



PRAHRAN ARTICLES

The Prahran Telegraph Saturday 17 July 1897

BASEBALL

The Hawksburn played Prahran (the infants in the baseball world) at Toorak park last Saturday. The juniors were clean out of the hunt and were defeated 32 runs to 1. Only five innings were played, owing to the heavy rain that set in.

The Prahran Telegraph Saturday 7 August 1897

The Hawksburn met the Prahran last Saturday at Toorak Park. In the absence of Ivo Evans and Shand, J. O'Connor filled up the team and acquitted himself favorably, but must crush his propensity for getting on too much steam on the bases. The Prahran were quite outclassed and had no show at all. Jones was in good form pitching and George Lowe behind was good. The Hawkes made very few errors but on the other hand their opponents gave away a lot of runs by over anxiety, thereby losing their heads and doing the wrong thing.

Scores were: Hawksburn 39 Prahran 1.

The Prahran Telegraph 15 May 1909

Baseball

The Prahran nine met St Kilda on Saturday last and after leading at the end of the fourth innings were defeated by a run, only five innings were played on account of the rain.

Jones and Blackie formed the battery for Prahran, whilst Bowden, Crawford and Rennie were the best batsmen.

Christie at first base took two good files and Crawford at third took one but the latter's ground fielding leaves some room for improvement. Bowden on second was clever. For St Kilda Grant and Smith formed a good battery. Grant pitching very well. Keaney (first base) Atkinson and Ainslie were the in the field whilst Smith Atkinson an Clapham were best with the bat.

Prahran play Fitzroy today at Toorak Park. Prahran team: Jones, Blackie, Elmsie, Bowden, Brown, Crawford, Rennie, Wilson, Jordon, Cohen, Collie.

The Referee Sydney Wednesday 29 April 1914

THE PROSPECTS IN VICTORIA

It is generally admitted, says Mr. C. Sellar, secretary of the Victorian League, that last season was the best in the history of the game for Melbourne and the prospects in 1914 are even brighter. The visit of the American teams (Chicago White Sox and New York Giants) was of no doubt great value to the game in Victoria. An extensive publicity campaign was carried on, and thousands who practically knew nothing about it are now conversant with and appreciate the fine points of the game. It remains for the Victorian League to keep the converts interested and in a short while the game may, as a result, progress considerably. Most of the club contests are played in front of the big football matches and this has been a big factor in popularizing baseball. Where 'ball is played before football quite a large crowd turns up early to see the baseballers and evidence of surprising interest in the swingers of the ash.

To push the game the League must have money, but until baseball can command a following of its own; and control some of the local playing areas as is the case with the New South Wales Association it cannot hope to. The League is in funds to the extent of \$24, which is not very comforting, seeing that a team has this season to visit Sydney. Last season there were 36 teams in three grades and on Saturday last, when the season opened, 40 clubs were seen in action. For many years the Melbourne Club has

dominated, having won the 'A' grade premiership in seven consecutive years. Out there are signs that this season the other teams will be strong enough to overthrow the champions.

Every encouragement is given to the school boys by the State Schools Association and ten teams (probably more) will compete for the Frank Laver Shield. The number could easily double if sufficient coaches were available to help the lads.

The Americans who saw the boys play, considered them equal to the American lads of equal age. So much was Mr Chas Cominsky the owner of the White Sox impressed with the youths play and the possibilities that he sent eight complete boys' outfits from America to with the intimation that more would be forwarded if required. This should be a great help to fostering the game in the schools.

A meeting was recently convened with the object of forming a Military Baseball Association and the support accorded gave every indication that success would follow the efforts of the conveners.

VICTORIAN SEASON OPENS

The season commenced on Saturday in pleasant weather. The A Grade results were: Collingwood (5) beat Carlton (2), St Kilda (8) beat Northcote (2), Williamstown (7) beat South Melbourne (3) **Prahran** (8) beat East Melbourne (7) Melbourne (6) beat Fitzroy (3).



