

MATCH REPORT

6th March 2010

Oxford vs Swannanoa

The day dawned for the showdown against Oxford, and it was bleak with showers from a cold southerly front, the immediate prospects of getting a match underway looked to echo the weather conditions. As the morning progressed the clouds slowly dissipated and it was to be a case of game on.

The more eager members of the team descended onto the Oxford domain a little before 12.30 and with a certain level of trepidation inspected a very green wicket & in a somewhat agricultural scenario several fence posts driven inside the field of play. The Swannanoa selection panel after a lengthy evaluation process had placed their faith in Rusty Drake to captain the squad, which, looked to have been a shaky decision after he promptly lost the toss.

The opening pair of Drake and Lang took to the field and proceeded to block out the first 2 overs and the sideline commentary team were in overdrive. The batsmen then began to score with a combination of skilful running between the wickets, lovely caressed shots through the field and in what seems to be new dimension to Lang's game, brutal power hitting. The partnership was steadily growing when Bowser cleaned out Lang (19) with the score on 39 in the 11th over. Eleftheriou, who had been promoted up the batting list in an attempt to solidify the top order, strode out with a sense of purpose. Oxford began to put some real pressure on with the ball and half an hour later at the 20 over mark Swannanoa had lost Eleftheriou (10) with the score sitting at 64.

As Osborne joined Drake the run rate began to accelerate with plenty of singles and the despatch of any loose balls to the boundary and the sideline forecast was lifted to an innings total of 150-160. Osborne fell caught for 26 and was replaced by H Ryan (1) who was dismissed in a horrible run-out mix up with the score on 139.

Hamilton (14) arrived with a sense of urgency and ably assisted Drake in pushing the score to 186 before he was caught. Scott looked comfortable in his position for the day and hit two beautiful fours and Drake (105) brought up his century before falling to a slower delivery from Oxford's international player in the 39th over with the score at 199. Scott and Ryan closed out the innings and taking the total to 206.

Drake 105
Lang 19
Eleftheriou 10
Osborne 26
Ryan 1
Hamilton 14
Scott 10
Ryan 2

After the break, Swannanoa took the field and Martin opened the bowling with a mixture of doosras, flippers, ouches, shifts and dot balls. At the other end Woods finally made a return to the bowling crease after a lengthy absence and immediately returned the captains faith with a wicket maiden followed by another maiden. Martin began getting into a rhythm at the other end and Woods applied pressure. After 16 overs Oxford were reeling at 7-70. A rearguard action was required and Oxfords international Chandrasena performed admirably before the team was dismissed for 112.

Martin 6-1-22-0
Woods 8-3-20-5
Hamilton 3-1-11-1
Findlay 3-0-15-0
L Ryan 2-0-10-1
Osborne 2-0-9-0
H Ryan 3-1-10-0
Eleftheriou 1.3-0-4-2