



# HEAT MATCH REPORTS



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## Round 17 - Frankston Peninsula reaches finals on percentage

Frankston Peninsula secured the final position in the top eight following a four wicket victory against Northcote. The Heat will play minor premier St Kilda at the Junction Oval in the quarter final on March 12 and 13.

Northcote won the toss and batted on Day One in fine and sunny conditions, and were in immediate trouble, falling to an amazing 5/16 in the 12th over. Darren Groves was the destroyer for the Heat, collecting 4/4 from his opening six overs.

The pitch was difficult to drive on, and the outfield was painfully slow for scoring, however Northcote had no excuses for the collapse and had to quickly rebuild. Former West Australian first class player and Ryder Medal favourite, Theo Doropoulos, dug in for the Dragons with a solid fighting knock.

Doropoulos (60 off 151 balls) combined for lengthy stands with debutant wicket keeper Mitch Johnson (27) and Danny O'Shea (55 off 88 balls) to score 51 for the sixth wicket and 71 for the seventh wicket to restore some pride to the innings.



Diving catch from David Nankervis off the bowling of Matt Chasemore

Once these key batsmen were dismissed, the Dragons lost all momentum to concede the final three wickets for only three runs as the innings reached only 10/167 off 67 overs.

Groves couldn't add to his early scalps, but still finished with great figures of 4/30 off 14 overs. Scott Boland executed a fast and accurate bowling display to knock over the middle and lower order to obtain 4/33 off 20 overs. Matt Chasemore also claimed wickets, finishing with 2/33 off 14 overs.



Darren Groves, reflecting on his four early wickets

Needing a win to have a chance of playing finals, the Heat were very cautious early and lost Ricky Damiano for 1 and Ben Clements for 5. Chris Dew and Chasemore took the score to 2/50 off 25 careful overs before bad light was called to end play five overs early on Day 1.

After the early loss of Chasemore for 8 on the morning of Day 2, Dew looked to play the anchor role for the team. He added 40 runs for the fourth wicket with Dale Elmi (16) before both batsman departed in consecutive overs with the score on 97.

Dew reached his third career half century, and his first for the season, in a controlled innings of 62 from 139 balls. His untimely dismissal left Nick Jewell and James Miller at the crease on zero, needing to reconstruct the run chase.

Miller departed on 14, before Jewell (41 not out) and David Nankervis (14 not out) added an unbroken 39 runs to see the Heat home to



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victory by four wickets, half way through the afternoon session.



Chris Dew notches his first half century of the season

A nervous wait was in store for the team, as they had to rely on other results to fall their way in order to realise a top eight position. With Prahran recording an early victory, Frankston Peninsula had to rely on Fitzroy Doncaster (6/321) not securing any points at Carlton (7/273), and then hoping that the average would be in favour of the Heat.

When news came through that Carlton had secured a draw, the Lions and the Heat were level on 40 points each. However, eighth spot belonged to the Heat (1.219) after their average was barely greater than the Lions (1.202) by 0.017.

After winning six of the final seven rounds to reach the quarter finals, with the only loss in that period coming to St Kilda, coach Nick Jewell commented that "it took five or six elimination finals really to get there. We couldn't drop a game. It's good preparation, but we're in!"

St Kilda won their Round 17 match against Footscray Edgewater outright to shoot to the top of the ladder, but Jewell is keen to take on the challenge of playing his former side in the knock out stages: "the boys are pretty excited to be playing St Kilda after playing them last year and not really putting our best foot forward."



Solid stroke play from Nick Jewell

The seconds commenced their final game of the season well, taking 5/7 to reduce Northcote to 5/47. The Dragons then recovered through the middle order to compile 10/154 off 72.5 overs.

It was a very even performance with the ball, with Jack Benbow the best to claim 4/30 off 19.5 overs. Ben Ashkenazi took 2/22, Mitch Drummond 2/45, and Tom Baron 2/46 off 30 economical overs.

The strong batting line-up of Frankston Peninsula again let themselves down, slumping to 10/77 off 43.5 overs. Only Matt Gapes (16), Luke Walker (16) and Kierran Voelkl (12) made it to double figure totals.

Northcote commenced their second innings to fill in time, making 7/127 off 42 overs before stumps were called. Voelkl picked up 3/21 and Baron took 2/26. This result locked the Heat into 14th position, well out of finals contention.

The thirds entered the final home and away season match in eighth position, needing to win to secure their finals position. After being asked to bowl first, Frankston Peninsula was well on track to secure the victory, reducing Northcote to 6/46 and then 8/78.



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Northcote then mounted a massive recovery, adding 102 for the ninth wicket and 23 for the tenth wicket to take the total to 10/203 off 101 overs. Carl Joyce changed the whole momentum of the match, making 85 off 144 balls (8 fours, 1 six) batting at number ten. Batting at number eight, captain Trent Carlson added a patient 35 off 144 balls in 231 minutes.

New ball pair Tom Collett (3/34 off 23 overs) and Peter Sofra (3/35 off 25 overs) did the early damage for the Heat. However the team had to resort to run outs to secure the final two wickets.



Tom Collett took three early wickets in the thirds

The Heat now had to chase 204 to win rather than a total closer to 100 in order to remain in finals contention. They got off to a solid start, reaching 3/81 following early contributions from Ben Coleman (25), Coen Chernishoff (24) and Brad McDonald (16).

The innings then fell away, as the Heat lost 4/8 to fall to 7/89. Luke Reid (16) and Sam Glenn (9) added 25 for the eighth wicket, but that is where the resistance ended. The Heat were dismissed for 10/127 off 52.2 overs, falling short by 76 runs.

The thirds had to then patiently wait for other matches, hoping that results fell their way to keep them in finals contention. The news came through that Heat had finished in equal eighth position on 32 points. However the Heat finished in ninth position, due to being behind Richmond on average by 0.208.

The fourths won the toss and batted, looking for a victory to consolidate a top four position. The Heat found many solid contributions within the batting order, including scores from Andrew Cowen (55), Brett Hudgson (53 not out), Robbie Salerni (29), Nathan Harford (28) and Josh Waldron (17). This took the total to a very defendable 10/214 off 74.4 overs.

Northcote could only survive for 39 overs in reply, crashing out to 10/70. Only one batsman made double figures, with 22 sundries the highest contributor to the total by far.

Juvaunie Gayle was the best with the ball, securing 3/16 off 13 tight overs. Others to share in the wickets included Pat Damen (2/0), Joel Reid (2/3), Brendan Jovic (2/14) and Matt Ryan (1/14).

The convincing 144 run victory took the Heat six points clear in third spot. This entitles the Heat to a home quarter final at the Butler Oval, where they will take on sixth placed Camberwell Magpies this weekend.

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

---Glenn Davey



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