

Phoenix v Waringstown 23/04/11

Warm sunshine greeted the teams for this Phoenix Park clash. Rory Flanagan's injury will keep him out for a few weeks and Chris Cavanagh came into the side. Kaleem Sheikh was also out with Saddam Razza making his Phoenix debut. The full line up was Captain Dickeson, Coach Bray, David Langford-Smith (the illustrious hyphen), Conor Kelly, Ryan Gallagher, M D Masud Ahmed, Saddam Razza, Osama Khan, Thomas Anders, Amit Battan, Chris Cavanagh. The news for your correspondent was that Joy Muir (Joy Smith) is no longer the visitors' scorer and has been succeeded by Charlie Pollack who had to miss the trip to Dublin. Gordon Black was to have a busy day which would involve in excess of 80 overs at the bowler's end. Captain Dickeson won the toss and inserted the visitors.

The illustrious hyphen had to change ends after one over which meant that Conor Kelly was brought into the attack a little earlier than usual. Kelly made the first inroads for Phoenix when he bowled Cousins and the illustrious hyphen followed up by removing visiting skipper Kyle McCallan and then Lee Nelson in the same over. This brought the visiting professional, Pienaar, to the crease and he settled down quickly to prosper against the bowling of Kelly, Osama Khan and Saddam Razza. Razza took his first Phoenix wicket when he had James Hall stumped by the coach and then Bushe and Josh Hall gave sufficient support to bring the visitors to 171. Fortunately for Phoenix Pienaar fell to Gallagher with Anders taking the catch to end on 101 from 62 balls. Morrison and Kidd took the score to 192. A brave contribution by last man Kennedy helped Kidd to get the total up to 225. All the bowlers used got at least one wicket with Gallagher on top with three.

After a great dinner Phoenix set out to reach 226. Gallagher was promoted to face the first ball and Anders was at number three. Gallagher and Masud settled in comfortably against Pienaar and Morrison with early boundaries. After 38 runs from 5 overs McCallan had seen enough and brought himself into the attack. After four dot balls Masud was outwitted as Morrison took the catch and he was immediately followed by Anders after a miscommunication with Gallagher resulted in a run out. Coach Bray struck a six before Gallagher was next to fall and the coach settled into a supporting role as Conor Kelly became the aggressor for Phoenix. Kelly took on all the bowlers and was unfortunate not to get to his century. He made 76 runs from 65 balls striking two sixes and nine fours. The illustrious hyphen batted with caution against McCallan early in his innings and Phoenix moved a little ponderously from 150 to 170. There was a noticeable gear change after 35 overs and Phoenix added 60 in less than 6 overs to win the match. Kidd, Nelson, Josh Hall and Morrison all suffered as the illustrious hyphen's last eight balls faced were hit as follows: 1, 4, 4, 4, 4, 6, 2, 6.

Phoenix Man of the Match: Conor Kelly 76 runs, 1 wicket

Waringstown Performer: O Pienaar 101 runs, 2 wickets