

Give what cricket asks of you

Inspiring words from one of the game's greatest

The ninth St David's Marist Inanda Fasken Time Cricket festival began in the customary way on Thursday with everyone meeting for breakfast in the school hall, before the teams dispersed to begin the first of the two two-day matches that they will be playing over the next four days.

It's become traditional to invite a guest speaker to address the boys at the event, and there have been some big names in cricket doing that down the years - last year it was Temba Bavuma, and the year before that Heinrich Klaasen - this time it was Allan Donald.

And what a great choice it was. His stats were read out when he was introduced and they are unbelievable. He started off by saying he never cared for the numbers, and then proceeded to tell the boys a little of



what it took for him to produce figures like that.

"The most important thing I can tell you is to develop a training ground culture. The late Hansie Cronje taught me that and what it comes down to is that you set yourself and your team up for success on the training ground.

"You cannot switch off for a single second - that's not what cricket asks

of you."

You should never take a run of good form for granted, he told the boys. "Don't disrespect the game when things are going well for you. You need to give 100% in training, for every ball. You will need that when things go badly again. It's what cricket asks of you."

Jason Rowles, the St David's 1st team captain welcomed the players and asked them to be respectful this week. "Respect the umpires, respect your opponents, respect yourself, and respect mother cricket.

That term "mother cricket" was also used by tournament director Dave Nosworthy in his address.

And it was used by Mr Mike Thiel, the St David's executive headmaster, who explained part of what it means by way of the "purple cap" tradition at the Fasken Festival.

"We have this tradition because cricket isn't only about winning," he said. "It's also about appreciating and acknowledging others."

That's what cricket asks of you.

FIXTURES

Game 1 (28 and 29 August)

Waterkloof vs St David's (La Valla Oval), Clifton vs Noordheuwel (Gier Oval), St Andrews vs Jeppe (La Rosey), St Charles vs KES (Temba Bavuma Oval), Nelspruit vs St Johns (Mitchell Oval), Lions XI vs St Stithians (Dlamini Oval).

Game 2 (30 and 31 August)

St David's vs Lions XI (La Valla Oval), St Johns vs St Charles (Mitchell Oval), St Stithians vs St Andrew's (Dlamini Oval), Jeppe vs Waterkloof (Gier Oval), KES vs Clifton (Temba Bavuma Oval), Noordheuwel vs Nelspruit (La Rosey).

Why it's good to play the longer game

A diet of limited overs cricket doesn't teach you about the real game

THEO GARRUN

What's on at St David's Marist Inanda this weekend is time cricket, declaration cricket.

At international level this kind of cricket goes on for five days and even then there might not be a winner in the end.

And the amazing thing is that cricket people (the purists, anyway) love it. So do the international players – they make their living out of shorter formats of the game, but just about every time you hear one of them being asked, they say Test cricket is what the game is all about.

The Fasken Festival is school sport, remember, and school sport should be about education first, competition second. Winning has, however, become so important that, in some codes, school sport has become pretty much professional in its approach.

That applies to cricket too and you see the worst of it in the shorter formats of the game, like T20.

It doesn't have to be that way, however. Cricket has the potential to be a great educational tool, and at the good schools the coaches see it that way.

That's not to say that winning isn't important, it is the point of playing, but it's not the only thing. Which is the great thing about this festival. It was born out of a recognition that the cricketing education of school boys is incomplete if they are fed a diet of limited overs cricket only. But it also



recognises that school cricket can and must teach other lessons too.

The learnings are well articulated in the festival brochure – things like building an innings, bowling an intense spell, and coming back to do it again later; fielding for an entire day, and coming back to do it again tomorrow; and for the captains, the art of declaration – risking loss to give yourself a chance of victory, and buying a wicket by keeping your run-leaking spinner on a while longer.

Think of the business lessons in those last two points.

It's a cricket tradition to appreciate

your opponents – the players will applaud an opponent when he scores a 50 or 100, in which other game do you get that?

And that's another point that the Fasken Festival intentionally makes. The players are told to watch their opponents appreciatively all day and decide who performed the best out of them. And after the day's play, their captain will present him with a purple cap and they will applaud him.

Who cares if at the end of the two days the game is drawn – those little presentation ceremonies alone are victories, in my eye.

**2025 FASKEN TIME CRICKET FESTIVAL
AUGUST 28 - AUGUST 31**

Three of last year's best



Bowler of the festival, Dalako Leketa (St Andrew's School); player of the festival, Jason Rowles (St David's Marist Inanda); batsman of the festival Llewellyn Sutherland (Maritzburg College).

The Fasken Time Festival is a festival, with no overall winner or loser. The idea, according to St David's director of cricket, Mr Dave Nosworthy - the tournament director - is to develop individual skills through the special demand that the longer format of the game places on players, something that they do not usually get in their regular interschool competitions.

It has been a tradition at the festival to make three individual awards - bowler of the tournament, batsman of the tournament and player of the tournament - and to give those awards to the players who demonstrate a firm grasp of the skills that the longer format aims to teach - the skills required to play "proper"

cricket.

Kit and equipment sponsors at the festival - Admiral - provided a generous bundle of prizes to all three recipients and they were named at the end of play on the final day on Sunday.

The award for bowler of the tournament went to Dalako Leketa of St Andrew's school. He was the top wicket-taker, with 23 in total and best figures of 7/28 vs KES.

The batsman of the festival award went to Llewellyn Sutherland of Maritzburg College. He made 263 runs in total, with a top score of 132 vs St John's.

And the player of the tournament was Jason Rowles of St David's

Marist Inanda. He was the top run-scorer at the tournament with 311 runs, and a top score of 154 vs Bishops; and he took 15 wickets in the two matches.

Rowles went on to play for the Central Gauteng Lions U19s at the Khaya Majola Week where he made the SA Schools team. He also played for the Lions Cubs side at the CSA Cubs Week; for the SA U19 team and for the SA Emerging team.

He is still at school and will be appearing at this year's festival. days.

Dalako Leketa represented Free Stae at the 2024 Khaya Majola Week, where he made the SA Schools team. He was also selected for the SA U19 team.

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