

Win Two Baseball Premieriaships

Essendon baseballers won two premierships on Saturday. The "A" Grade, coming from behind, beat St. Kilda 7-5 and won their first pennant in this section. The Seconds beat Prahran 6-5 in an exciting game at Como Park.

MAJOR "A" Line-up: Jones (P.), Booker (C.), R. Straw (1st), C. Smith (2nd), L. Straw (3rd), R. Smith (S.S.), Tyshing (L.F.), Morrison (C.F.), Brady (R.F.).

Cec. Smith led off for the Dons, but Bacon for the Saints was on the beam and Smith was kd. Ross Straw walked, Tyshing flied out to second, and Morrison, after hitting seven fouls, hit deep to left for side away.

St. Kilda, after being three up, three down in the first, rattled the Dons in the second. Mathers hit to centre, then Satori lined one past second. A wild pitch sent them to 2nd and 3rd with none down. Jones was unsettled, and as Moger hit back to him he seemed lost and let Moger make first to fill the bags. Mason kd., and then Schonfelder hit to Brady to score two runs. Moger scored the third when Brown hit to second. Three runs and one down, Bacon walked, and Jones knuckled down, struck out Winfield, and Black flied out to centre.

The second for the Dons saw Brady and L. Straw out when Hockey Smith walked, but was out on the steal to second.

Satori for St. Kilda hit a clinker to deep left, which Tyshing made a remarkable effort to hold, but it got away and Satori went to third. Moger tried to score him, but Jones threw to Booker at the plate to put Satori out for two down. Mason made side away when he hit to "Lofty" Straw at first.

The Dons broke the ice in the third with two down. Cec. Smith walked, and with a smashing hit over centre's head by Ross Straw, Smith scored and Straw went to third.

UMPIRE'S DECISION

Pandemonium reigned in the fourth. Schonfelder swung on a wild pitch for a DTS, then Brown hit to third for an error. Bacon then hit to right, and on a wild return by Brady, Schonfelder scored. When Winfield hit through the diamond, Bacon was given out when he interfered with Hockey Smith trying to field the ball.

The umpire's decision was hotly disputed by the Saints.

The second run came from a fast ball that got away from Booker, and the Saints had a commanding lead 5-1.

The Dons were trying hard, but the fourth innings saw 3 up, 3 down.

In the fifth Moger hit off for the Saints, but a lovely peg from Booker to Hockey Smith had him cold at second. The next two batters were up and down.

The Dons drew closer in the sixth. Morrison flied out on a long hit to centre, Brady forced second into error. Then L. Straw hit to right, where Satori with a risky one-handed pick-up, held the advance to one base.

Unlucky Hockey Smith slammed one between left and centre for three bases, scoring 2 runs, and on a very poor decision by the line umpire put him out.

The Saints' seventh had the Saints' heavy hitters up in Black, Mathers and Satori. Black struck out, Mathers hit to short to be out at first, and Satori flied to short. The lead was reduced to 5-4.

The Dons half saw some fine team batting. Jones led off, and both the pitcher and second base fumbled to let him on. C. Smith kd. and R. Straw flied to centre for two down. Tyshing walked, and first and second were occupied. Morrison made the best of the opportunity with a beautiful hit right over centre field for three bases, and the Dons were in front. Another error by short when Brady hit scored Morrison, and the Dons had a lead of two runs.

The Saints found it hard, and it was three up and three down again in the eighth.

Bacon was taken out and replaced by Moger. R. Smith flied to short stop. Booker hit hard to second, who was coming in fast and fumbled. Jones sacrificed him to second. With two down, C. Smith walked, and R. Straw hit high for second to make side away.

TACTICS BY SAINTS

St. Kilda were up for the last time, and tactics were called for. Crawford replaced Brown and walked after the full count, and was immediately changed at first base for a fast runner. The substitute stole second, Bacon walked and Winfield flied to Morrison for the first out.

On a ball that troubled Booker they pulled off the double steal, and the Dons were in a spot. Black swung on one that went high for a foul for L. Straw to make the second out. Essendon's stocks were high with one to go, Mathers, quite determined, hit hard and high to centre. Morrison was going back, and when it appeared to be going over, Morrison stuck up the glove to hold the fly. The game was over, and Essendon were "A" grade premiers for the first time.

Morrison deserves a mention for his fielding three flies, including the all-important one at the end of the game and his timely three-base hit to put the Dons in front.

