

Runs galore and rain aplenty

The 2026 edition of the St David's Marist Inanda Fasken Time Cricket Festival will be remembered for a long time for two reasons, one for superb batting and big scores and the other for the first time that rain interrupted the proceedings and robbed the teams of close to a day and a half of play.

The lost time meant that, in the end, only one result was possible in the 12 matches - and credit must go to the KES lower order batsmen who secured their win in rapidly deteriorating conditions late on the second day.

So, it was left to the players individually to make the occasion special and, boy, did the batsmen, in particular, respond!

There was a feast of run-scoring and would have been even greater if

the weather had allowed everyone the opportunity to bat twice. And there would have been more than that one exciting victory had the captains been able to declare strategically, in good weather.

The conditions didn't allow for as many outstanding bowling performances as there were standout batting displays. The bowlers stuck to their task, however, and two 'fifers' - By Tapiwa Chikwava of St John's and Ryle Beckmann of St Andrew's. Zaakir Hanslo of St Stithians took the most wickets - eight - with best figures of 4/11. The five top wicket takers were: 1 Zaakir Hanslo (St Stithians) 8; 2 Kairav Koobair (St David's) 7; 3 Tyler Cloete (KES) 6; 4 Ryle Beckmann (St Andrew's) 6; Bafana Nthunzi (Lions XI) 6.

There were 7 506 runs scored in total,

with two double centuries; 11 centuries and 31 half centuries notched up.

The Waterkloof duo of AJ de Villiers and Juan Swart stole the show. They both got double tons and put on a 376-run partnership for the 2nd wicket.

A further four batsmen went beyond 150: Juvan Lamont (173 for Noordheuwel vs St Charles); Lincoln Casais (157 for Jeppe vs Middelburg); Muhammed Malek (170 for Clifton vs St Stithians); and Ethan van Dyk (166 for Jeppe vs Lions XI).

The top run-scorers were: 1 Ombesa Matsha (St Stithians) 223; 2 AJ de Villiers (Waterkloof) 217; 3 Juan Swart (Waterkloof) 206; 4 Muhammed Malek (Clifton) 200; 5 Zizi Mkhize (Jeppe) 195.

Individual prizes



Players of the Festival

AJ De Villiers (Waterkloof) 217 not out and Juan Swart (Waterkloof) 206 vs Noordheuwel



Batsman of the Festival

Ombesa Matsha (St Stithians) 223 runs with a best score of 133



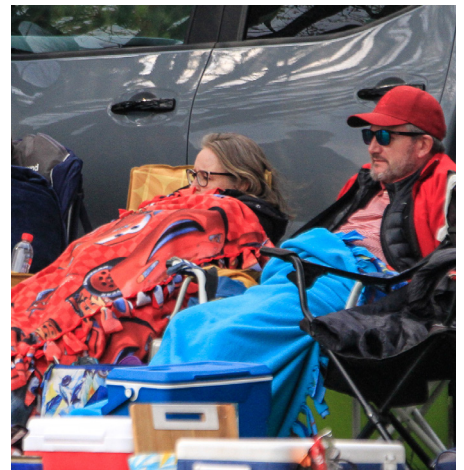
Bowler of the Festival

Zaakir Hanslo (St Stithians) Eight wickets with best figures of 4/11



Nothing without you

The parents and families of the players at the Fasken Festival were here in numbers once again this year, and the weather conditions this year didn't make it easy



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