

Ravindra hits HIBS to title with timely ton

JACOB BELESKI
CRICKET

Star batsman Rachin Ravindra blasted Hutt International Boys' School to a 45-run win over Wellington College in the New Zealand Secondary Schools regional cricket final.

Ravindra strode to the wicket with HIBS 32-1 in the 10th over. He stayed there for the next 36 overs, compiling an outstanding 112 off 111 deliveries.

Wellington College didn't help themselves by dropping Ravindra twice before he had 50, although one was a tough chance.

Partnerships with Adam Webster (32) and Joseph Foote (15) proved crucial in propelling HIBS to 232-8 off their 50 overs.

The target proved too tough for Wellington College, who were bowled out for 187 in the 47th over.

Connor Goggin was the most effective bowler for Wellington College, taking 3-39 off his 10 overs including the wicket of Ravindra.

It was HIBS' third straight regional title. They will defend their national title in Christchurch against the best schools in the country later this year.

Coach Mark Borthwick was happy with the team's performance. "I'm very happy with how the lads finished it up. It was a comprehensive win."

Qualifying for nationals had always been a goal, and Borthwick wants his young team to embrace the opportunity.

"It's always a goal to win the national title. The opportunities

Scoreboard

HIBS	
L Slee c Robertson b Goggin.....	21
C Hewson c Robertson b Greenwood..	4
R Ravindra c Robertson b Goggin.....	112
JM Tashkoff c Chemis b Peake.....	7
AC Webster c Peake b Bhula.....	32
JR Foote c Brandwood b Goggin.....	15
TA Simpson c Halstead b Peake.....	6
D Blair c Vishvaka b Peake.....	5
N Watt not out.....	3
B McBride not out.....	3
Extras (w20, nb1, b1, lb2).....	24
Total (8 wickets, 50.0 overs).....	232
Fall: 32, 32, 65, 169, 208, 212, 218, 227	
Bowling: J Halstead 3-0-16-0 (w 7), C Goggin 10-1-39-3 (w 1), N Greenwood 10-2-29-1, N Brooky 6-1-33-0 (w 7), J Peake 9-0-57-3 (w 3), J Bhula 10-0-41-1 (nb 1), D Vishvaka 2-0-14-0.	
WELLINGTON COLLEGE	
D Vishvaka c & b Watt.....	5
N Greenwood c Foote b Hewson.....	36
J Bhula b MN McComb.....	24
M Robertson c Simpson b McComb.....	1
T Campbell c Slee b Tashkoff.....	55
L Brandwood run out.....	9
J Halstead run out.....	12
O Petersen c Simpson b Ravindra.....	1
J Peake st Slee b Ravindra.....	14
F Chemis not out.....	14
N Brooky run out.....	11
Extras (w3, lb2).....	5
Total (46.2 overs).....	187
Fall: 5, 46, 60, 74, 97, 116, 127, 153, 167, 187.	
Bowling: T Simpson 6-2-15-0, N Watt 4-0-21-1 (w 1), M McComb 10-0-23-2, C Hewson 7-1-28-1 (w 1), A Webster 1-0-9-0, J Tashkoff 9-2-0-51-1, R Ravindra 9-1-38-2	
Result: HIBS win by 45 runs.	



Hutt International Boys' School batsman Rachin Ravindra scored a century to help his side beat Wellington College on Monday.

PHOTO: PETER WATT

back-to-back championships. "I don't believe in that sort of thing, we play because we have a lot of fun... playing with guys you enjoy playing cricket with, to become better players."

Borthwick has seen many young cricketers in his coaching career, but knows he has someone special in Ravindra.

"I worked in South Africa and have seen one very similar player, by the name of Neil McKenzie." McKenzie went on to have a successful career for the South African national team.

Wellington College never got settled in their run chase as they lost wickets regularly. Nick Greenwood (36) and Jakob

Bhula (24) both looked dangerous but when Bhula was bowled with the score at 46-2, wickets started to tumble.

Timothy Campbell offered resistance in his 55-run innings, but it was to no avail against a quality HIBS bowling attack.

