



The Bear Pause

www.northsydney.baseball.com.au

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A2 Bears Lose A Close One In Flat Rock Opener

The A2s lined up for Winter 2006 with five players from many previous Winter A2 teams coupled with an influx of new talent from other parts of the club.

We also welcomed to Norths a player imported all the way from Italy, Nick Vadagnini. We are however, still without a regular starting pitcher.

Game 1 was vs Macquarie Uni, renowned heavy hitters. But Kristian Cruz from A1 took the new ball at Flat Rock and kept them swinging,

missing and scoreless for 2 innings, allowing only 1 hit, and then gave up only 1 run in the third. Meanwhile our batters piled on 4 runs in the first and we felt we were starting the season in fine style.

Joy was shortlived when the wheels fell off defensivley and offensively over the next three innings. Macquarie Uni's big men found their bats somewhere in the dugout and eventually sealed a 6-5 win with a 3-run homer into the bushes lining the centre field fence.

Chris Ahern played a blinder in his first game in A grade and was awarded MVP for the game.

On to Baulkham Hills and the search for our starting pitcher continues...



First baseman Steve Shirtliff holds a Macquarie Uni runner in early action.



Caught in a pickle! Billy Patterson had nowhere to go after getting caught off third base.



Shortstop Nick Vadagnini had a strong first game for the A2 Bears.



A1 manager Kristian Cruz filled in at pitcher for the A2s, keeping the Bears close.

Support The Bears In This Weekend's Games

A1 Bears v Rangers
Saturday at 2:45 pm — Northmead

A2 Bears v Baulkham Hills
Saturday at 12:30 pm — Northmead

B1 Bears v Greenway
Saturday at 2:45 pm — Flat Rock

B2 Bears v Five Dock
Saturday at 12:30 pm — Flat Rock

D1 Bears v Rangers
Sun at 2:45 pm — North Ryde RSL

F2 Bears v Macquarie Saints
Saturday at 12:30 pm — Flat Rock



New Bears Supporters Caps!!

In order to ensure those in the stands are not left out, we have created new caps for our supporters!

The caps are six panel cotton with Velcro adjustable clip and come in pink and blue. Cost is \$16.

Please forward all enquiries to Doc via email to darrenandsam@bigpond.com or pick one up at training.

Can You Believe This Guy?

BTW, what you are about to read I don't recommend anyone doing... Ever.

Anyways, I'm sure this is one of those stories I'll be telling for the rest of my life - A few years back we were all playing a game out the back of Bualkam Hills and man it was hot. (I don't think it was a must win, but when you've only won 2 or 3 games the whole season you start playing for something a little different then just a pennant, we all knew that... Crem knew that.)

We had 10 players (everybody batting) and up against the top place Knights. (We'd all been up playing poker till 6am that morning - which could be an augment of why we were 2 and 10 so far that season?) Anyways, Crem was moved from the outfield to second base in the top of the last (2 out). Very next batter, while making a diving stab on a sharply hit line drive Crem somehow managed to knock the ball down, save a run, and I'm sure if he'd gotten up would have for sure made easy out to end the inning. Unfortunately Crem didn't get up. Time was called, he got to his feet slowly while nursing his shoulder. He left the field. Very next pitch ground ball to Big Nick, out at 1st, we bat!

The bats started heating up, single, single, double, rbi, rbi, EVERYBODY BATS! We where just mashing 'em, everybody was. Then with 2 on (2B & 3B) 1 out it's Crem turn in the line up, (because we batted everybody and had no reserves it was either bat him or take the automatic out) hardly able to lift the bat let alone swing it Crem walks out of the dug out. "Wait minute!" everyone shouts, "where are you going?" "To bat" says Crem. We call time, have a POW WOW and try and talking him out of it. Once we realised this is pointless and we suggested he just stand in there and see if he can't sap a walk. Crem decides he'll squeeze the runner home with a bunt. Killer!

