

MATCH REPORT

OCT 17 2009

SWANNANOA vs KAIAPOI

What a day for Swannanoa! The Swans reverted to extremely viscous ugly ducklings and used their sharp beaks and claws to shred Kaiapoi's hopes and dreams in a 179 run victory that barely lasted 50 overs!! After losing the toss in captain Olsen's absence, Lance announced that we were batting. This came after he had to negotiate that we actually play a 40 over contest with Kaiapoi's giant body builder like skipper towering over him and demanding a 20/20 game - Lance showed that "it's not the size of the dog in the fight, etc" as he refused to back down and a "normal" 40/40 contest began.... After last week's flying start (straight into a mountain side) Terry reverted to his usual assortment of blocks, dabs and edges between the slips to ably support Derek in a 36 run stand in the first 9 overs... After holing out to mid off, Terry was replaced by Lance, who played a dashing 2 ball cameo and thus assumed bag duties.

Lance was soon out umpiring and was thus still able to be "in the thick of the action". Derek looked settled and formed a blossoming partnership with Luke O'Donnell that saw the score move to 105/2 in the 20th over - nice! Not long afterwards Lance passed judgement that Derek was LBW for 40 with the assured self confidence of a top Pakistani Test Umpire. (eds note: What? Not a run-out?)

Quip Of The Week Award: Later, when Swannanoa were in the field, Lance was overheard commenting that one of the Kaiapoi bowlers could really let it rip on the odd delivery, and that one of these balls had shot off the pitch hitting Derek in the rib-cage area. Without the slightest pause Mike ("the Tron") Hamilton replied "I s'pose that was the one you gave him LB for?" -- At this point it should be mentioned that the Swannanoa Cricket Club would like to issue a joint statement with the Hawkes Bay Rugby Union that the decisions of it's sporting officials are not to be questioned post-match. No television replays of Derek's dismissal will be made available...

Cousin Hayden Ryan (15), newcomer Ozzy (18) and the ever improving Nathan (16 not out) then provided solid support as Luke O'Donnell continued to score freely at the other end. Luke's fitness showed right to the end as he continued to make his partners sprint for 1's, 2's and the odd 3. He also peppered the ropes several times and finished on 85 not out - a superb knock after a long break from cricket!.... Swannanoa 221/5 off 40 overs.

It soon became apparent that a 20/20 match might even have been a bridge too far for Kaiapoi as their entire batting line up played each ball as if it was the last over.... and for many of them, it was! Mike Hamilton was removed from the attack after conceding 10 in one over (to "Stevie G" who actually top-scored for Kaiapoi with that very same 10 runs) and giving Derek a bleeding nose with a flying bail as he cleaned out one of the "Kaiapoi Cannon fodder".

The team is investigating getting Derek one of those baseball catcher style masks so that Mrs Scott let's him keep playing cricket on Saturdays.

The ball was then thrown to debutant Mike M who had earlier offended all at the ground by turning up wearing a Hurricanes jersey. Mike W(ellington?) struck with both the first and last ball of his debut over for Swannanoa and ended with 2 wkts for 1 run off 2 overs... The "2 for 1" deals continued as fellow debutant Ozzy (direct from Auckalofa) also collected 2 wickets from his two overs of "Left Arm Swing Spin". This was followed up with a superbly flighted spell of sliders, dippers, wrong-uns, googlies, etc from Lance Ryan who wove a magical spell in snaring 2 for 4 as Kaiapoi's misery was made complete. Mention must also be made of 2 runouts (one from a superb throw by L O'Donnell) and a well timed stumping by D Scott as a batsman momentarily lifted a foot.

Mention should also be made that the clubrooms were visited by 2 more of the "Swannanoa Wise Men" today - Gordon Fulton, who informed us that Tim has been "confined to barracks" pending the arrival of Gordon's grandchild... and Trevor Findlay who turned up at exactly the right time to help finish off the post-match beverages! To the team's delight Lance wore the sharp end of Trevor's walking stick after trying to kick it out from under him....

A win by 179 runs is a great feat, but, perhaps the games might get a bit harder from here on in....