The Age (Melbourne) Monday 30 August 1915

SATURDAY'S SPORT SIDELIGHTS AND INCIDENTS

There is little doubt that Prahran is quite entitled to claim premiers of the Baseball League, they having defeated Williamstown and Northcote in the semi finals stages and in the grand final against Williamstown on Saturday played on the Prahran ground their battery work, batting and fielding, being superior to that of their opponents,

Since Gray has occupied the pitching duties for Prahran the team has progressed rapidly able support also is being given by by such competent all round players (Blackie, Brown, Cusdin, and Garkee, well known cricketers) Unfortunately for Williamstown ,

Smith has lost a great deal of his pace and, not with standing accurate battery support by Hindson the opposition batsman were too consistent in their efforts against the attack.

Serviceable batting was produced by Carpenter and Williams for the seaside team with Gould, Pilling and Connery working hard in the field, but their efforts were unable to check Prahran who won by 10 runs to 4. The Union grand final game between Melbourne and Collingwood will be played next Saturday.

The Age (Melbourne) Monday 2 October 1916





BASEBALL PRAHRAN PREMIERS

The final game of the season to decide first position in the competition conducted by the Victorian Baseball League was won by Prahran., which team showed marked superiority against Northcote on the Malvern Ground on Saturday.

Nelson who pitched for St Kilda (Union) team in previous seasons has been the dominating factor in the hollow victories secured by Prahran in the final round of matches, few opponents having any idea of connecting with his deliveries. Fourteen Northcote batters struck out two were passed to first or the initial sack. During the whole game only two northern runners reached second but got no further.

It was not that Nelson was ending along anything out of the ordinary, Batters swung late at his fast ball, backed away from his curve coming over the plate or half - heartedly waved the bat at a decided out curve. In the opening stages Brown the Northcote pitcher was dubious as to whether his arm would stand the strain ; but before he had realized that he could whether the storm opposing batters had taken advantage of his anxiety and accumulated a comfortable lead. He pitched with greater success in the concluding innings securing 7 strikeouts altogether.

Carkeck again led the batting for Prahran with Brown and Thompson also rendering effective service with the stick, whilst Blackie Kellet Wolfe and Harris by excellent work in the field contributed towards the victory. Brown and Thompson are credited with the hits secured by Northcote. In the attack Brown did splendidly and received fair support, but little encouragement from his catcher. Thomson, Begg, Bailey Gibaud and Richardson were successful defensive players for the northerners.

Scores: Prahran 8 runs Northcote 0

Umpires W Bowes and W.G. Porter.

Time of Game 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Disbanded due to the First World War.

The image shows the "Rustlers" logo in a stylized, cursive blue font with a yellow outline.



1926

Prahran Club reformed by Ted Greenwood, with most of the players coming from the Prahran Cricket Club and Melbourne High School. From the late 1920's Herb Raphael became involved and played a prominent role as a talent scout.

1930s

Prahran fielded 3 senior teams and dominated the Metropolitan Division of the VBA competition in the years prior to the Second World War appearing in 9 consecutive Grand Finals. The Firsts won consecutive premierships 1934, 1935, 1936, as well as flags in 1938, 1939 and 1941 before suspending operations for the duration of the Second World War.

In 1933 with Charlie Bolton as captain, Prahran finished runners up to Northcote even though pitcher Les Cheong struck out 133 hitters in 152 innings and batted .379.

In 1934 Prahran defeated Northcote for the premiership as Jack Middleton, a slow right arm curve ball pitcher (58 strike-outs) joined Les Cheong (82 strikeouts) on the mound. Catcher Jack Ferguson and first baseman Jeff Phillips lead a strong defence.

In 1935 Jack Middleton struck-out 129 batters in 154.2 innings and wins a 17 innings marathon 5-3 against Kew, allowing only 6 hits and just 2 batters to reach first base after the 9th innings.

Third baseman Merv Simpson makes a triple play in the 1935 Grand Final win against Caulfield.

