

TURF CRICKET

Cats claw outright win over Keilor

Luke D'Anello

HOPPERS Crossing rebounded from a forgettable loss in the opening round of the Turf Cricket Senior Division season by thumping Keilor on Saturday.

The Cats entered day two with first-innings points already secured, but they put the varnish on a strong performance by completing an outright victory.

Resuming at 2-117 in reply to Keilor's first-innings score of 115, the Cats cruised to 8-213dec, with captain-coach Darrel Brown top-

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- Darrel Brown

scoring with 73.

The Blues managed just 119 in their second dig, Brown and Ryan Latham both grabbing four wickets.

The home side took just five overs to reach 0-22 in its second innings at Hogans Road Reserve, jumping into fourth position on the ladder.

The success came after

Hoppers Crossing was smashed by Airport West St Christophers in Round 1, capitulating for just 60 and losing by 111 runs.

“We thought there was a big chance for us to win outright after a terrible performance in the first game. We had to catch up to the pack, so it was good,” Brown said.

“With the batting order we have, it was very disappointing. The wicket we played on at Airport West was a perfect batting wicket. I played there for three seasons and I haven't seen a better wicket.

To get bowled out for 60, it was disappointing.

“I said that we had to make a big statement in the next game and what better statement than to win the game outright?”

Travis Waring collected 7-36 for the Cats on day one to lay the foundations for victory.

“Travis bowled perfectly. They just hit it straight to his field and it's hard to get him away,” Brown said.

“They didn't show any patience really and he took his opportunity. It was a good, all-round performance.

There are a few things we need to sharpen up on.”

Hoppers Crossing will next meet perennial finalist Yarraville Club in Round 3.

“It's a big test for us. I think the biggest statement will be beating them — forget about the game that has gone. This game will be the biggest statement,” Brown said.

In North Division, Laver-ton (143) was outclassed by Westmeadows (232 and 157), while in North A1 action Werribee Centrals (162 and 7-138) lost narrowly against St Albans (164).

WDCA CRICKET

Colts' near miss

Cameron Magusic

TWO wickets and an unlikely lower-order partnership stood between Williamstown Colts and an outright win over Bellbridge on Saturday.

On an afternoon where drizzle and sun interchanged more freely than an AFL side, the Colts, defending 8-223, bowled out the visitors for 106 in the first innings of the Williamstown and District Cricket Association A Turf clash.

Tarlok Sangha grabbed the spoils for the Colts, taking 5-33, while Nathanael Ward collected 3-32.

Bellbridge's second innings was no better, with the side slumping to 3-21 after 11 overs and then 5-46 before mounting a fightback.

Scott Walker and Adam Crosswell formed an undefeated partnership of 37 runs, helping to deny the Colts four extra points.

Bellbridge finished 8-86, still 32 runs short of the Colts' total, with captain Andrew Wilks blaming undisciplined shots on a sticky wicket. “Probably a few loose shots in the first innings made things a little difficult. The guys stuck at it pretty well when we six down for not many,” he said.

Colts coach John Callus praised his side's performance and said they were looking forward to next week's away clash against Gellibrand.

In other results, Melton South (246) thumped Williamstown Congs (72), while Gellibrand (255) was too strong for Williamstown Imperials (93 and 6-102).

fast lane

Lawn bowls

WERRIBEE enjoyed an emphatic 36-shot win against Richmond Union in Bowls Victoria Division 1-Section 1 action on Saturday. The Bees sit in fourth spot on the ladder with a 2-2 win-loss record after an inconsistent start to their campaign. Werribee will next meet Kew Heights away from home on Saturday. Meanwhile, in Division 3-Section 1, Werribee 3 defeated Hoppers, 82-77.

VSDCA cricket

WERRIBEE scored a thumping win against Altona in Sub-District Cricket Second XI action on Saturday. After compiling a mammoth 5-303 on day one, the Tigers rolled the As for just 162, with Nicholas Buyx (3-19), Ryan Alifracco (2-4), Tim Gage (2-19) and Stephen Plumridge (2-56) leading the way in an impressive performance.

SUB-DISTRICT CRICKET

Pritchard jags five

VETERAN RECRUIT STARS AS WERRIBEE KNOCKS OFF LOCAL RIVAL ALTONA

Luke D'Anello

HEATH Pritchard delivered a virtuoso display to spearhead Werribee's emphatic win against rival Altona in Sub-District Cricket on Saturday.

The veteran all-rounder, who crossed to the Tigers from Caulfield in the off-season, collected 5-49 from 27 overs as the As were bowled out for 207 in pursuit of the home side's 5-262 at Chirnside Park.

The win keeps Werribee's unblemished record intact after two rounds.

Pritchard and Jonathon Burton (2-28 from 19 overs) were the workhorses for the Tigers and captain Shaun Dean said the deck suited the medium pacers.

“The wicket was a bit slow and it did just enough off the seam for him (Pritchard). He'd roll that wicket up and carry it around with him every day of the week I think,” Dean said.

“It's probably made for him and a guy like Jonathon Burton. Probably the quicker you bowled, the easier it was, because it would come onto the bat a bit more.

“I think there's a lot of improvement still in our bowling.

“Two guys shouldered a lot of the responsibility, and that's how it can be sometimes. It was good to get the win, but there's a lot we can improve on.”

Altona scored at less than two runs an over up until the break and lost four wickets.

As' skipper Shane Jones, who made 60 at No. 6, was the only batsman to fire.

“It was a pretty good win. It's always good to get the points against a quality opposition,” Dean said.

“We had the game pretty much shot by tea and then things sort of blew out when



Werribee's Heath Pritchard appeals unsuccessfully for the wicket of Altona's Aaron Maynard on Saturday. Picture: MARK WILSON

they had to have a crack. “I think we had them 4-81 off 46 (overs) at tea, so it was always going to be tough to chase those runs down with us being able to push the field back.”

Tim O'Brien was the star of the opening day for the Tigers, thumping an unbeaten 122 after his side slipped to 4-64.

It was O'Brien's third ton since he joined Werribee at

the start of last summer. “Being 4-64, we were under the pump a little bit and he steadied the ship with Michael Freeman (57) and Adam Alifracco (34 not out),” Dean said of O'Brien.

“That was a knock when the game was in the balance and he dragged the game our way.”

Werribee will next meet Endeavour Hills in a one-day clash on Saturday.