



HEAT MATCH REPORTS



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Frankston Peninsula stunningly reach 2010/11 Grand Final

Frankston Peninsula carried out an amazing spell of bowling after Tea on Day Two of their semi final against Geelong to amazingly secure a spot in the 2010/11 Premier Cricket Grand Final.

After reaching the final eight on percentage by 0.017% following their Round 17 defeat of Northcote, Frankston Peninsula have since defeated the top two teams in the quarter final (St Kilda – 1st) and semi final (Geelong – 2nd) to claim their spot in the final.

Playing Dandenong at the Melbourne University Oval from Friday March 25, the Heat will compete in only their second Grand Final in this competition. Their only previous appearance in the biggest fixture of the season was a loss to St Kilda in the 2002/03 decider at the Albert Ground.

Frankston Peninsula's semi final team had two players with premierships experience (Ricky Damiano and Nick Jewell), along with experienced players in Darren Groves, James Miller, David Nankervis and Luke Walker who were members of the 2002/03 squad. Jon Holland also has Grand Final experience with Carlton from 2008/09. Dandenong will compete in only their second Grand Final also, however they were victorious against St Kilda in 2006/07 in their only previous appearance.

In an enthralling contest at the Geelong Cricket Ground, where momentum constantly ebbed and flowed to each side, Frankston Peninsula came out victors by 55 runs.

On Saturday morning in fine and sunny conditions, Heat captain Matt Chasemore won the toss and batted on a pitch that had been used each week since Round 16. It was predicted that the pitch would offer plenty of

assistance on Day Two through turn, low bounce, and natural variation.

The choice to bat first was greeted with a surprised response from Geelong captain Liam Buchanan, who assumed the lower ranked side would take the traditional option of bowling first in order to set up a run chase for Day Two. It was the first sign to Geelong the Heat was ready to take up the challenge.

Frankston Peninsula did not get away to an ideal start however, with opener Damiano finding an edge to the keeper in the third over for one. Chris Dew and Ben Clements then dug in for 20 overs, content to slowly build the innings. When Dew played all around a leg spinning delivery to be bowled for 27, the total was 2/47.



Damiano departs early

Clements then teamed with Chasemore to add 39 for the third wicket until Clements (42 off 110 balls) chipped up a short delivery back to the bowler six overs after the lunch break. Coach Nick Jewell was dismissed LBW for three soon after, and Geelong took the advantage with the total on 4/90. Jewell was disappointed with the decision, after he



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appeared to be struck outside the line of off stump.



Jewell is given out LBW

Playing his first game in the top grade since the Round 8 fixture against Essendon, AFL goal umpire Luke Walker paired with Chasemore to commence a match defining partnership. Satisfied to patiently compile a competitive total, the pair was together at the crease for almost 34 overs before Chasemore was unluckily dismissed LBW four overs after the Tea break.



Chasemore cuts the spinner

Chasemore and Walker added 79 for the fifth wicket, with Chasemore departing for 48 off 160 deliveries. An awful mix up soon followed, with Miller run out for a wasted innings of

two after only facing two deliveries. After building through the middle order, the Heat were again loosing track of their innings to fall to 6/171.



Walker works to the leg side

Walker (65 off 171 balls in 204 minutes) then stuck around in his trademark manner, adding useful lower order partnerships with Nankervis (20 off 35 balls), Jon Holland (16 off 16 balls) and Scott Boland (10 not out off 17 balls) before lofting the leg spin of Jeremy Hart to mid on after attempting to force the pace at the end of the day.

After targeting a total of at least 250 to be competitive in the semi final, the Heat fell just short of that score at 10/246 off 99.1 overs. However, the Heat were quite confident overnight that the pressure on second placed Geelong to chase this total on their home ground in front of their home fans would see the Heat well and truly into this match.

Hart took 4/65 off 21.1 overs, Marc Carson dismissed former Dandenong batsmen in Damiano and Chasemore to claim 2/32 and Cam Alford took 2/29 from his nine overs.

Looking for early breakthroughs on Sunday morning, Geelong openers Alex Stanley and Luke Muller were untroubled against the Heat in facing the new ball in the opening hour. However soon after drinks, the Heat fought back into the match taking 3/0 within 17 deliveries.



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With the score on 0/52, Muller (27 off 57 balls) chased a wide delivery from Boland and was caught behind. At the other end, Stanley (24 off 70 balls) then popped up a bat pad catch to Miller off Holland. Three balls later, star Victorian batsman Aaron Finch departed for a duck, after he attempted to smack Holland to the cover boundary. But he didn't predict Groves would snare a wonderful catch in his left hand with the ball rocketing off the middle of the bat in his direction at short cover.



