



RAW CC UNDER 25's OF INDIA DEFEAT PATTAYA CC BY ONE WICKET IN TENSE FINISH

RAW CC from Goa in India brought their under 25's XI to Thailand and played Pattaya CC in a 40 over game at Thai Polo Ground last weekend.

The game was always going to be a tough match for PCC against a youthful and enthusiastic under 25's of considerable talent. PCC, were at nearly full strength, with Simon Philbrook as Captain and the Thai national wicketkeeper Sunny as his deputy.

PCC won the toss and elected to bat first on a very warm Saturday morning. Debdas perished in the 3rd over as he chipped a catch to mid wicket. Simon joined Sunny and the pair soon knuckled down to the task as they withstood a very hostile new ball attack led by Bala and Abhu. Sunny nearly lost his smile and teeth as a bouncer whistled under his nose at 90 mph and Simon had several bruises around the rib cage but both survived and slowly began to dominate. At 48 for 1 PCC seemed to be edging the contest as Sunny skied an attempted drive and was caught at cover point for 18. Salman then joined the fray and was immediately in the runs as he took the game to RAW CC. Again PCC seemed to be moving into a strong position at 134 for 2 but Salman was out caught trying to hit over the infield for 37. That sparked a middle order collapse that the RAW CC bowlers relished as only Mithu with 17no contributed anything of significance. Simon eventually fell to a superb catch on the boundary that would have been a maximum but for the tremendous athleticism of Abhu for a hard fought 80. Bala returned to clean up the tail that definitely did not wag. He finished with a hatrick that included long walks for Hamza, Andy and Jerome and figures of 4 for 14 from 7 overs. PCC set a target of 190 to win.

In reply RAW CC were immediately under pressure as Usman gave the opening batsmen a taste of their own medicine and the pressure soon paid off as he clean bowled Siddesh (4), had Abhu lbw (0) and the captain Tushar caught behind (7). RAW were 32 for 3 but the experienced Bala, ably supported by his middle order kept them in the game. When Thomas had Bala (49) caught and bowled and Usman returned to trap Avdhut lbw (32) the result was very much in the balance at 170 for 6. Debdas continued the squeeze but as regularly as wickets fell runs were being scored. Eventually one run was needed with one wicket remaining and the excellent Abhijit (22 no) fittingly cover drove the ball through the gap to end a marvellous game of cricket.

Men of the match were Simon and Bala who each received mementos for their efforts and RAW CC kindly donated a wonderful trophy to commemorate the first of what is hoped to be one of many PCC v RCC fixtures in the future.