Matthew McComb applied constant pressure and finished with

2-23 from 10 miserly overs. Ravindra also contributed with the ball in a dominant all-round display, finishing with 2-38 off nine overs.

Wellington College coach Ivan Tissera knows his team were outplayed, but rued the missed opportunities off Ravindra.

"We gave them 20-30 too many

The HIBS view

"I'm very happy with how the lads finished it up. It was a comprehensive win."

Coach Mark Borthwick

Wellington Coll view

"We dropped Rachin [Ravindra] twice. When one player gets 112 out of 232, it's a pretty important mistake."

Coach Ivan Tissera

and we dropped Rachin twice. When one player gets 112 out of 232, it's a pretty important mistake.

"The boys are a bit gutted but there are still things to learn. Everyone accepted we performed below par."

Tissera also acknowledged the contribution of Ravindra.

"I coached Rachin when he was six or seven years old. He's a completely different class of player in college cricket.

"Even though he's very young, if he continues to play college cricket he will dominate."

Borthwick and Tissera coach the Wellington Blaze women's team together, and Tissera said there would be no hard feelings over the result.

"I've been working with Mark for 10 years. He's a really good coach. You can see that from the results. He has got his team to win big games."

HIBS' junior team is currently playing at the national tournament for year 9 and 10 students in Palmerston North, suffering a 39-run loss to Hamilton Boys' High in their first match on Monday.

They will play Auckland Grammar, John McGlashan College, New Plymouth Boys' High School and St Andrew's College to determine this year's champions.

Edwards pushes for national records

LIAM HYSLOP
SWIMMING

Chelsey Edwards is determined to break a national age-group swimming record.

The Chilton Saint James year 10 is closing in on both the 14-year-old 100m and 200m freestyle records, with the national age-group championships, starting on April 18, shaping as he last chance to crack the times.

She scored personal bests in both events at last week's Australian age-group championships while finishing fourth. She also recorded a sixth in her least-favoured 50m event.

Her time of 57.72 in the 100m was 0.48 seconds off Sophia Batchelor's 2010 national 14-year-old record, while her 2.05.00 in the 200m would need to see her shave 2.09 seconds off to beat Batchelor's record.

She's been here before, when she went very close to breaking the 12 and under 100m record two years ago.

"I've really wanted to get a New Zealand record for a while. I've nearly gotten one before, but [missed out] by 0.02 in the 100m freestyle in the 12-year-old age group, so that didn't happen but it was really close.

"It's definitely a goal I have, I have been close quite a few times." Edwards clearly sets high standards. You just have to look at her Australian results in context to see that.

Her swim in the 100m would have her ranked second in the United States for her age-group, which gives an indication of the strength of the Australian swimmers in that age group.

She said she was gutted to miss out on a medal, having won a bronze at the meet last year, but knew it was always going to be



Lower Hutt swimmer Chelsey Edwards is aiming to break New Zealand age-group freestyle swimming records.

PHOTO: SIMON WATTS/BW MEDIA

tough with nationals on the horizon.

"I didn't taper down or get ready for that meet as much as I would have normally because we've got nationals in two weeks, which is a big qualifying meet for the junior Pan-Pacifics and other overseas meets.

"So I've been trying to work towards nationals and also this meet, so it's been quite hard to space them out because there is only two weeks in between."

The qualifying times for the Junior (under-18) Pan-Pacific Swimming Championships, to be held in Hawaii from August 24, are also within reach.

The 100m time is 57.31 and the

200m time is 2.04.35.

Making the squad for that trip would be good for two reasons, Edwards said.

"It's quite hard to qualify at my age because it's 18 and under, so it would be a good achievement.

"It's my goal to qualify, also because it's in Hawaii and that would be really great to go there," she said with a laugh.

While she was in Australia, she was awarded the Emerging Swimmer of the Year in her All Stars (Wellington and Manawatu) zone by Swimming New Zealand.

"I thought it was amazing because it's quite an honour to get it."

In the past 12 months she has

won five New Zealand short-course age-group titles, four at long-course nationals and is the proud holder of eight Wellington records, including two in the butterfly.

