



Autumn Classic 2008

The Autumn Classic this year was held at Beenleigh Baseball Club, Ormeau, Queensland on the Anzac long weekend Friday the 25th to Sunday the 27th of April. The tournament consisted of 4 teams:

- Baseball QLD Little League All Stars – this team comprised of players from the QLD little League Championships that was completed just prior to the Autumn Classic tournament.
- Brisbane Metro – Brisbane Metro were the champions of the QLD Little League Championships held earlier in April and is one of two teams representing QLD at the National Little League Championships over the Queen's birthday long weekend.
- New Zealand Little League All Stars – this team consisted of players from the New Zealand League Championships
- NSW Little League All Stars – this team comprised of Little Leaguers from NSW Metro and Country NSW. Each junior association was asked to put forward 4 players that they believed were capable of competing in the tournament and then trialed to form a squad of 16.

NSW first game on Friday morning was up against the New Zealand Little League All Stars. It was a tight contest for 4 innings with NSW leading 3 – 0 after 4 innings. New Zealand brought the score back to 3 – 2 at the top of the 5th. Then in the bottom of the 5th NSW let loose and scored 7 runs to blow the score out to 10 – 2 where the result stayed. The result didn't quite resemble the tightness of the game, a well fought victory by NSW.

NSW's second match of the day was against the QLD Little League All Stars. NSW went behind early 3 – 1 in the opening innings after a solid opening from QLD. NSW squared the ledger in the 2nd inning only for QLD to regain the lead in the bottom of the 3rd, 4 – 3. The game was turning out to be a very close encounter between two very good sides. The 4th inning saw some more runs bring scored by both teams and score being tied up 6 a piece. The 5th produced no runs and it seemed that maybe a draw would be the final result. NSW had other thoughts though churning out eight unanswered runs in the final inning to come away with the win 14 – 6. A solid finish to the game insured a great win for NSW.

That concluded proceeding on Day 1 of the Autumn Classic. NSW and Brisbane Metro were both undefeated after Day 1 with two impressive victories each.

Day 2

The first game of the morning saw NSW up against Brisbane Metro, the two undefeated teams of the competition, so a close encounter was expected. What occurred was the opposite. NSW came out of the blocks quickly and scored 6 runs in the first three innings while Brisbane Metro could only manage 1. NSW continued their rich vein of form and piled on another 5 runs in the 4th and with that closed out the game in four innings with the result ending 11 – 1 in favour of NSW.

After the completion of the preliminary round NSW ended up on top of the table with a three from three, 100 percent record.

The afternoon games were when the competition got serious as the finals series began. 1 Vs 2 and 3 Vs 4. NSW were up against Brisbane Metro again with the winner advancing straight to the Grand final on Sunday afternoon. The game started off in an exciting manner with Brisbane Metro opening up proceedings with 2 runs in the opening innings and then NSW replying with 6 of their own runs to take the early lead 6 – 2. Brisbane Metro pulled back another 2 runs in the top of the 2nd innings while NSW scored one run in both the bottom of the 2nd

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and 3rd innings to make the score 8 - 4. In the top of the 4th innings the tide seemed to have changed Brisbane Metro brought some life back into the game and scored 6 runs to take the lead 10 – 8. Brisbane Metro extended the lead by another run in the top of the 5th and now NSW were down by three. NSW needed to make a move now or the game could of very well slipped out of their reach. NSW came together and put 5 runs on the board and took back the lead 12 – 11. Brisbane Metro needed to score at least 2 runs to make NSW bat the bottom of the final innings. Brisbane Metro could only manage 1 run leaving NSW the victors 13 – 12 in a tough and thrilling game of baseball, and importantly putting them in the grand final.

Day 3

NSW had the luxury of having the morning off and waiting to see who would meet them in the final. NSW were waiting for the result of the Brisbane Metro Vs QLD Little League All Stars. Brisbane Metro had already beat QLD Little League All Stars earlier in the tournament and were favourites to meet NSW in the final. QLD Little League All Stars stepped up in this game and demolished Brisbane Metro 22 – 3 in a one sided contest and earned the right to play NSW in the grand final.

NSW came into the final with the favourite tag having not lost a game so far in the tournament and already beating the QLD All Stars on Day 1 of the tournament. NSW had a great start to the game with 3 runs in the 1st innings and from then on they didn't look back. NSW scored another 2 runs in the 4th and than in the 5th NSW consolidated and extended their lead with 6 more runs to lead by 7. QLD couldn't score any more runs in the final dig. NSW went out victors 11 – 3 and claimed the title of the Under 13 Autumn Classic Champions for 2008.

NSW went through the tournament undefeated, an excellent effort by the team and the coaching staff. In addition to winning the tournament NSW received two additional individual awards they were:

- Zac Shepherd who was voted MVP of the tournament; and
- Thomas Ferrow received the best hitter of the tournament.

Congratulations to the NSW Little League All Stars for an outstanding tournament. Going through a tournament undefeated is never an easy task. Well done!!

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