PRAHRAN 1935 –





BASEBALL HOMERS

Batters In Great Form

By Ern Corley

ALL teams with weak pitching staffs suffered defeats last Saturday, when most of the heavy sluggers wielded heavy clubs to the tune of many homers. All the best batters in the League seemed to have struck top form at the same time. Several teams were unfortunate in having their best pitcher out of action; their weak reserves had to face hot barrages in each case.

IN each of two games three homers were batted out. Although Footscray were beaten by Carlton, they registered enough big hits to win any game. Corby and Duncan rapped homers, while White (2) and Curwood scored triples off De Gruchy, who once again had to pitch for Carlton. The Blues were also busy collecting hits with Denison (2), De Gruchy (2) and Egan (homers) in the van.

University tried Duckett in the box to start their game against Fitzroy, but Beaworden and Connor had to be called upon to try to stem the tidal wave unleashed by the Fitzroy batters. Nothing could stop the Maroons, and they put up the record score of 24. Joe Plant was in deadly form, his first two hits being homers. Howard Parkin also completed the circuit with a clean hit. The Students' only resistance came in the fourth innings, when they batted out six hits and scored five runs. But without Anderson in the box University were outclassed. Alan Logan registered his third successive win for Fitzroy.

Although Melbourne are winning games they are not playing in anything like last season's premiership form. Their strength lies almost entirely in their battery, Les Cheong and Stan Quin. The former played great ball on Saturday, pitching well, playing his position expertly, and capped this by getting four hits.

Collingwood have broken the ice—and at St. Kilda's expense! The Saints were outplayed everywhere. I mentioned previously that the Magpies would win when they changed their infield. This they did on Saturday, playing "Jumbo" James at second base. The lad immediately made good. He did his part also with the bat, hitting on. Paterson and ...

a Marathon winning game, and now he has a "no hit" game to his credit. Jack Ferguson, his battery partner, is also the Metropolitan's crack catcher, and both are having a good season. The latter had the misfortune to twist his ankle on Saturday after he had got three hits.

Western Australia seems anxious to get Victorian baseballers to help push the game along in the West. The latest to find jobs there are Bill Lynch (St. Kilda) and Bill Bruce (baseball's broadcaster and publicity officer). They sail by the Manunda on June 9.

The Carlton Baseball Club is giving "Dinger" Bell a big night at the home of Bill Ennis next Saturday, when they will present their popular pitcher with a wedding gift.

It has been decided to form a baseball school of coaches. Applications will be called from the senior playing members, and from these a coach-in-chief will be appointed to take charge.

PREMIERSHIP LIST

Teams	Runs For.	Runs Against	Pos.
RICHMOND	30	7	10
MELBOURNE	28	19	8
CARLTON	36	19	8
FITZROY	45	24	6
St. Kilda	22	15	6
North Melbourne ..	32	23	6
Hawthorn	26	26	4
Essendon	17	26	4
Collingwood	13	23	2
Footscray	23	46	2
University	18	40	2
South Melbourne ..	9	25	10

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The Argus 7 September 1936

METROPOLITAN DIVISIONAL FINALS

A SECTION

Prahran d. Brunswick 2 . Scoring it's only runs in the first innings Brunswick was out played by Prahran in the final game at Caulfield Park. Fielding and batting better Prahran did not let up all through the game and increasing it's total in almost every innings, won comfortably. Middleton and Ferguson formed an effective battery for the winners, the pitcher securing 8 scalps while Ferguson took some remarkable foul flies and never gave up in his attempts to catch some impossible hits. Ferguson (3 hits including 2 three baggers), Harris (2), Boulton, Chapman and Middleton shared the hits for Prahran and J. Carson, Simpson and Saxon were the only Brunswick batsmen to hit safely.

Phillips played a great game at first base for the winners and Thomas picked up smartly and threw accurately from shortstop. Boulton played his usual safe game at second base and the whole team pulled it's weight in winning another pennant. Andrews pitched well for Brunswick but his field let him down on several occasions which is disheartening to a pitcher. Carson gave great support in the mask and the best of the others were Mills, Potts and Simpson.

