

Uplands 1st XI Cricket team triumphant

The Uplands 1st XI cricket team won the local Ehlanzeni league by beating White River Primary in the final last term. That meant they progressed to the Mpumalanga semi-finals. Uplands played against JJ Van Der Merwe in Ermelo and beat them by 40 runs with Matthew Nepgen scoring 44 and Dean Carlisle 34. Jono More was the pick of the bowlers taking 3 wickets for 19 runs in his 6 overs.

The final then followed on Wednesday 21st October and the Uplands Oval was the scene of triumph and heartbreak for some young cricketers. The 1st XI played against Laerskool Middelburg. We were sent in to bat and scored 139 for 5 after our 30 overs (Matthew Nepgen 53 not out; Leo Van Wymeersch 25). Middelburg started their innings very well and were 47 for 1 after 8 overs. The boys were under pressure at this stage, when Matthew Nepgen bowled their top order batsman. Greg Gehle followed the lead and took a wicket in his first over. Greg had been struck on the elbow while batting and he showed great determination to continue to blast through their batting with 4 wickets in his third over. Greg went on to finish the game with 6 wickets for 5 runs in 3.2 overs. This was a remarkable performance and Uplands won the game by 75 runs to achieve the status of Mpumalanga champions!

MPU Cricket Champs picture:

From left to right standing

Bradley Kirk, Jason Bruce-Brand, Andrew Jackson, Zenon Burns, Greg Gehle, Dave Ernstzen (coach), Matthew Nepgen, Chris Gehle and Jono More

Front row left to right

Keagan du Preez, Matthew Carlse, Dean Carlisle (captain), and Leo van Wymeersch

