

## **BASEBALL SUCCESS**

Sunraysia went undefeated and created history by winning the South Australian Country Championship title for the third consecutive year.

With a hard fought 6-3 win over a dogged Whyalla team in the final, Sunraysia's tournament was complete as they held off all challengers to take home the trophy for the third time in as many years.

Coach Peter Wade was ecstatic with the win, praising the commitment and skill of all fourteen players who each contributed to the successful weekend.

Whilst Sunraysia outscored all their opponents it was the defensive side of the game that Sunraysia really excelled. The team played six matches over the course of three days and the opposition could only manage to score a meagre nine runs in total with Sunraysia holding their opponents scoreless in two of the games.

The pitchers, led by Glenn Wallace, Matt Austin and Trent Cross, were fantastic all weekend and with the fielders only committing three errors for the whole carnival the opposition just couldn't find a way around the bases to score.

In contrast, Sunraysia's hitters piled on hit after hit and amassed 54 runs to easily be the highest scoring side of the tournament. Michael Wade, Nick Carroll, Clint Williams, Adam Bell and Andrew Law all batted very well but one of the keys to victory was that everyone chipped in and contributed when needed.

After finishing the round robin section of the carnival on top of their division, Sunraysia faced Port Pirie in a sudden death semi-final. Jedd Miller pitched well to shut the Pirie side down in the first inning and then Sunraysia went on a batting rampage.

Lead-off batter Adam Bell was hit by the pitch, Carroll singled him over to third and this signalled the start of the rout. Ben Heagerty, Wade, Carroll and Bell all received walks, Williams, Austin and Matt Jones singled and the exclamation mark for the massive 10-run dig was provided by Cross and Wade as they both homered as Sunraysia sent thirteen men to the plate and crushed Port Pirie early.

Port Pirie had no reply and Sunraysia was into the grand final on the back of the 14-0 shutout.

Sunraysia was up against Whyalla, who hadn't been in the big game for nine years but were confident of upsetting the favourites.

Sunraysia started with Trent Cross on the mound and although he gave up a lead-off hit, a double play got Sunraysia out of an early jam. Cross was a little rusty and issued two walks in the second dig but settled down to strikeout the side.

Sunraysia couldn't score in the first dig. A two-out walk in the bottom of the second inning to Miller led to their first run as Matt Gee kick-started the offense when he doubled off the centrefield fence to score Miller.

Whyalla responded well however and scored three runs off Cross to open up a two run lead and for the first time all tournament Sunraysia was playing from behind. Sunraysia's offense responded to the challenge and kicked into high gear in the third dig. Matt Jones doubled to lead things off, Bell and Wade singled and Miller crushed a three-run home run to drive a nail into Whyalla's coffin.

With a three run lead Cross settled into a rhythm and didn't allow Whyalla a baserunner over the final two innings. Sunraysia looked set to score again in the bottom of the fifth but time had expired and Sunraysia had completed a memorable tournament with their sixth straight victory.

The team was rewarded for their dominance with three players in the All-Star team. Trent Cross as pitcher, Michael Wade at third base and Nick Carroll in centrefield were all recognised for their fine tournaments.

Sunraysia also sent over a development side, full of young up and coming players out of our local competition. The hastily convened side acquitted themselves very well and gave as good as they got against their older and more experienced opponents.

They defeated the Burra side and pushed a strong Port Pirie all the way with their best effort saved for the previously undefeated Whyalla team. A great game there saw Sunraysia conquer the eventual grand-finalists and when they defeated Broken Hill in the playoff for seventh place, the side was justifiably proud of their efforts over the tournament.

Taylor Pay, Ben Harris, Nick Johns, Tyler McPhee, Matt Boston and Aaron McGlashan all had excellent tournaments with McGlashan awarded the team MVP and McPhee awarded second base on the senior All-Star team.

The third side in the tournament for Sunraysia was in the U/17 Division. With several of Sunraysia's eligible players playing in the senior development side this U/17 side was very young.

They played matches against opposition from Lower Eyre, Alice Springs and Mount Gambier. Like their senior counterparts, these players were excellent all weekend and after finishing second after the round robin series, they defeated Lower Eyre in the semi-final.

They then squared off in the grand-final against the stronger and more experienced Mt Gambier side. The only side to trouble Mt Gambier in the earlier matches, Sunraysia was looking for an upset victory.

With Mitchell McGlashan doing a good job on the mound and Charlie Ashcroft, Stephen Edwards and Phil Pain batting well, Sunraysia had the early lead and was right in the contest.

They couldn't quite keep up the pressure though and the opposition pulled away in the end and Sunraysia went down 11-4.

With several Sunraysia players only 14 or 15 years old, the team did extremely well all weekend. Mitchell McGlashan had a fine tournament and was awarded the team MVP.

## **RESULTS**

### **SENIORS**

#### **GAME ONE**

**SUNRAYSIA:** - 4 4 3 4—15

**LOWER EYRE:** - 0 0 0 0—0

**SAFE HITS:** - N Carroll 3; A Bell, M Wade and M Jones 2; C Williams, B Heagerty, T Cross and J Miller 1.

**Home runs**—M Wade 1 (grand slam)

**RBI**—M Wade 6; C Williams, N Carroll and B Heagerty 2; A Bell, T Cross and M Jones 1.

**Pitching :** - M Austin—1 inning pitched, 0 hits, 0 base on balls, 1 strikeout, 0 earned runs.  
M Gee—3IP; 2H, 1BB, 6K, 0ER.

