

Zurich Crickets 2nd XI chalk up a tie

In their first 40-over national league match, ZCCC's 2nd XI chased 226 to finish the match with a tie. The general game plan was to bowl out Pakhtoon Zalmi in 30 overs and then to bat out our 40 overs. It took 33.4 overs and we did bat for 40 overs!

Kutty's coolly sizing up the batsmen's confusion produced a run-out with the 3rd ball of the match. Pakhtoon recovered but Suleman, Kavi, Attaullah and Vincent kept tight lines and pressure began to tell: 45-2 with a catch to Shankar off Vincent, 49-3 caught behind off Attaullah, and 49-4 with a superb piece of fielding by Latif effecting another run-out. Another recovery produced valuable runs for the batters but also Vadim's first wicket before the break. After that Pakhtoon decided to cut loose and although Attaullah bagged his second wicket, it was Vadim's control of the leg-spin that ultimately did the damage and 4-1-15-3 was the outstanding result. After taking a catch, new man Khalid delivered an LBW and it was left to Suleman to finish off with a catch to Kavi. Max, sharing the captain's duties with Gokul, was excellent behind the stumps with one catch and a fine stumping, while Gokul tirelessly fired on the players and deservedly took a catch during a performance by a team that was relentless in its enthusiasm and energy, and which had prevented the opposition from taking the game away from ZCCC. 226-10 was a gettable target.

In reply, despite an early wicket, Suleman (51) and Max (52) were exceptional and built the innings, putting 113 runs together. Gokul (16) was busy and upped the momentum, while Latif (27) likewise pushed for runs, and finding the middle of the bat was rewarded with several timely boundaries. It was then left to Vincent (17) and Kavi to finish the job, and they came so close. With 5 runs needed off the final ball, Vincent found the boundary for 4 sweet runs and a tie!

The team showed great character, they supported one another, and a thrilling finish was a deserving end to the 2nd XI's first 40-over outing.