PRAHRAN VICTORIAN CHAMPIONS 1939





Metropolitan's Second Baseball Title

By ERN COWLEY

The Metropolitan Division won its second Victorian major baseball championship when Prahran defeated Carlton at Dandenong on Saturday. Once again the League batters succumbed to a pitcher who knew how to curve the ball. Prahran's pitcher, Jack Middleton, fooled the batters with slow outcurves and "gravity-drops," as did Charlie Scott in Brunswick's memorable victory over Fitzroy two years ago.

BASEBALL fans who travelled to Dandenong for the State title match saw the unusual spectacle of a League premier team playing second fiddle in a band of Victoria's best baseballers. The Metropolitan premier's leader, Jack Ferguson, called the tune all day, wielding a deleterious baton to the entire discomfiture of the Blues.

Ferguson's catching, batting and arm-club leadership were the outstanding features in a game that gave a minimum of latitude for mistakes. All the Blues' errors were costly, being fully capitalised by Prahran. The Middleton-Ferguson battery signals worked smoothly, keeping Carlton glued to the base, and the Prahran pitcher's control of slow outcurves had batters guessing all day. There may be little in Middleton's pitching to deceive good batters, but at least he knows that an outcurve should be pitched "low and outside," and has the control to execute his desires.

Prahran base-runners displayed judgment in stealing, which was made ridiculously easy by an almost entire lack of battery signals between Freer and Gilbert. The former lacked sparkle in his delivery, pitching at about three-quarter pace and sending them down warm-high. Five batters registered at least two hits apiece off Freer—far too many in a championship series.

Errand in battery work, batting, base-running and defence, the Metropolitan premiers thoroughly deserved their win, and really outplayed the League team. Carlton's defeat may be attributed mainly to ineffective batting, lack of battery signals, certain other infield weaknesses,

and, maybe, taking the opposition too cheaply in the early stages.

There has been some excellent baseball in the B Grade this season. Such augurs well for baseball in the immediate future. Collingwood II carried on from a magnificent premiership in their division by winning the Victorian minor championship. Malvern led in the early stages, but the Magpies scored five to nothing after the third frame, and won 7-2. With defence work fairly even, Collingwood's stronger batting and base-running won them the day.

Bill Harper this season completed his 25th year as scorer for Carlton. Bill is one of the best pencilers in the game, and he knows what 5-E3 or U3 means. His son, Keith, was one of Carlton's yeomen on Saturday.

BENEFIT DANCE

The Melbourne Baseball Club expect a bumper attendance at their dance at M.C.C. on Saturday, October 7, when the profits will be handed over to a fund to assist Les Cheong, who has not yet recovered from the leg injury he received over 12 months ago at the Perth baseball carnival. The dance coincides with the visit of the Monterey, and some of its crew will attend the function.

With better weather and firmer turf the V.B.A. will now have an opportunity to run-off their baseball field games contest against the Combined Universities of California, which were postponed from the Australian carnival, and several times since owing to the unusually wet season. It is likely that the events will be run off at the St. Kilda Cricket Ground within a fortnight, a tentative date being Tuesday, October 10, at 5.15 p.m.

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PRAHRAN BASEBALL CLUB

PREMIERS 1934-5-6-8-9

WINNERS of NUTTING and YOUNG CUP • R.R. HINDSON CUP

Back Row
L. Collins,
J. Phillips,
R. Chapman
G. Tamblyn
M. Simpson
D. Robins

Front Row
G. Harris
J. Middleton
(Captain)
H. Raphael
(President)
J. Ferguson
(V. Captain)
J. Coulson

Inset
C. Whitely
A. Lansdown
(Coach)



CHAMPIONS of VICTORIA 1939

Rustlers



Saturday 24 September 1949

Prahran's Pitcher Scott Swings Title Game

By Ern Crowley

Jimmy Scott won for Prahran its first "A" Section baseball premiership. He pitched winning ball throughout and ended as fast as he started. He curbed strong batters, and out pitched champion Tom Proctor, his opponent.

