

6 U/16 Falcons

Sunday, September 03  
8:30AM

Dodgers U16 Tigers 10



## Tigers Pull Off Dramatic Victory to Win The Flag

On a perfect Spring morning for Baseball, the two top teams in the 2023 BBA U16 Regular Season, played off in their Grand Final to determine the Premiers for 2023.

Having finished the season with just one loss, the Tigers were primed and ready to continue their success into the last game of the season behind ace Jackson Harris who had shouldered the majority of the pitching duties throughout the year. Dion Strahan toed the rubber for Falcons and was given an early lead in the first thanks to some aggressive base running, dropped third strikes and an error in the field. In reply to Falcons three runs in the first, the Tigers plated one run thanks to a walk drawn by Jackson Harris and a flyout sac from Bailey Harvey-Kline. Strahan struck out the last Dodgers batters to keep the damage to a single run.

Granger lead off the 2<sup>nd</sup> for Falcons and advanced to 3<sup>rd</sup> on a fielding error and later scored on a sac fly out to strong catch in right field by Fabain Gray. Harris induced a soft ground out back to the pitcher by Strahan to shut down the looming threat from Falcons.

With 2 outs in the bottom of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Hayden Rogers drew a 4 pitch walk bringing Travis Shanahan to plate with the minor premiers behind 1-4. Tension amongst the crowd was obvious. On an 0-1 pitch, Shanahan drove a run scoring triple to left field to close the gap to 2-4.

The top of the 3<sup>rd</sup> saw Harris get 2 outs via a strike-out and ground out before giving up a two-run triple to Granger giving Falcons a 6-2 lead. Awesome defence by Shanahan at short saved another run by assisting Penno in a smooth 6-3 play for the 3<sup>rd</sup> out.

With the scoreboard clock now seemingly racing towards the 12:00pm finish time, Falcons brough on Fynn Murphy to shut out the Tigers. The hurler struggled to find the plate giving up a single to Bailey Harvey Kline before walking three batters to cut the lead to just one run, 5-6

Hayden Rogers stepped to plate. Under extreme pressure and tension, and at no ball two strike count, produced a gutsy nine pitch at bat including three foul balls to draw a game tying walk.

The tension and stress was evident on the faces of all those watching, playing and coaching as the Grand Final headed towards a climactic finish.

Travis Shanahan, undaunted by the situation, strode to batters box. Getting into a hole with two strikes and no balls, Shanahan evened the count before driving a pitch off Murphy to deep Centre Right with bases loaded to give the Tigers their first lead of the game and a 10-6 final score that looked improbably during the early stages of the game.

The Dodgers Tigers streamed out onto the ground once Time & Game was called, all with a smile that only a Grand Final win can give.

An U16 Grand Final game for the ages with the Dodgers Tigers crowned 2023 premiers.