Crem steps to the plate - Pitch 1 - Bunt Foul (the pitcher *knew* he was injured, everyone knew he was injured so all he was trying to do was not issue a walk and fog it past him) - Pitch 2 - Bunt Foul (ok 2 strikes on the batters



Sixty Seconds With...

Paul Cremin

Nickname: Crem, Captain

Position:

As and where required, Catcher

Age: 36

Occupation:

Research Trainer/Reconteur

Seasons with the Bears: 4

Scouting Report

(completed by Coach):

Crem dela crem swings a mean stick, dangerous from anywhere in the order (hell, he's even dangerous in the on deck circle.) but make a mistake meat, throw one down the pipe, it's gonna get, going, going, gone...

Although Crems position by "trade" is behind the plate, in the field he's got some of the safest hands in the biz. Week in, week out, Crem's going to come up with two or three big time plays a game. Bank on it. Behind the plate's no different, he controls the tempo well, understands unique situational plays and adjust to them. Base-stealers beware, I've seen him drop a seed on many a would-be runner. If he stays healthy, he's always a candidate for MVP.

what he going to do? Turns out it's the opposite of what everyone including the pitcher/catcher where thinking. I mean 2 strikes, busted shoulder what would you do?) - Pitch 3 - Textbook Bunt (fair). Runner breaks for the plate, Crem breaks for 1st, pitcher and catcher lose their minds, crowd goes nuts! 1 run scores, Crem beats out the throw which travels over his head, next runner comes home. Crem now on second base! Umpire calls time "Hey fella, you need a runner?" Crem holding his should shakes his head "NO" - We drag



Value to the Bears

(completed by Coach):

Besides being a big time player he's also a stand up guy who approaches every game with a whole lot of a heart. I got to say he's one of those guys who plays to win, has a lot of fun doing it and leaves it all on the field.

Most embarrassing moment in a Bears uniform:

Was off the field... when I spilt some drinks on a lady at Bar Cleveland, I had my Bears top on at the time. Wasn't great PR for the club... but she was wearing a white shirt.

Best Bears Moment:

It felt pretty good when we took the field in the B2 Grand Final for the season just finished.

Favorite celebrity/athlete:

Dennis Lillie, Dennis Eckersley

Dream Car:

'74 GTS Monaro with fully comp insurance

Biggest Regret: None

him from the field. Crem gets a runner.

Later that evening x-rays revealed a nasty break. Crem now out for 4-6 weeks. That season Crem was leading our team in average, OBP, slugging RBI, you name it. The time off injured saw Big Nick take the batting title but after the Christmas break Crem made a last dash to regain it and fell short by slightest of margins.

Value to the bears? Easy. Tough as nails, guts and a whole lot of a heart.

2006 Baseball Party In The Gold Coast

Guess what time it is gang?! It's Queensland baseball trip time (woohoo). This time round we are taking a group of 18-20 as it is a double bachelor party for Kristian 'KC' Cruz and Michael 'Big Papa' Hagarty. Everyone in the club knows these guys so come on up and help celebrate there last days of unmarried lives. Plans are to leave Wednesday 6th September evening time and back on Sunday 10th September mid afternoon time.

Friday is a baseball day with an inter-club game played in the afternoon and from this game a 'best of the best' team will be picked from our two bachelors to play against The University Of Queensland in the evening. The rest of us will be sitting in the stands with a can of KB in one hand and a snag in the other all the while heckling our own on the field.

I will be expecting a minimum of 18 people to be enjoying the surf, sand and sights of Surfers Paradise. As this is the case some people will have there own single beds but for the majority will be sharing a double bed with one of your teammates 'bonding'.

I have chosen The Towers of Chevron Renaissance as our choice of accommodation as I believe it will suit all of our needs if we are let back in. Feel free to look it up on the internet. www.chevronrenaissance.com.au

The hotel has full recreation facilities including a fully equipped gym, heated 25 m lap pool and health spa pavilion, poolside barbecue and entertainment area, private club and theatre rooms, saunas and spa.