Naismith hit to left field, but Nagle hit straight to Tamblyn (2nd base) for a double play. Jeffreys hit to shortstop to "force" Smith who had walked at second. Hit and walk wasted.

Proctor fanned Coulson, but errors to Smith and Vinning left Wishart at the keystone – scoring position. He stole third base. Ferguson hit safely to left field and Wishart scored on Naismiths fumble. Ferguson "interfered" at shortstop and Hyland was outed at first. One hit, three errors, one run.

Porter neatly picked up a bad bounce for first out. Proctor line drove to the outfield. Vinning struck out and wild pitch sent Proctor to second, but Bowtell flied high to first base.

Prahran Forces

Hits to Porter and Sargent and a wild pitch sent in the second run. Proctor threw to the plate to get Sargent in the ' squeeze play". Prahran were forcing the pace.

Scott was also pitching well with more speed and better control than last week.

A "walk" and an error let Collingwood "in" with 2 down in the 2rd and Jeffreys also walked to fill the bases.

Porter (short-stop) fumbled Marx's grounder and Nagle came home. Proctor struck-out.

Proctor allowed two free passes in Prahran's third frame, but despite easy base stealing on Bowtell's weak throwing, they failed to score.

Scott was pitching better than Proctor at this stage and comfortably.

Vinning fanned again in the 4th. Rose hit to leftfield, but was wasted.

More Errors

A "walk" was as good as two bases to Prahran. Porter picked a pass and stole second base. Sargent hit to right field sending Porter to the far corner. None down! Anderson flied to the pitcher, who tried to get Porter but a wild heave let in the run. A smart double play shortstop to first base to catcher - kept down any further score. Smith set the Magpies off in the 5th with an outfield hit but weak batting followed.

Prahran also failed 1-2-3 with four pitched balls

Collingwood batted feebly in the 6th then Scott doubled to centre field to give Prahran a great start. Jeffreys let Porters drive through and the pitcher fumbled to let in Scott – another bad error.

Collingwood had the " big end" up in the 7th, but hey went the way of the tail enders as Scott continued to dominate the game.

Coulson "brought down the house" with a bare handed catch on Jeffrey's great hit to start eighth – it was gem.

Marx walked and stole second – Magpies finally steal – but Scott pitched grandly to deny Collingwood any runs.

In the last innings Bowlers hit safely and a pinch hitter was send in to replace Rose – he struck out – Naismith and Nagle flied out to centerfield, Scott threw Smith out at first for the final out.

Box Score

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Collingwood	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Prahran	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0		4

Safe Hits:

Prahran: Sargent 2, Ferguson , Porter

Collingwood: Naismith 2, Proctor, Rose , Smith, Bowtell





Rustlers



1950s

During the 1950s, football expanded and baseball was moved off the VFL and VFA grounds.

The Prahran Baseball Club was located at Como Park in South Yarra and was a regular contender in A Grade finals

Jack Wadsworth's performances in the Claxton Shield in 1950 earned him selection as No 1 pitcher in the International Australian selected at the end of the series.

Jack Ferguson captains Victoria to win the Claxton Shield in 1954 and is selected as captain of the International Australian side selected at the end of the series.

Col Hyland 3 times All Australian Right field for Claxton shield performances

1960s

Bruce Lines, Jim Bitzel, Brian Fowler, Collin Wale Gordon Lockhart Ted Wale, Norm Nancarrow, Bill Anderson, Ross Chapman, Alan Tanner Peter Finney and Paul Ferguson are selected to play for Victoria

The Prahran Club fielded 3 senior and a 3 junior teams. Under playing Manager and Club Coach Bill Anderson, the Firsts were Runners up to Essendon (6- 8) in 1968.

