

Article from the Gold Coast Bulletin:

With the Greater Brisbane League baseball season now done and dusted, the Bulletin sits down with Cubs coach Andrew Azzopardi to analyse the season gone.

Overview:

Result: 4th overall, 22 wins, 18 losses, 0.550%

It was a historic season for the Cubs who qualified for GBL playoffs for the first time in club history. But it all came to a devastating end when the league decided to call the season early, preventing the Cubs from showing their wares in playoffs. Regardless, 22 wins is a huge result for a roster made up largely of imports who was forced to gel on the eve of the season.

The Star

“Christian Keen and Nick Sablock. They made themselves available every game when a lot of our imports decided to go home just before playoffs. Christian was a huge bat for us from the early part of the season. We also needed a pitcher and someone on the mound for us and he stood up and did an outstanding job. He was one of the toughest pitchers in the league to get a hit off. Nick was the same. He was a two-way player who was good with the bat. He was outstanding on the mound and had some clutch hits at the back end of the season.”



Baseball Coomera vs Ipswich at Coomera Cubs Baseball Club Oxenford . Nick Sablock batting for Coomera Picture: Lawrence Pinder

Rising Star

“Tom Faulkner handled every opportunity he had in A-Grade and was a step above the rest in B-Grade. Nick Hawkins will make the step up into A-Grade full-time next year and Jaime Fox is a young 17-year-old who is going to step up and be our full-time catcher next year.”



Coomera Cubs' Jaime Fox in action against the Redland Rays at Gambamora Park .
Photograph : Jason O'Brien

Mr Consistent

“Adam Thomas and Michael Sharp. They both always turned up and put in hard yards week after week. They were always going to be a father figure to the young guys and it was great to see them mentoring the next generation.”



Coomera Cubs' Adam Thomas in action against the Redland Rays at Gambamora Park .
Photograph : Jason O'Brien

Highlight

“The highlight was probably fulfilling our minor and short term goal of making the playoffs. It was also great to see several rising stars stepping up and taking on a bigger challenge. It was awesome to succeed at this level and make history and put Coomera on the map.”

Lowlight

“We worked so hard all year to get to playoffs and that was taken away from us because of an event that couldn't be avoided. It's happening in every sport but it feels empty. The committee from my club was stoked that I came in and led two teams (division one and division two) to playoffs but as a player and coach, you build all season long to compete. The minor premiers were given medals which I think is wrong, it should have been an

asterisk season. I'm deflated. I said to my team from the get go that every game counts but now that's not the case. I still wake up every day crushed."



The Coomera Cubs' were unable to play playoffs after the season was cancelled. Photograph : Jason O'Brien

Final word

"We'll battle through and get through to next summer and battle again. We'll hopefully put ourselves in the same spot again but we'll be back bigger and stronger."