Two in State seconds

CHATHAM High's Zac Sheather and Great Lakes College's Bryan Warren were members of the Combined High Schools (CHS) Second XI that contested the NSW Schoolboys Cricket Championship.

Sheather was a late call up for the team.

Held at grounds in Maitland and Raymond Terrace, the carnival saw teams from CHS 1, CHS 2, Combined Associated Schools, GPS, Combined Catholic Colleges (CCC) and CSC (other independent schools) competing.

Sheather was selected as an all rounder and Warren as CHS2's opening bowler.

In round one CHS2 scored 5/202 but were defeated by CSC 7/204 with Warren taking 2/37 from his 10 overs. Sheather was unlucky in having an easy catch dropped at slip, the batsman going on to add another 80 runs.

On day two CHS2 came up against the CHS1. The First XI batted first to reach 9/150 in their 50 overs. Warren in a great spell of 4/30 took both openers and two lower order batsmen. CHS2, however, fell for only 124 runs with Sheather out trying to score quick runs.

After two losses, CHS2 seemed to be out of the tournament facing CAS on day three. CAS after being 1/51 were all out for 98, with Warren taking 2/37 and the spinners making the most of the conditions to take the wickets. CHS2 won the match being five down when they passed CAS's total. Neither Sheather or Warren batted.

Day four saw them up against an imposing GPS side. GPS won the toss and batted. Warren again removed an opener, but GPS managed to reach 6/148 after their 50 overs. Sheather was instrumental in holding GPS to this score with a brilliant 1/3 off six overs, while Warren took 1/37 off nine overs. In reply CHS2 reached 9/150 with two balls to spare in one of the many tight finishes of the carnival.

Sheather was again out trying to score quick runs. Warren went in to bat with six balls to go and three runs to win. His partner Soumil Chhibber struck two twos to win the game with Warren not having to face a ball.

With day five a 20/20 game to allow for presentations and an earlier departure, four teams CHS1, CHS 2, GPS and CAS were a chance of winning the tournament. The first three had to win to be in the mix, while CAS would win outright if they won over GPS.

CHS2 played CCC, batting and scored a great 6/148 in 20 overs, with neither local required to bat. In reply CCC could only manage 8/106 after Warren removed their opener third ball. He finished with 3/21 and was, with 12 wickets, only one behind the leading wicket taker.

CAS defeated GPS with two balls to spare so won the carnival; CHS1 was second and CHS2 third. CHS2 was the only team to defeat the winners CAS, an excellent result for the team. Both the local schoolboys had good tournaments and the team's third placing was an excellent result.