve Black is hoping that success transfers to the women's program.

Point Cook will also have an under-15 and U16 girls' sides this year and is hoping to expand its junior base.

"The response has been okay. We're still out there marketing as much as possible to drum up support," Black said.

About 10 players have expressed interest for the women's side, which will compete in State League 4 West in its first season.

Stuart Smith, who coached the club's Metro 3 men's team this year, will steer the women's side.

"His ambition is to coach Melbourne Victory and the club's supporting him in that. Most of his background is with ladies," Black said of the coach.

"There are two reasons why we want to increase our female participation. Firstly, there are not a lot of clubs around who offer female soccer."

"And given we had an U13 and U14 team that have now moved up to U15 and U16, it shows them there's a pathway of senior football at the club. Then they don't have to look elsewhere."

Point Cook, which hoped



Point Cook Soccer Club players Zeina, 14, Natasha, 9, and Kathryn, 13.

Picture: KRIS REICHL

to introduce a women's team last year, has been on the hunt for players since July.

The Jets' men's team has been promoted to State League 4 West after finishing second on the State League 5 West table last sea-

son. "To be able to gain promotion in our first year and have the ability of Danny (Tiatto) and Joe (Spiteri) as well, who were able to provide experience to the young guys, it's been fantastic," said Black, adding several

new players had already attended pre-season training.

"We're very lucky having the great facility at Saltwater Reserve. It helps attract people."

Jets boss Geoff Gillard has

also been appointed coach of the Australian Defence Force team for the next three years.

For more information about Point Cook's women's team, contact coach Stuart Smith (ladyjets@pointcook-soccerclub.org).

**VFL FOOTBALL**

## Seagulls swoop on ruckman

**Luke D'Anello**

WILLIAMSTOWN'S void in the ruck has been filled, with the Victorian Football League club signing Michael Sikora to add to its impressive list of recruits ahead of its first season as a stand-alone outfit.

The 207cm Sikora trained with the Seagulls for a week before putting pen to paper last month.

Sikora has played 27 VFL games over the past two seasons with Sandringham and Essendon.

He was selected to play for the VFL State Side that played Western Australia last season before a hip injury saw him miss most of the second half of the season.

Williamstown was on the hunt for a ruckman after star big man Cameron Wood was rookie-listed by Carlton in November, earning his third crack at the top level.

"After Cam Wood was taken by Carlton, our need for a ruckman obviously increased," Williamstown general manager Brendan Curry said.

"Michael was looking for a new home and an opportunity to come in and continue his development."

"We think it's going to be a good fit and we're excited about what Michael will be able to provide us."