Prices are as of Monday 27th February

Accommodation:	\$218.00
Flights:	\$168.00
Transport:	\$ 54.00
Field:	\$ 30.00
Total:	\$470.00

Get your names in now as these prices will not stay this low for long. Get back to me at cliffvillarroel@hotmail.com

D1 A's... A Different Brand Of Ball

(D2 management has decided to change the name of players to protect their anonymity and my talent pool. MLB has restricted photos through copyright.)

Even though it seems like the trade deadline hasn't passed, a nearly full strength D1 Athletic Bears went into Saturday afternoon's match-up with the Macquarie Saints looking for a good start to the season. The shenanigans of Thursday night's winter meetings couldn't have been further from the front of GM Billy Beane's mindset come game time. The only problem facing Beane is the wait for injured outfielder/first baseman Nick Swisher to return.

First off, a big 'goodonya' has to go to Matt Watson who showed up early to play centrefield for our minor league affiliate North Ryde RSL Rams.

For the D1's the match provided a good, yet unconvincing victory. Offense from both sides was fairly weak and the game was determined by the pitchers and fielding of both sides. New acquisitions Milton Bradley and Frank 'the Big Hurt' Thomas had immediate impacts on the game with Bradley grabbing two flyballs in left and Thomas scoring two runs.

Dan Johnson had a return to form

B1s Start Season With A Tough Lesson At The Hands Of Hills Hawks

The winter season is now underway with the B1 Bears taking on familiar faces from Hills Hawks at BOP.

It was a tough day for the Bears, with the free-swinging Hawks keeping the ball in play and generating 17 unanswered runs in the first 2 innings. Despite this, the Bears held their heads up and got stuck into the relief pitcher to add 7 runs in the final dig, for a 17-7 result.

The game MVP was Takuro who was solid at SS and LF, taking a trademark sliding catch in the 3rd inning that re-energised the Bears for their 4th inning rally. Spud, Bruce and Doc

making all three outs at first in the fourth inning and got on base three from three including a walk to lead off the game winning rally in the top of the fifth.

In the fourth, after a tough game staring into the sun at McAfee Pioneer Park, Mark Ellis and Bobby Kielty were replaced by Marco Scutaro and Jay Payton. For the first game since he joined the club Eric Chavez didn't have one ball hit to him all game.

Mark Kotsay had a good day at the plate with a BB and HBP, but had a tough first outing in centre with the sun. Payton went on to "knock-in" the game winning runs with a Willy Mays Hayes style hit ricocheting off home plate followed by an error that cleared the bases.

The pitching corps were the stars of the show with Joe Blanton pitching 4 innings of 4 hit ball, striking out 2 and only walking 1. Lefty Ron Flores was called out of the bullpen to close out the game in the fifth. After struggling with location and walking the bases loaded, Flores settled down and through some inspired catching from Jason Kendall he managed to retire the side with only one run scoring. Bobby Crosby and Scutaro were unlucky not to turn a sharp double-play, but Flores followed with two strike-outs to end the match.

Field Manager Ken Macha was very impressed with the 7-4 win and hopes it is the beginning of a successful season chasing the pennant.

pitched without luck, with 8 unearned runs proving a decisive factor.

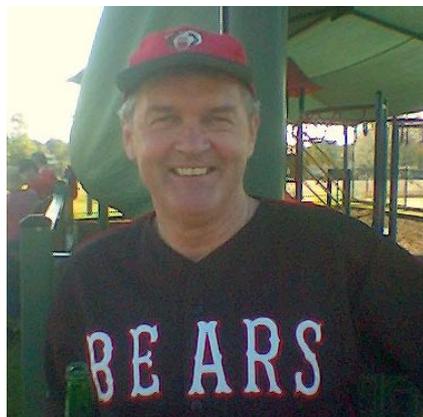
Spud returned to form with the bat, with a 3 run RBI and his first walks in almost a year. RBI's from Bruce, Craig and Ichiro kept the score ticking at the death.

