



# HEAT MATCH REPORTS



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## Frankston Peninsula storm into semi final

Frankston Peninsula has secured a triumphant quarter final victory against minor premier St Kilda, moving into a semi final at Geelong on March 19 and 20.

It is only the fourth time for both Frankston Peninsula and Geelong that they have reached this stage of the post season since they both joined the Victorian Premier Cricket Competition in season 1993-94.

Both clubs have developed a strong rivalry, with this clash for the RF Merriman/RM Hooper Shield to be the most keenly fought encounter of the past 18 seasons.

Coming from eighth position after the regular season, it was hard to find many judges that gave the Heat a chance to defeat minor premier St Kilda on their home territory at the Junction Oval. The fact that St Kilda recorded a comfortable seven wicket victory at the same venue in a quarter final 12 months earlier only supported their case.



Blackie Ironmonger stand at the Junction Oval

The Heat had strong belief heading into the match that they could match the Saints, grateful that a strong percentage had secured them the final position in the top eight.

Saints skipper, Graeme Rummans, won the toss on a warm and sunny Saturday morning, quickly electing to bat first. Heat captain, Matt Chasemore, was not too distressed to bowl however, with plenty of grass untypically left on the pitch that most likely would provide some assistance to the Heat bowling attack.

That was soon the case, as James Miller struck an early blow with the second ball of the second over, trapping keeper-batsman Damon Rowan LBW for a duck. Peter Handscomb struck three early boundaries, but then also fell to Miller, being bowled for 15 as the Saints were stunned to be 2/19.



Miller is congratulated following an early wicket

Rummans and Daniel Forbes looked to rebuild the innings and were travelling nicely before Chasemore brought himself into the attack to generate the crucial breakthrough of the Saints key batsman. Rummans was enticed into driving at a low delivery, where he found the edge and was neatly snaffled by David Nankervis keeping up at the stumps. He fell for 21 and St Kilda was 3/75 just prior to lunch.



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Forbes and Andrew McGuinness resumed after lunch with the total on 3/97 at the break. From here, all momentum fell the way of the Heat. Forbes had been in terrific touch, driving the majority of his 10 boundaries through cover and mid off to the rope. He fell to Miller, being bowled for 56 off 110 balls just after lunch with the total stalling at 4/101.

McGuinness was trapped LBW soon after to Jon Holland for 11 off 51 balls, before Mark Cleary came and went for one, leaving St Kilda slumped at a lowly 6/125.

Frankston Peninsula were starting to dream of reducing the talented St Kilda line-up to a total less than 200, but that required more disciplined bowling to remove the tail to prevent lengthy lower order partnerships that featured in St Kilda's innings in Round 14.



Scott Boland

After a short stay, Adam Warren was well caught by Heat coach Nick Jewell at first slip off the bowling of Holland for six. Daniel Mueller provided almost half an hour of resistance to compile eight runs before he was trapped LBW to Miller with the score on 8/150.

William Russell displayed a crafty batting display to score 32 off 65 balls as his last many batting partners around him. Russell was the ninth wicket to fall as he found an edge to Nankervis off Chasemore. Michael Warne, a blonde leg spinner and cousin of Shane, was the final batsman dismissed, falling LBW to Holland for two after failing to offer a shot.

St Kilda had been rolled for 163 off only 68 overs, losing their last seven wickets for 62 runs. The Heat had developed immense confidence from this outstanding bowling effort, but were well aware that this run chase would be difficult against the strong bowling attack of the top side on their home soil.

Miller continued his recent outstanding form, capturing 4/41 off 13 overs to now have 37 wickets for the season at an average of only 16.84. After returning from Victorian 12th man duties at the Gabba, Holland was crucial to keep one end tight whilst capturing 3/36 off 18 overs.

Chasemore removed in form batsmen in Rummans and Russell to collect 2/25 off 11 overs, and Darren Groves picked up 1/30. Scott Boland (0/27) was unlucky to not pick up a wicket, with his fast and accurate bowling display placing huge pressure on the St Kilda batsman.

The Heat were required to face 32 overs after tea on Day One, and had the opportunity to make a large dent in the run chase prior to stumps.

The innings got away to an awful start for the Heat though. Chris Dew wafted at a wide delivery to be caught for a golden duck off the final ball of the opening over.



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Ben Clements was then caught in the slips for a golden duck off the first ball of the third over, presenting the challenge to captain Chasemore of facing a hat-trick delivery from Cleary in only the third over of the innings.