Holland extracting some turn

Fresh from a huge century in the quarter final, Tom Elliot combined with Liam Buchanan, adding 32 for the fourth wicket before Groves removed Buchanan LBW in the last over before lunch for 22. The Heat could sense something special, with Geelong teetering at 4/84 at lunch.

The other centurion from the quarter final, Hayden Butterworth, joined Elliot after lunch for the most important period of the match. Butterworth quickly struck 24 off 32 deliveries, but was wonderfully caught by Dew diving to his right at backward point in what would be the only wicket of the session. Elliot and Justin Foss comfortably took Geelong to the Tea interval at 5/186, with only a further 61 runs required to see Geelong into their second ever Grand Final.

At tea, coach Nick Jewell pleaded for one final effort from his group, explaining that they shouldn't be content with just simply reaching the semi final. He reiterated that only one breakthrough would be needed, with the pressure likely to be too much for the Geelong tail.

The all important wicket came in the second over after Tea, as Foss was dismissed LBW to Miller for 38 off 86 balls after a delivery stuck him high on the leg. The Heat had renewed belief, and this was extended when Cam Alford popped up an easy catch for keeper David Nankervis to take after standing up at the stumps for Miller. All of a sudden Geelong was 7/188 and the mood in the home social rooms became quite anxious.

Two overs later, Miller collected his third wicket, trapping key batsman Elliot LBW plumb in front for 45 off 127 deliveries and the Heat were almost there. In the next over, opening bowler Trent Walerys didn't offer a shot to a delivery turning in from Jon Holland and was bowled for one.

Jeremy Hart could only last two deliveries, spooning a simple return catch to Holland to complete the absolute route after tea as the Cats lost 3/0 or 5/3 to make only 5/5 after tea. Geelong had been bowled out for 191 off 69.5 overs, sparking jubilant scenes amongst the Heat squad with their 55 run victory completed.



Celebrating the final wicket

The hard fought and patient batting effort on Day One had proven to be justified, with criticism of the Heat's "slow and boring" innings unwarranted. The total of 246 was shown to have been well and truly competitive, with runs on the board adding pressure to the team batting second who only



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required a draw to proceed to the Grand Final.

To complete a victory of this kind, an excellent all round bowling and fielding effort was required. The fielding unit were continually switched on and active, as demonstrated by many throws from the field that found direct hits, keeping the batsmen accountable in their crease. Groves and Dew made the most of difficult chances that came their way, clasping difficult catches which turned the momentum of the innings.

Holland was outstanding, bowling three excellent spells off left arm off spin to finish with 4/57 off 24.5 overs. Despite not finding early wickets, Miller struck three crucial blows post tea, to claim 3/34 off 13 overs. Boland encouraged false strokes to find 2/45 off 14 overs, with Darren Groves taking 1/33 off his 15 overs.



Final words from coach Nick Jewell before launching into the team song

Heat president Dennis Prendergast praised his players, saying "This is a team of fighters."

"It was one of the most amazing performances I have seen and I have been around for a long time. We knew that one wicket after tea would be a game-changer and James Miller got that wicket and we went from there."

The Heat received fantastic support during the match, with many board members, players, coaches, sponsors, families and

friends making the trip down the highway. The team also found tremendous practical support from fringe first eleven squad members including Jack Benbow, Kierran Voelkl, Chris McCormick, Sam Wiese, Dale Elmi, Tommy Baron and Matt Gapes.



FPC supporters enjoying the sunshine

Frankston Peninsula go into the Grand Final in terrific form, having won eight of their past nine matches. Grand Final opponents in Dandenong have plenty of bowling depth including first class players in Peter Siddle, Darren Pattinson and James Pattinson, however the Heat will believe that they can secure victory by applying the same game plan that has worked so well in the second half of the season.

Frankston Peninsula Cricket Club will host two events that will enable the sponsors, members, families and friends of the Heat to show their support to the squad. All are welcome to attend the selection night training session and dinner on Wednesday March 23. Immediately following the conclusion of the Grand Final, there will also be a function at the Jubilee Park clubrooms with drinks and finger food to celebrate the Heat's season.

For more information, photos and live score updates from the Frankston Peninsula Cricket Club, make sure you also check www.facebook.com/frankpenncc

---Glenn Davey