The dummy-spit tally is led by Scott, with Spud getting a half-point for the glare at the Hawks dugout as a result of a steal at 17-0 that led to lots of name-calling and swinging of handbags from the Hawks.

Plenty of work for us to do, but looking forward to next week.

F-Troop Goes Down Swining, 21-16 To Ryde Eastwood

Rather than dwell on what might have been it is good to dwell on some of the personalities and stars of F-Troop. First our batting was well placed as everyone got into the action.



No more so than Arthur “Slugger” Richardson (above) who may soon be embarking upon his professional baseball debut after hitting a two-out grand slam homerun in the first inning. Life may begin for some at 40, but for the 58 year-old Arthur, a seasoned Bears vet, his baseball life was reignited as this was his first ever homerun. No doubt the left-handed Arthur was assisted by a short right field fence at the infamous Ryde RSL ballpark, but in my view it was a keeper all the way.

It seems that the ‘distinguished’ generation of payers that Arthur belongs to is also populated with other well known long serving Bears. Among them is Dave Watt who was coaxed out of a pre-mature retirement by yours truly as the team needed his expertise to help train us less experienced souls. Dave sets the example by rarely missing a practice and when he is there he is always willing to help develop the team’s skills. He also contributes on the field and his razor sharp reflexes at second base on the day was a fine example of is craft.



Speaking of craft we also have the crafty Al Clinch (above) who again is a member of the ‘distinguished’ generation (a 45 year veteran of the game). Al came in and gave a fine performance on the mound after yours truly couldn’t find the strike zone for love or money, pitching two solid innings before the ball didn’t bounce his way anymore. After he game during the amber liquid fuelled strategy session he realised that seats were in short supply. So being the gentleman he is, he promptly retrieved two milk crates from his vehicle and a pillow for seats, one crate for him-self and the other with the pillow for the lovely Sam Llewelyn (below) so she could rest her weary bones after a long day at the office with a sold performance at first base.



In addition to our ‘distinguished’ generation we also have a few younger players returning to the baseball fold.



One of them is Chris Emmons (above), a native of Kentucky, who is returning to baseball after a 12 year absence. Unfortunately for Chris he damaged a quad in practice and was sidelined for what should have been his debut for the Bears.

But the Bears team spirit got hold of him and he still showed up ready to support the team, so I put him to work as a scorer and he did a fine job, considering he had never scored before (thanks also to the other teams scorer for the help as well). In the post match strategy session Chris took his rightful place among the team, many of whom he had really just met for the first time and is a fine addition to the Bears fraternity. Hope the quad improves quickly mate.

To the rest of the team, good effort on the day, even though we were on the wrong end of the score. Better luck next week I guess.

A1s Get A Spanking From Young Guns Of Macquarie Uni

It was a long day at Flat Rock for the A1s. The tough hitters of the Macquarie University squad showed no mercy, giving starting pitcher Rick Speciale

little room for error. Spesh pitched a strong game, striking out several batters with the high heat, but the hanging curveball and too many innings on the mound eventually chased Speciale from the mound.

Lack of support from the bats left Rick and the A2s down 8-1 after just 2 innings. But the Bears management did get a good look at new addition, Yui, who delivered the Bears only RBI and

claimed his ownership of centerfield with a laser throw to the plate to cut down a speedy Macquarie runner. Simon Letchford came on for some solid relief and Dan Pearson showed flashes of brilliance with a couple of nice putouts. Final score: 11-1

