

Sport

Quickshot 10 THE number of wins the great Dulcify had before breaking down in the 1979 Melbourne Cup. Trained by CS Hayes, he'd won the WS Cox Plate by seven lengths two weeks earlier. His other big-race wins included the 1978 Victoria Derby and the 1979 Australian Cup. Dulcify has a track named after him on the new album by Australian eight-piece band Halfway.

SUB-DISTRICT CRICKET

Tigers look to hit back after losses

BUT WERRIBEE GOES INTO QUALIFYING FINAL WITH THE MINOR PREMIERSHIP

Luke D'Anello

WERRIBEE will enter this week's finals fresh from successive losses after falling to a six-run defeat in its top-of-the-table clash against Bayswater on Saturday.

The Tigers looked to be cruising at 5-148 in reply to the Waters' 6-160 at Chirnside Park.

But the dismissal of the in-form Tim O'Brien for 78 triggered a remarkable collapse as the Sub-District Cricket ladder-leader lost 5-6 to be rolled for 154.

But despite losses against Oakleigh and Bayswater in the final two rounds, Werribee finished on top of the ladder and will tackle Altona at home this weekend.

"We were in control and lost our way late," Werribee president Ivo Havard said.

"Our bowling and fielding was quite good, so there were some good signs there, but the batting collapse was the dampener on the day.

"There were some silly shots that led to a collapse. It damaged us on the day, but it hasn't damaged our season and we still finished on top."

Heath Pritchard (2-18) and O'Brien (2-38) led the way with the ball for the Tigers, while Matthew Thomson

(1-22) and Adam Alifracco (1-34) were also tidy.

Pritchard has collected 41 scalps this summer, including five five-wicket hauls.

O'Brien is also experiencing a rich vein of form, hammering 106 not out, 69 not out and 78 in his past three innings. The right-hander has 487 runs at 60.9 to his name.

"He gets himself in and turns them into big scores. That's the way he operates," Havard said.

For just the third time in the club's history — and second year in a row — all four of Werribee's teams have qualified for finals.

"It's an exciting time for the club. Our depth is there and we think we'll go deep into finals with all the sides," Havard said.

Altona's Aaron Maynard, who has made three tons this season, looms as Werribee's biggest threat in the qualifying final.

"Our advantage is obviously playing at home. Chirnside Park has been pretty good to us the last couple of years," Havard said.

"They're a good unit, Altona, and we'll have our work cut out but we look forward to the challenge."



Heath Pritchard sends one down for Werribee on Saturday.

Picture: DAVID SMITH

TURF CRICKET

Flat Falcons flounder

WYNDHAM Vale's hopes of progressing to the Turf Cricket West B1 decider appeared doomed after the opening day of its semi-final against Sunshine Heights on Saturday.

The Falcons won the toss and batted first, but they lasted just 23 overs and were rolled for 21. No batsman managed double figures, with Adam Moscatiello top-scoring with five.

In reply, Sunshine Heights reached 8-113 at stumps, with the match set to conclude on Sunday (after deadline). Ryan Radford (3-29 from 16 overs), Jake Styles (3-38 from 15) and Adam Walls (2-16 from 10) worked tirelessly for the Falcons.

The other semi-final between Point Cook and Sunshine United was in the balance after day one. Batting first, Sunshine United compiled 192 before Point Cook reached 0-3 from two overs at the close.

WDCA CRICKET

Battle for Bellbridge

Cameron Magusic

BELLBRIDGE faces an uphill battle to qualify for the Williamstown and District Cricket Association A-Turf grand final after being out-classed on Saturday.

On day one of its semi-final against Grand United, the locals made just 141, with the Gorillas progressing to 2-63 at stumps. The match was set to finish on Sunday (after deadline).

Bellbridge appeared likely to make a big score at Hoppers Crossing's Mossfield Reserve before Matthew Frew (4-15) stood tall.

Frew had taken only one A-Turf wicket this season before Saturday, and Gorillas vice-president Darren Burnham praised his display.

"The boys really stuck it out. They kept the pressure on and that caused a turnaround in luck on our behalf," Burnham said.

In the other semi, West Newport was in a strong position after day one against Williamstown Colts at Greenwich Reserve.

The Lions crashed to 3-9 after nine overs before recovering to compile 9-262, with Colts bowler Tarlok Sangha (6-69) doing most of the damage.

West Newport captain Trent Jones (60) saved the day with his performance.

WILLIAMSTOWN AND DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Blow for 90-year-old competition

Luke D'Anello

UNCERTAINTY surrounds the future of the Williamstown and District Cricket Association, with two clubs set to switch to a different competition at season's end.

Williamstown Imperials and West Newport, two staples of the competition, have confirmed they will join the Turf Cricket competition next season.

Wyndham Vale and Deer Park-Ardeer — the winners of last year's A Turf and B Turf premierships — crossed over to the VTCA this summer.

Newport-Digman, Point Cook and Footscray ANA

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— Mark Keating, WDCA chairman.

have also left the competition in recent years.

WDCA chairman Mark Keating described the condition of the competition as “precarious”.

But he said the league, which is more than 90 years old, would remain intact next season with two turf grades of eight teams.

Grand United, Gellibrand,

Williamstown Colts, Melton Centrals, Melton South PSCC, Bellbridge, St Johns and Williamstown Congs are set to make up the turf competition in 2014-15, while the matting grades remain.

“We still think there's a future for the competition and we're going to have another crack,” Keating said.

“But it is getting harder

and harder. The perception is the VTCA is a better managed competition ... I think clubs are leaving also partly because the quality of the competition has perhaps gone down in recent years.

“You can't really argue with that, because some of our better clubs have left.

“But, as this year has shown, we've still got a competitive competition.

“It's turned out to be a more competitive competition than what people thought at the start of the year. We've also got new clubs coming in from mainly the Wyndham area ... that gives us a bit of hope.”

The league's finals started

at the weekend, with Bellbridge making the top four for the first time and Williamstown Colts, who have never qualified for the grand final, claiming the minor premiership.

The WDCA committee will meet the remaining clubs in coming weeks.

“We think there's a place for a local turf competition, which provides a good pathway for clubs who have just started to progress from synthetic to turf without having to jump to higher grades from the start,” Keating said.

Cricket Victoria is undergoing a review of turf cricket competitions.