

Dallas County win VISAS International 6-1-side tournament in Victoria, Canada

Dennis Vengala chose the semi finals and the finals to display his batting skills as Dallas County overpowered the Islanders(Vancouver) in the semi finals and then destroyed the Aussie Dapto team in the finals to clinch the VISAS six a side championship at Beacon hill Park, Victoria. Dennis Vengala was declared the MVP and Vinord Woolcock the best bowler of the tournament. Orlando Baker had the most runs for Dallas throughout the competition. Suhas Naik kept brilliantly replacing Carl Thompson in the team on the final day. Kartik Vittala and Vinod Periagaram provided good support with the ball and on the field while the entire 34 strong DCC contingent almost made it look like Dallas was playing at home.



MVP - Dennis Vengala of Dallas County

In the Jags Patel Plate finals the team from LA led by Neil Lashkari won a nail biter against the New Zealand Pigeon Mountain team by 5 runs. With 17 runs required off the last over Neil bowled a steady and consistent line denying the Kiwis the required runs.

Dallas, one of the pre tournament favorites, started their campaign with a resounding win against the defending champions, Stickey Wicket. En route to the playoffs they had convincing victories against Milan family from Italy, Sundowners from England, Trenton Financial from Victoria and Texas, but they stumbled on their last league game, losing to the Isle of Man. In group B, the Wanderers(Vancouver) had won all their games with their power hitters firing on all cylinders.



Suhas Naik watches his team bat from the pavilion balcony

With Dallas dropping a game, the much expected finals clash between Dallas and the Wanderers turned into a Quarter Final game. Dallas batting first came through with their batting as Orlando Baker, Dennis Vengala, Woolcock and big Carl Thompson set up a huge score of 162 in 10 overs. The game didn't reach the expected heights with the Dallas bowlers picking up early wickets to win comfortably by 80 runs. However in the process they had lost their captain and star all rounder Carl T for the tournament (tore a ligament diving on the field).



Vinord hits one over covers against the Isle of man as Orlando Baker watches on

The weather Gods, who had blessed the tournament up to the final day, decided to take off and down came the rain for the semi finals and the finals. However the cricket did not come to a halt nor did it deter the hundreds of spectators from enjoying some great cricketing action. The Aussie Dapto team avenged their league defeat against the Kiwi team in the first semi final with Richard marsh scoring an impressive ton. Dallas put the Islanders in to bat and had full control over the proceeding by taking regular wickets thanks to an out of the world catch by wicket keeper Suhas Naik in the very first over and thus restricting the opposition to 97. Dennis Vengala had no problems in knocking off these runs with 3 overs to spare as Dallas marched on to the finals.



A view of the pavilion during a game between Dapto and Air New Zealand

In the finals, Dennis seized control by belting the first 4 balls for beautifully struck boundaries. The heavy soaked ball had no impact on Dennis's batting as he kept clearing the fence and was well supported by Baker and Woolcock. Dennis scored 65 runs helping Dallas put on 165, their highest score in the tournament. Dapto showed a bit of a fight reaching 40 in 3 overs but when Dennis bowled their star batsman Marsh in the 4th over, it was all over. Dallas won the game by 40 runs to become the only Non-Canadian team to win the event after a gap of 16 years.

The Dallas players walked off the field to a rousing reception from the crowd who had stayed on even in the rain. Cricket in the beautiful Vancouver Island had won against the elements and the organizers efforts to conduct an international event of this magnitude had paid rich dividends. Suhas Naik, the president of Dallas County Cricket Club was at a loss for words, "I've been participating in this event since 1992 and to finally win it 16 years later as a player is something I'd almost given up on...Almost. To win this event against quality opposition from around the world is something very very special".

As the sun set in Victoria, the Dallas boys embarked on a long journey back home while the tournament Organizers headed by David Billingham and Nick Grant already start their planning for the 2010 edition of the tournament.



David Billingham, Jags Patel and Nick Grant did a great job putting things together

http://www.victoriacricket.ca/rules_two.html