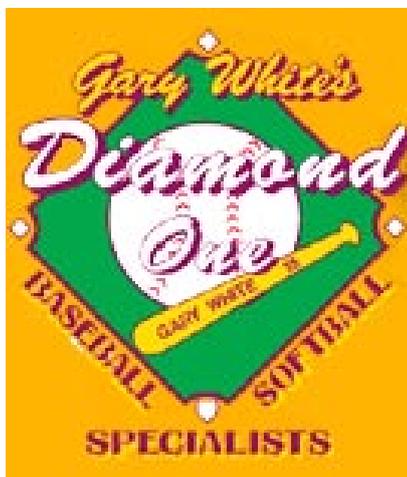
Obviously not the stellar beginning the Bears were hoping for, but next week it’s on to the Rangers, who promise a closer contest. (see pics on last page)



Bears centerfielder Yui gets "five" for his RBI single against Macquarie University.



A1 catcher Jim Strachan takes a mighty cut at a Macquarie curveball. You can guess what happened... Strachan filled in for Paul Cremin who missed the game due to illness.



Call 02 9524 1005 or visit www.diamondone.com.au

Pacific Coast Baseball League Inc.

2006 Winter Competition

A Firsts Grade				Rd 1			
TW	LW	Team		W	D	L	Ave
1	1	Macquarie University		1	0	0	1.000
2	2	North Ryde RSL		1	0	0	1.000
3	3	Castle Hill 1		1	0	0	1.000
4	4	Castle Hill 3		0	0	1	.000
5	5	North Sydney Lgs		0	0	1	.000
6	6	Rangers		0	0	1	.000

A Seconds Grade				Rd 1			
TW	LW	Team		W	D	L	Ave
1	1	Baulkham Hills		1	0	0	1.000
2	2	Macquarie University		1	0	0	1.000
3	3	Castle Hill 3		1	0	0	1.000
4	4	Castle Hill 1		0	0	1	.000
5	5	North Sydney Lgs		0	0	1	.000
6	6	Rangers		0	0	1	.000

B Firsts Grade				Rd 1			
TW	LW	Team		W	D	L	Ave
1	1	Hills Hawks		1	0	0	1.000
2	2	Kuringai Stealers		1	0	0	1.000
3	3	Castle Hill		1	0	0	1.000
4	4	Kissing Point		0	0	1	.000
5	5	North Sydney Lgs		0	0	1	.000
6	6	Greenway		0	0	1	.000

B Seconds Grade				Rd 1			
TW	LW	Team		W	D	L	Ave
1	1	North Ryde RSL		1	0	0	1.000
2	2	Castle Hill		1	0	0	1.000
3	3	Macquarie University		0	0	1	.000
4	4	Five Dock Falcons		0	0	1	.000
5	5	North Sydney Lgs		0	0	0	#####
6	6	BYE		0	0	0	#####

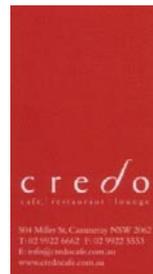
D Firsts Grade				Rd 1			
TW	LW	Team		W	D	L	Ave
1	1	Rangers		1	0	0	1.000
2	2	Ryde Eastwood Lgs		1	0	0	1.000
3	3	North Sydney Lgs		1	0	0	1.000
4	4	Greenway		0	0	1	.000
5	5	Macquarie Saints		0	0	1	.000
6	6	Kissing Point		0	0	1	.000

F Seconds Grade				Rd 1			
TW	LW	Team		W	D	L	Ave
1	1	Balmain		1	0	0	1.000
2	2	Ryde Eastwood Lgs		1	0	0	1.000
3	3	Five Dock Falcons		1	0	0	1.000
4	4	Epping Eastwood		0	0	1	.000
5	5	Macquarie Saints		0	0	1	.000
6	6	North Sydney Lgs		0	0	1	.000

Please Support The Businesses That Support The Bears



www.ichotelsgroup.com



In The Next Issue:

Want to submit something for the Bear Pause?

Please submit all materials before EOD Wednesday to this email address:

Submissions: bearpause@optusnet.com.au

The Unofficial Rag of North Sydney Bears Baseball