Matt Chasemore turns to the leg side

Chasemore survived the delivery, being struck high on the leg, and set about rebuilding the innings with Ricky Damiano. Damiano was batting in a naturally aggressive manner, clubbing four boundaries to move to 24 in the eighth over.

However Damiano gave Cleary his third wicket as he attempted to hook a fast bouncer, only to find a top edge that carried to Simon O'Brien at fine leg. The Heat were now dangerously placed at 3/32, with the two most experienced batsman in Chasemore and Jewell both new at the crease.

Chasemore and Jewell patiently established the partnership, slowly seeing off the new ball with disciplined shot selection. The partnership of 66 runs was well developed, until Jewell (31 off 57 balls) dragged a wide and full delivery from Forbes back onto the stumps with only five overs remaining before stumps. Dale Elmi came to the crease and successfully took the Heat to stumps with Chasemore with the score at 4/96.



Miller square drives

Elmi only lasted five overs into Sunday morning, caught at second slip off Cleary for five to do nothing to ease the nerves of the Heat players. Miller joined Chasemore and the pair did well to generate a solid 71 minute partnership of 41 runs. However, just when Miller was looking comfortable, he was trapped LBW to Warren for 21 off 57 balls with the score on 6/142.



Matt Chasemore digs out a yorker



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Nankervis could only last two deliveries before being bowled by Cleary for one, turning the run chase into a precarious situation at 7/143. When Holland gloved a short delivery to the gully to give Cleary his sixth wicket, the Heat were staring at a painful loss at 8/153.

The lunch break was called with the Heat sitting at 8/159, only 5 runs away from a courageous victory as Chasemore and Boland had to sit nervously to await the resumption of play.

Upon the resumption, it only took the Heat 12 deliveries to secure the win, with Boland nudging a short delivery from Cleary to fine leg to trigger celebrations in the grandstand.

The match winning innings of Chasemore was brought to a close soon after with the score at 9/169 after he fell LBW to Mueller. Chasemore battled hard for his side for 257 minutes across three sessions of play, as he made 66 off 181 balls including seven boundaries.

Groves added 11 runs before being bowled, with Boland remaining not out on 14. The Heat were dismissed for 183 off 67.3 overs, holding a first innings lead of 20 runs.

At just after 2pm, St Kilda were not willing to concede just yet, and elected to bat again to push for a reverse outright result. They quickly smacked their way to 0/64 off only seven overs to commence the second innings, as Handscomb reached 22 off 17 balls and McGuinness made 40 off 25 balls including five fours and one six.

The innings was halted at 2:46pm as rain swept into the area. With rain continuing to fall, it took until 4:10pm for play to be abandoned with St Kilda conceding defeat.

Frankston Peninsula were delighted to move into celebrations, and quickly turned their focus to taking on Geelong in the semi final, who are fresh from making 5 declared for 429 against Melbourne in the quarter final.

After finishing third on the ladder to obtain a home final at the Butler Oval, the fourths were disappointing in their convincing quarter final loss against Camberwell Magpies.

Winning the toss and batting first, the Heat were quickly in trouble, falling to 2/4, 4/17, 6/35 and 8/39. It took strong batting efforts from Juvaunie Gayle (46 off 99 balls) and Pat Damen (25 off 73 balls) to add some respectability to the total, as the pair added 48 for the ninth wicket. They were the only batsmen to reach double figures, with the Heat finally reduced to an uncompetitive 10/99 off 43.1 overs.

In reply, the Magpies didn't fair much better, falling to 3/11 as Gayle and Matt Ryan picked up early wickets. The innings was soon back on track, with Camberwell Magpies sitting at 5/183 off 53 overs at stumps on Day One with a lead of 84 runs. The Heat used eight bowlers during the innings, with Gayle (1/34), Ryan (2/36), Damen (1/23) and Waldron (1/15) all collecting wickets.

Feeling there was little hope of devising a reverse outright result, the Heat conceded victory to the Magpies following the first day of play. It was an unfortunate result for the Heat after finishing third on the ladder, where they couldn't improve on the solid results of the past three seasons in the fourths (2007-08 – third, 2008-09 – second, 2009-10 – fifth).

For more information, photos and live score updates from the Frankston Peninsula Cricket Club, make sure you also check [www.facebook.com/frankpencc](https://www.facebook.com/frankpencc)

---Glenn Davey



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