Safe Hits: "Hockey" Smith 2, C. Smith, R. Straw, L. Straw, K. Morrison and F. Jones, 1 each. **Pitching:** Jones (Ess.), 9 Inns., 6 Ks. 4 BBs 7 Hits; Bacon (St.K.), 7 Inns. 5 Ks. 4 BBs. 7 Hits; Moger (St.K.), 1 Inns. — Ks. 1 BBs. — Hits. Errors: Essendon 2, St. Kilda 5.

MAJOR "A1"

Line-up: Sharp (P.), Ludviksen (C.), Wood (1st), Yates (2nd), Durant (3rd), Maher (S.S.), Morris (L.F.), Griffiths (C.F.), Glanville (R.F.).

Essendon, batting first, led off with Glanville, who walked. Morris kd. and Yates hit to left for two bags to score Glanville. Yates was trapped between the bags, but when the ball got away he ran home.

Prahran failed to score in their first dig, and the Dons were back just as quickly in their second, and then Prahran scored two.

Both pitchers were on top, neither side could hit, although the Dons were getting a piece of the opposition they could not lob them safely.

In the fourth innings the Dons went to town with the short game. After Yates was out Maher hit to third, who threw wild, and Maher advanced to third base. Durant squeezed him across the plate. Woods hit to centre, who muffed the fly. Durant scored when third threw Griffiths' hit into the ground at first. Sharp scored the next run with a soft bunt down to third, and Prahran were completely lost with the fast scoring of the Dons. At the end of the innings the Dons led 6-2.

The Dons petered out after the sizzling display, and for the next five innings it was three up and three down. Prahran added one in the eighth.

Excitement ran high in the ninth as Prahran adopted a do-or-die attitude. Coulson bunted the first pitch, which found the Dons flat-footed, and he stole second and third. Slade walked and went to second with none down. Harding hit up in the air and Yates, running back deep, took a remarkable fly, and Coulson beat the throw back to home for one run.

King struck out for two down, Boulton walked to put the equaliser on bases. With first and third occupied, Bolton stole second, and when Ludviksen threw over Slade stole home, and Prahran were only one run down. A wild pitch put Boulton on third.

What a game! two down, the equalising run on third in the last innings. Fowler, who hit for two bases last time up, was at the plate. It looked like a repeat performance with a long hit going high to right field, but Glanville was under it and the Dons had won.

Safe Hits: Yates and Sharp, 1 each. **Pitching:** Sharp (Ess.), 12 Ks. 12 BBs. 3 Hits; King (Prahr.), 9 Ks. 1 BBs. 2 Hits. Errors: Essendon 1, Prahran 3.

With two premierships up, it is up to the thirds to complete a treble next Saturday in their grand final against Fitzroy, and all baseball fans will wish them the best of luck and so make the season of 1955 a record one for Essendon.

Essendon Takes Baseball Title

Essendon staged a brilliant recovery, after being four runs behind, to score six runs in three innings and beat St. Kilda in the Major A baseball grand final on Saturday.

The Saints nearly saved the game in a thrilling finish.

With two out and two on bags, Bob Mathers crashed the ball deep to centre field for a likely homer, but Ken Morrison took a superb catch to clinch the game for Essendon.

St. Kilda led off when Frank Jones started erratically for the Dons and, bunching the hits, scored three runs in the second innings. Clicking again in the fourth, the Saints ran to a 5-1 lead.

Then Jones tightened his pitching, while the Dons began to see Bacon better. After scoring a run in the fifth, the Dons swung into form for two more in the sixth and three in the seventh.

They knocked Bacon out of action. He was replaced by Moger, who curbed the batters, but the damage was done.

It was in the ninth and last innings that Mathers nearly batted in three runs to give his side back the lead. But, Morrison's great catch meant the Dons did not have to bat again.

MAJOR A—Grand Final: St. Kilda, 030, 200, 000—5; Essendon, 001, 012, 30—7. **Safe Hits:** Essendon: R. Smith (2), C. Smith, R. and L. Straw, Morrison, Jones, St. Kilda: Satori (2), Mathers, Moger, Schonfelder.

MAJOR A1—Essendon 6 d. Prahran 5.

MAJOR A2—Fitzroy 15 d. Melbourne 4.

MAJOR B—Collingwood 6 d. Footscray 4.

MAJOR B1—Collingwood 11 d. Newport 5.

MAJOR B2—Collingwood 6 d. Caulfield 3.