

### WildCards Cricket Club History:

In 2009, Iftekhar Kazi, Ajay Belambe and Vinod Nair met in Pittsburgh, Oakland over lunch at Szechuan Express to discuss the future of our cricket in PCA. We had just finished playing 2008 season with Monroeville United and were looking to form a new team on this side of the squirrel hill tunnel. Since we have been playing cricket in Pittsburgh since '94 we knew enough players who would want to play besides us. We called ourselves the "WildCards" in PCA.

The team was formed with the likes of Krish, Prasad, Prashant, Aman, Ankur, Upi to name a few. Ifti was chosen to lead our team.

We had a disappointing first season but were determined to continue our journey. 2010 saw us improving and Ifti led us with more wins than losses.

During the 2011 season, we were introduced to a medium pacer by name Ashish Bhat by Upi. After few initial games, we soon realized that he was a game changer for us in batting rather than bowling. He top-scored for WC his first season. Everyone in PCA who has played against him can attest to his exploits.

In 2012 season, Ashish introduced us to many new young faces and we lovingly call them Annas. Shrikant Badri was one of the find that season and he top-scored for us that season and has been a steady performer for WC since his opening season.



In 2013, there was a shift in our strategy as we wanted to look to the future and we trusted Ashish with the captaincy role. He quickly grew into the role and brought in energy and

enthusiasm and gelled the seniors with youngsters. This was a new beginning for WC as we started winning more games. Abhijit Reddy was the find for this season and he top-scored and soon spear headed our bowling..





2016 was one of the peak season for us as a team. Shrikant Badri captained our team to take us to the most wins so far and a spot in the Division 1 league.



During last several years we have had a core group of team members who have been part of a tremendous journey so far. We believe the reason for WildCards to continue to be a fun team is because of team camaraderie, respect for one and all and the fun interaction we have on and off the field.

In 2017, we have had few changes in our team. Some of the players have moved out of town; we have few new faces in the team and we have a new captain in Abhilash Kuchuri. We as a team want to continue this fun journey for a long time to come and along the way if we win a cup or two it would be an icing on the cake.