#### **GAME TWO**

**SUNRAYSIA:** - 4 0 0 X—4

**BROKEN HILL:** - 0 2 1 0—3

**SAFE HITS:** - Sunraysia—N Carroll 2; A Bell, J Miller and M Smith 1.

**Doubles**—A Bell and M Smith 1

**RBI**—N Carroll and J Miller 1.

**Pitching :** - M Austin—4IP, 5H; 1BB, 5K, 2ER

#### **GAME THREE**

**SUNRAYSIA:** - 0 4 0 0 4 X—8

**RIVERLAND:** - 0 0 0 1 0—0

**SAFE HITS:** - Sunraysia—M Wade and A Law 2; C Williams, B Heagerty, M Smith and M Jones 1.

**Doubles**—C Williams, M Wade and B Heagerty 1.

**RBI**—C Williams and A Law 2; M Wade, B Heagerty, M Smith and M Jones 1.

**Pitching:** - G Wallace—5IP, 3H, 1BB, 5K, 0ER.

#### **GAME FOUR**

**SUNRAYSIA:** - 0 1 2 4—7

**BROKEN HILL:** - 0 0 0 2—2

**SAFE HITS:** - Sunraysia—T Cross and A Law 2; M Austin and C Williams 1.

**Doubles**—C Williams 1.

**RBI**—T Cross and A Law 2; D Smith, M Gee and C Williams 1.

**Pitching:** - M Smith—4IP, 4H, 0BB, 5K, 2ER.

#### **GAME FIVE (Semi-Final)**

**SUNRAYSIA:** - 10 4 X—14

**PORT PIRIE:** - 0 0 0—0

**SAFE HITS:** - Sunraysia—T Cross, N Carroll, M Wade, B Heagerty, C Williams, M Austin and M Jones 1.

**Doubles**—B Heagerty 1

**Home runs**—T Cross and M Wade 1.

**RBI**—T Cross 4; M Wade 3; M Austin 2; N Carroll and J Miller 1.

**Pitching**—J Miller—2IP, 1H, 0BB, 3K, 0ER

C Williams—1IP, 1H, 0BB, 1K, 0ER

### **GAME SIX (Grand Final)**

**SUNRAYZIA:** - 0 1 5 0 0—6

**WHYALLA:** - 0 0 3 0 0—3

**SAFE HITS:** - Sunraysia—M Wade and M Gee 2; A Bell, J Miller, M Austin and M Jones 1

**Doubles**—M Gee and M Jones 1

**Home run**—J Miller 1

**RBI**—J Miller 3; N Carroll, M Wade and M Gee 1.

**Pitching**—T Cross—5IP, 4H, 3BB, 4K, 3ER

### **SUNRAYZIA DEVELOPMENT SIDE**

#### **GAME ONE**

**SUNRAYZIA:** - 1 0 2—3

**PORT PIRIE:** - 1 5 1—7

**SAFE HITS:** - Sunraysia—M Boston and M Adair 1.

#### **GAME TWO**

**SUNRAYZIA:** - 0 0 0 1—1

**Mt GAMBIER:** - 0 0 9 2—11

**SAFE HITS:** - Sunraysia—B Harris 2; M Boston, M Adair, T Pay, K McBain and D Waldron 1.

#### **GAME THREE**

**SUNRAYZIA:** - 3 14—17

**BURRA:** - 0 1—1

**SAFE HITS:** - Sunraysia—N Johns 3; T Pay and D Waldron 2; T McPhee and M Boston 1.

#### **GAME FOUR**

**SUNRAYZIA:** - 1 4 3 0—8

**WHYALLA:** - 2 0 0 1—3

**SAFE HITS:** - Sunraysia—T McPhee, M Boston and B McBain 2; B Harris, M Adair, T Pay and G Hancock 1.

#### **GAME FIVE**

**SUNRAYZIA:** - 0 0 0 0—0

**LOWER EYRE:** - 0 0 4 5—9

**SAFE HITS:** - Sunraysia—A McGlashan 2, N Johns 1

**GAME SIX**

**SUNRAYSIA:** - 2 1 2 3—8

**BROKEN HILL:** - 0 0 1 3—4

**SAFE HITS:** - Sunraysia—D Rickard, M Adair, K McBain, T Pay, T McPhee, M Boston and N Johns 1.

**U/17**

**GAME ONE**

**SUNRAYSIA:** - 0 1 3 0 0—4

**LOWER EYRE:** - 0 0 0 4 0—4

**SAFE HITS:** - Sunraysia—M McGlashan, C Ashcroft and M Pay 1.

**GAME TWO**

**SUNRAYSIA:** - 0 2 3—5

**MT GAMBIER:** - 3 0 6—9

**SAFE HITS:** - Sunraysia—C Ashcroft, P Pain, J Simmons, M Pay and S Razis 1.

**GAME THREE**

**SUNRAYSIA:** - 7 8 X—15

**ALICE SPRINGS:** - 0 0 0—0

**SAFE HITS:** - Sunraysia—M McGlashan and B Perry 2; P Pain and J Simmons 1.

**GAME FOUR (Semi-Final)**

**SUNRAYSIA:** - 4 4 1 2—11

**LOWER EYRE:** - 0 1 1 0—2

**SAFE HITS:** - Sunraysia—S Edwards 1.

**GAME FIVE (Grand Final)**

**SUNRAYSIA:** - 1 3 0 0—4

**MT GAMBIER:** - 0 5 4 2—11

**SAFE HITS:** - Sunraysia—P Pain, C Ashcroft, M McGlashan, M Pay, S Edwards and M Perry 1