Last year, she broke former Olympian Rebecca Perrott's 40-year-old Wellington freestyle records in the 13-year-old age-group and has since claimed two more in the 14-year-old division.

"Breaking her records in the 100m freestyle was pretty great because she went on to be an Olympian."

If Edwards can continue her progression, then few would tip against her following in Perrott's footsteps.

Ups and downs of a busy summer tournament week

Wellington schools have competed strongly at a range of national and North Island tournaments during summer tournament week.

Volleyball

Wellington champions Sacred Heart College were seeded 18th for the national championships, but beat second seeds and defending champions Burnside High School in four tight sets to go through their three round-robin games unbeaten.

They won the first set 25-22 before Burnside levelled the match with a 26-24 win in set two. But Sacred Heart rallied to win the last two sets 25-20 and 25-22 to take the match.

That sees them safely through to the top 16, where they will now face another three round-robin games before the quarterfinals.

St Mary's College will be in their pool for the second round robin phase after also finishing as top of their first-round pool.

In the boys' competition, Wellington champions Wellington High School just missed out on the top 16 after a tough three-set loss to Tauranga Boys' College's B team.

They battled from 2-0 down to tie the match at 2-2 with a 25-15 win in the fourth set. Tauranga won the crucial final set 16-14.

Softball

Wellington's boys teams had a torrid time on day one.

Wellington champions St Pat's Town lost 4-1 to defending champions Mt Albert Grammar School before suffering further losses to Hastings Boys' (9-3) and St Peters (9-0).

Rongotai College and St Pat's Stream were the only Wellington winners on day one, but that was

due to big wins over Taita College.

The girls' competition went much better for Wellington.

Two-time defending champions Wellington East Girls' College started with a pair of seven-run wins, while Aotea College and Sacred Heart also won their first two games.

Taita and Tawa started with a pair of losses.

Note: Last week it was incorrectly reported One Tree Hill College won the girls title last year due to incorrect information on the Softball NZ website.

Wellington East were in fact the winners of their second straight title.

Athletics

There were a host of gold medals for Wellington at the North Island Secondary Schools Athletics Championships in Auckland.

Zion Trigger-Faitele won both the junior boys' discus and shot put well clear of the rest of the field, while also forming one-quarter of the junior team that won the 4x100m relay.

In a couple of years he'll look to follow in the footsteps of Gerard Ahnau, who won the senior boys' discus.

Elijah Uitime also claimed the intermediate boys' shot put.

Tessa Hunt won the intermediate girls' 800m from fellow Wellingtonians Imogen Skelton and Kirstie Rae, while Skelton won the intermediate girls' high jump.

Alisha Gilchrist won the senior girls' 3000m and grabbed silver in the 1500m. Izzy Hegan took out the 800m senior girls' race.

Charlotte Floodsmith-Ryan claimed gold in the junior 800m, before Finn Seeds did the double of

the junior boys' 800m and 1500m

Isaac Miller-Jose won the senior high jump and was second in the triple jump, while Roderick Solo won the intermediate triple jump.

Tennis

Scots College started the boys' team nationals with a resounding 8-0 win over Christ's College.

In the girls' event, Kapiti College snuck past St Margaret's 5-3 on countback.

In the mixed division, Hutt Valley High School started with a 7-1 over Burnside High School.

Waterpolo

Wellington East finished sixth at the North Island Secondary Schools Championships.

On the boys' side, St Pat's Town finished 14th, while St Bernard's were 17th.

Handball

Samuel Marsden Collegiate beat Taita and St Mary's to the girls' national title. Scots College won the five-team boys' tournament, beating Wellington College 24-13 in the final.

Netball

While not a tournament, it is of note that three Wellington schoolgirls feature in 12-strong New Zealand Secondary Schools team.

Wellington East's Tiana Metuarau will be joined in the squad by St Mary's pair Ainsleyana Puleiata and Renee Savai'inaea.

The team will be coached by former Silver Fern Julie Seymour and participate in the International School Girls Competition in Auckland, from May 2-6.

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