Bill Anderson retires as coach after 7 seasons and Collin Wale is appointed Club Coach and Manager of the First Nine in 1969.

Paul Ferguson is selected for U16, U18 All Star Australian Junior Teams and to Senior Australian teams to tour overseas to the Philippines and to Japan. The first in 1968.

PRAHRAN RELATIONSHIP WITH CHELTENHAM





May 3, 1963

NEW CATCHER PLAYS WELL

By "FUNGO"

Prahran's new catcher Charlie Siddle, from the Cheltenham Club, made a fine first appearance in the major league against Essendon in the season's first Sunday match at Ivanhoe last week.

His pegging to bases was strong and straight. He also hit a rightfield homer — one of two home runs hit in the opening round. Richie Copeland (Footscray) got the other.

The young Prahran battery will thoroughly test the Demons this week.

IMPROVED

Peter Finney, from Oakleigh, proved himself a star at centrefield for Prahran. Another to show out for Prahran was lead-off batter Bill Creighton from Dandenong.

Young pitcher Bruce Lines is playing brilliantly for Prahran and teaming well with new catcher Charlie Siddle.

They face a tough match against premiers Malvern.

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Sat., May 11, 1963

Premiers beaten

Bruce Lines, proving one of Victoria's best new pitchers, was instrumental in Prahran's great baseball win over premiers Malvern at Como Park this afternoon.

Malvern held back pitcher Howard Drough until the seventh innings. He kept Prahran in check, but it was too late.

"A" SECTION

Prahran 3 (safe hits Creighton 2, Slade 2, Fowler, Finney, Siddie) d. Malvern 2 (safe hits L. and B. Weymouth, Williams, Massey).

Upset Win in Baseball

Prahran caused a major upset in A grade baseball on Saturday when it defeated last year's premiers, Malvern, in a close game.

Prahran pitcher Bruce Lines and catcher Bob Siddie are proving a dangerous combination and, with further experience, should become an even greater threat to opponents.

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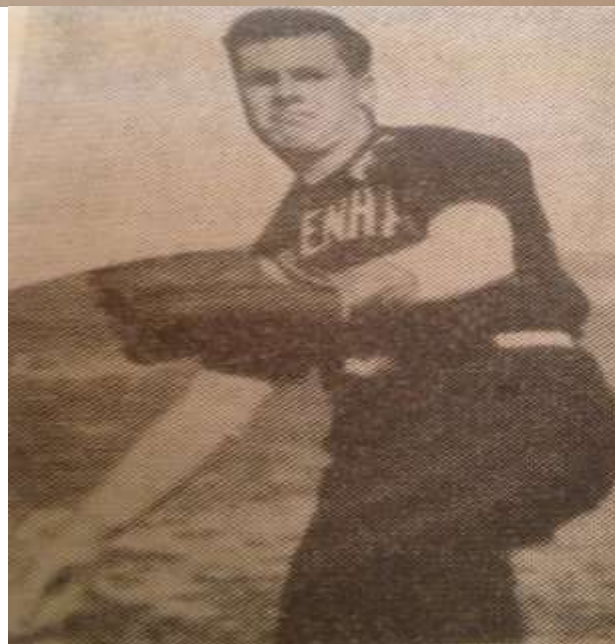
Rustlers



May 17, 1963

Bruce Lines's brilliant pitching has lifted Prahran and they are sharing second place with five other teams.

John Tanner is their "spare" pitcher. He will probably pitch to Charlie Siddle against University on Saturday.



Pitcher, BRUCE LINES, in action.

Rustlers



AMALGAMATION AUGUST 1972

At the conclusion of their 1972 Winter seasons the Prahran and Cheltenham Baseball Clubs merged and played at the Cheltenham Park and the Kingston Centre. The Club was the largest senior club in Victorian Baseball and was fielding 6 senior teams and 4-5 junior teams with considerable success in both the VBA and DBA competitions.

The "Rustlers" logo in a stylized, cursive script font with a blue outline and a yellow-to-white gradient fill.