

This one is for the Books!

DCCC II Vs Carrollton II, Lone Star Ground: April 9th, 2006 - This ones for the Books.

I have been with the club for almost 4 years. I certainly have had my share of good games with the club, but this one has compelled me to pen it down. On my drive back home, the game was still running in my head. I had to share it with fellow club members. So here goes...

I have always heard Arun mention to Su..."remember that game Su..." and like most of us in the club who were not there, just gazed at him trying to follow the story. Today, I got my own "remember that game Su" moment and so did a lot of other younger members of the club.

Right from when you become part of the club, there are certain teams that we are told are our arch rivals. Carrollton is certainly one of those clubs. This was certainly a beautiful day to play cricket with them.

There are no blow-by-blow statistics that I would like to share here, just emotions & sentiments. The usual pleasantries were shared and the game was on. They put their runs on the board...245 in 40 overs. We all know that anything 220+ is always a good score to defend on these fields, especially against DCC II :-). Chasing 246 was not going to be easy. One too many runs for us to score.

After loosing first 3 wickets for not much on the score book, we had our young & promising, Karthik and grey & experienced, Suhas at the crease. After playing plenty of overs sensibly by them and singles/doubles piling up, we were staring down a significant required run rate (112 of 10.4 overs).

There were some big 6's from our own Master Blaster followed by elegant & mature 4's by the youngster. Never during this innings where these guys playing for their individual scores. I don't think they cared when they crossed their individual 50s and Su passed his 100. With all the hearts pounding, on & off the field, there were runs to be scored and runs were being scored.

Between all the fair/unfair claims made by the guys on both the teams, these 2 batsmen kept their focus and got us closer to the finish line. Last over and 13 runs for the win. After a galant 2 runs (and 11 more needed) we saw Su dive & fall to make it home safe. As he lay there catching his breath and nursing his knee, the wicket keeper of the arch rival team, suggested that he can get a by-runner. Knowing Su, I was not surprised by his answer - "Let us win this one fair and square".
Courage & Character for us to learn from.

Karthik & Su had really got our team close to victory with last ball and 4 runs required to tie. I am not alone when I say this - we felt like picking up that ball from the bowler and throwing it across the boundry line to score those 4 runs. At this point, all the shouting and cheering had paused. I guess we all wanted Su to put this one out of the park. We saw him try, make 3 runs and come to a stop. No more balls to be bowled. We had lost by 1 run.

Every one shook hands with one another mentioning what a game it was and really meaning it on this one. Two tired guys, one young and one senior, were flanked off the field after scoring a terrific 181 runs in partnership. The phrase - we gave 1 too many runs, truly weighed heavy on us.

Even though we didn't win this one, it will remain an unforgettable memory for most of us. Let us save these score sheets and mental images, as few years down the road, at one of the clubs' gathering (probably at Su's) if Arun's son, Kartik says - uncle Su, remember that game against Carrollton II @ lonestar...we all will Kartik, we will!