



No stopping St Johns!

Runaway win in water polo final proves they have no equals **Page 6**

Pakistan school tour is a huge success

Wynberg fall to tourists

By **MIKE de BRUYN**

Pakistan's champion schoolboy cricket team, Moslem Model School, ended their tour of the Cape with a narrow eight-run win over hosts Wynberg Boys' High on Saturday.

Their 10-day tour began in the Eastern Cape where they beat Muir College and Woodridge College.

Then a return trip to Paarl Boys' High saw them lose to Menlo Park, the Pretoria school, at Paarl Boys' High before the penultimate match against the United Cricket Club, which they also lost, narrowly by one wicket.

The visitors ended matters fittingly on a beautiful Cape day with a 50-over match with host school Wynberg Boys' High.

All the recent rain made for a slow-paced pitch which clearly favoured the tourists' arsenal of spinners. Seven slow bowlers bowled the final 44 overs on the trot.

Certainly a new experience for the home team who must have gone to bed in a spin!

Moslem Model School batted first and posted 135 runs.

Wynberg, who fielded a number of new caps, were always going to struggle with the spin factor on a lifeless pitch and, while they did get within sight of the winning margin, their slow over rate left them eight runs short of victory.

Wynberg coach Eric Lefson described the experience for his boys as an opportunity of a lifetime.

"We've now played them twice and lost both," he said.

"They're a very good side to play against. My team was unable to adapt to the slow pitch but learnt some valuable lessons.

"I doubt they will ever come across a team that churns out spinners at the rate they do – truly an experience to behold."

But Wynberg do have a spinner of note in their ranks – 18-year-old James Cameron-Dow.

And, in right-arm opening bowler Chad Fortune, a player with a huge future ahead of him.

He was the first recipient of the Jacques Kallis bursary in 2006 and showed his promise in the recent Cape Schools week when he took 6-26 and was not out on 42 as Wynberg recorded their first win over Grey PE by 10 wickets.

Moslem Model School has twice been crowned all-school champions of Pakistan (2001 and 2008).

It is therefore no surprise that

cricket is the most popular sport at the school, attended by 3 500 pupils.

The school has produced 29 Test cricketers and some famous names include Aamir Sohail, Mudeeser Nasir and Saleem Malik.

Coach Muhammad Younis has 40 years of unbroken service with the school.

Team manager Kamran Khan said the trip to South Africa had been a wonderful experience: "Completely different to what we are used to experiencing back home.

"Here you have all the facilities to be a successful cricketing nation ... something we strive for in Pakistan where there is a shortage of funds to improve our grounds – proper net facilities, proper grounds, the infrastructures – but with the help of the Pakistan Cricket Board we are making steady progress."

Khan thanked Wynberg headmaster Keith Richardson for all he had done to make the trip to the Cape a memorable one.

His parting words before heading home on Monday: "Thanks for everything – we look forward to your visit next year."

This was the first touring school team from Pakistan to set foot on South African soil.

The concept of an exchange tour being played between the two schools was the brainchild of the late Bob Woolmer.

The former England Test all-rounder, who went on to coach South Africa before taking up the position with Pakistan, hit on the idea while playing a round of social golf with Wynberg High headmaster Keith Richardson.

Wynberg would go on to become the first touring school outside of the subcontinent to play in Pakistan.

"It has been 18 months since we returned from a memorable visit to Lahore where we had the privilege of playing most of our matches on some of Lahore's most beautiful and picturesque cricket grounds," said Richardson.

"Our match versus Gymkhana Ground was a wonderful experience."

Richardson added that Moslem Model School had been unbelievably friendly, stupendous people and that plenty had been gained out of the tour by both parties.

"We look forward to our exchange programme continuing into the future.



PAKISTAN TOUR: Moslem Model School's Umer Sedique, above, on the off-drive against Wynberg Boys High on Saturday. Right: Three key men in the school's tour success story, from left, manager Kamran Khan, Wynberg High headmaster Keith Richardson and coach Muhammad Younis
Pictures: peterheeger.com



"I have approached the WP cricketing authorities in the hope that competition with Pakistan can be expanded to include other schools' participation," Richardson concluded.

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