

# CRICKET AT ITS SUNDAY BEST

Sunday March 30 saw the annual fixture between an Atlantic XI (more like an Atlantic XVI or XVII) versus a Transport Wairarapa team of about equivalent size. Talk about the West Indians team playing bright cricket! The Wairarapa version was brighter than bright.

Aggression was the order of the day, and the large crowd (an unofficial attendance of about 45) showed their appreciation of the batsmen's disregard for the safety of their wickets. We are happy to report that there were no incidents of drunken spectators snatching wickets, as happened with the West Indians in Christchurch. However, there were one or two occasions when over-considerate spectators rushed on to the field and offered refreshments to the players.

Despite the fact that there had been no rain in the area for some weeks the unwatered, concrete-like pitch appeared to take a considerable amount of turn and both teams took advantage of this by making fullest use of their spin bowlers. The result was unimportant (do we say this because we got beaten?). The main factor was the feast of brilliant stroke play.

Transport Wairarapa opened the batting and despite Atlantic skipper Ross Skinner's tactics of using about 32 bowling changes and some snappy fielding, they managed to compile a good score. Top scorers were Thompson 29 not out, Daysh 25, Pauling 18.

Don't ask us for the bowling figures—they're a wee bit complicated.

Atlantic opened their account badly and a dramatic collapse followed. After a gallant fight back by Fred Marks, who top-scored, another dramatic collapse ensued. (You can afford

quite a few dramatic collapses when you have 16 or 17 in your team). Atlantic failed by about 40 or 50 runs to catch the total amassed by Transport Wairarapa and narrowly averted the follow-on.

The second innings commenced with Wairarapa Transport racing against the clock to set Atlantic a reasonable total to chase. Their innings ended shortly after five and Atlantic were left with about 150 runs to get inside an hour. A truly gallant effort which will go down in the annals of cricket history followed. The innings was one of superb and elegant shots, literally spattered with boundaries in every corner of the playing field. At the close of play when time, light, rain and other attractions brought about an end to the day, Atlantic were only about 20 runs short of the total. Ross Thompson was still in on an unbeaten 56. (He played in the other team in the first innings.)

Top scorers in the second innings were for:—  
Transport Wairarapa: McLaughlin 25, Whale 25 not out, Armstrong 27.

Atlantic: Pollard 22, Thompson 56 not out. Many will have at some time listened to cricket broadcasts and wondered over the glossary of terms that are used by commentators. On the opposite page we illustrate just what is meant by some of this terminology. According to cricket experts everytime someone walks on to the pitch they manage to create some type of record. This also happened—would you believe that this was the first match held between Atlantic and Transport Wairarapa in which one side actually had its captain bowl a maiden over to the opposing vice-captain. Really quite a feat.



Left: The passive way to deal with a bumper—duck and ignore it.



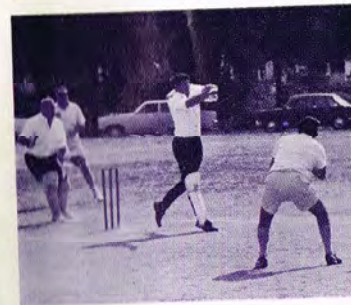
Right: The active and aggressive way to deal with a bumper. Stand on tiptoes and attack it.



Left: Front foot forward, head over the ball, straight bat, follow through and . . . woops.



Right: The proverbial inch from the outside edge.



Left: A delicate little shot into the cover field.



Right: The supreme elegance of a glance to backward leg.



Left: Completely orthodox except for one minor point, this is not golf.



Right: Joe Percy stopped a certain four, whilst fielding at the silly mid-on position. Visual evidence of the reasons why the position got its name.