

### **DCC Overcome Stiff challenge from Presidents X1**

The weather Gods had threatened to disrupt an enthralling contest between NTCA champions DCC and the Presidents X1 with snow covering the DFW metroplex just 3 days before the event. But somehow in a matter of two days, the weather seemed to take a UTurn and we had a glorious game of cricket.

Rahul Kukreti won the toss against the Arjun led, star studded Presidents X1, and had no hesitation in electing to bat first at Russel Creek Park, Plano. Kasyap Desai and Goutham morab swung the ball at a good pace but Ashwin Shankar and Orlando Baker seemed to be handling the bowling pretty well. In the 8th over Orlando was adjudged Leg before to goutham and the very next over saw Ashwin mistime a pull from kashyap straight into the skippers hands at short Mid. The good start of 30/0 was undone by losing two wickets for no runs. Dennis Vengala and Rahul Kukreti then started playing positive cricket from the get go being especially harsh on Kashyap with Rahul cutting him over point for 6. At the 13 over break DCC were well placed at 59/2.

Srinivas Guntupalli and Jai desai came on after the break. Jai was bowling good line and didnt give much away but runs leaked from the other end with both Rahul and Dennis taking a fancy to Srinivas. 25 runs came off two overs from him and he was promptly replaced by Zahid. Zahid came through for Arjun getting Dennis stumped after being hit over midoff for a 6. At 98/3 Vinod and Rahul started rebuilding but with just a couple of overs for the break Rahul(36) was caught at point by Asif Mujthaba off Zahid. At the 26 over break DCC were 139/4 with Vinod and Adil at teh crease.

Things seemed to be going well for DCC until Zahid came on for a second spell and wrecked the DCC middle order. from a poistion of 165/4 in 30, Zahid got Adil(22) stumped by Mo and the other end saw Arjun getting Vinod(36) well caught by mo down the leg side. Zahid then Picked up Halpesh Patel and Richard Thalluri in quick succession. Richard was caught brilliantly by Jai desai running from longon to deepmidwicket to not only save a sure six but also holding on to the ball. When Carl was bowled by Goutham the score read 185/9 with 3 overs to go but Sudharshan Chavva and Kartik Vittala werent going down without a fight. They remained unbeaten to take the DCC total to 210/9 after 40 overs.

Although DCC were probably 25 runs shy of what they should have got from their position after 30, they would have taken 210 at the start of the day. The pick of the bowlers for the Presidents X1 were Zahid picking up 5 wickets and arjun picking up just one but was miserly in his spell.

John Boaden's X1 started very well with Mo playing his shots freely and Hemant Jetti looking very compact. In quick succession Sudha got rid of both openers getting Mo caught very well by Halpesh and then trapping Hemant leg before. However Zahid and Vivek Inampudi saw the Presidents X1 through to 61/2 at the 13 over break and the two were looking in ominous form.

The first over after the break, saw vinod getting one to creep up on Zahid who only managed to fend it off to Rahul and DCC had managed to get the breakthrough. But goutham coming in decided to take the attack to the opposition by hitting a couple of sixes. With the score on a 110 for 3, John Boaden seemed well on course to claim his third successive Presidents X1 victory. But Richard Thalluri got the big man Vivek bowled through the gate to give DCC a glimpse of an opening. Orlando Baker came in running hard beating the batsmen for pace and that got Asif Mujtaba not able to get on top of a pull shot and only managing to sky it to Richard who took a well judged catch. In the same over Baker beat Goutham for pace for Rahul to take a regulation catch behind the wickets and DCC were on top. The last over before the break, saw Tanveer Asad trying to take on Carl T only to find Halpesh Patel on the Long Off boudary and the Presidents X1 had slumped from an impregnable position of 110/3 in 23 overs to 115/7 in 26.

Jai and Kashyap Desai didnt give up though. The two played themselves in and then slowly started hitting the ball well and running hard admisdst the chants of `Metroplex` from the fellow teammates who had come in to watch the game. Kashyap who had clobbered Adil for two big ones tried to clear the long on fence once more and was bowled with still a little over 50 runs to get. With 46 required off 6 overs Jai Desai was taking charge of the situation but Shamil Patel effected a brilliant run out to end Srinivas's innings. As the last man Arjun walked in, the 30+ strong DCC supporters were already celebrating and getting louder. It was down to 40 runs to get off 4 overs when Jai topedged one behind the keeper and was

found short of his ground while returning for a second run as Rahuls strong throw came in straight over the bails for Vinod to effect an easy run out and DCCC had completed an incredible win.

The presidents XI had crumbled under the pressure applied by the DCC bowlers who were very well aided by some great fielding and catching which proved to be the difference between the two sides. The victory was icing on the cake for a great 2007 for DCC.

It was great to see the support for the game not only from a strong DCCC contingent but also various members of the NTCA. The umpiring by Jay Shah was superb and Rick Morris did a good job at the other end. The game was also played in great spirit embodying the values that NTCA holds dear with all the players getting together and appreciating each others efforts.