

PREMIER MATCH REPORT – SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

AUCC Premier Men v Waitakere City – Colin Maiden Park

Despite another superb performance from skipper Marc Ellison the AUCC Premier Men`s team suffered a first innings defeat in the opening round of the two-day season as conditions transpired against our boys at Colin Maiden Park.

On day one last weekend a week of sunny weather ensured the `B` block pitch was a perfect batting strip and the visiting Waitakere City batsmen made full use of this posting 330 in the first innings. A week later, and after some torrential midweek downpours, the pitch that produced a day one run fest was now perfect for bowling handing the visitors the advantage again ahead of day two.

Varsity lost openers Barrington Rowland and Matt Ansell early but a 48 run partnership between Ellison and Nick Wanden got the innings on track and when Ellison and Chris Dineen (43no) were in full flight our boys were certainly in the hunt when they reached 101/3.

At this stage Ellison departed for a well made 61 following on from his century in the previous match and his dismissal sparked a collapse which saw Uni slip to 139/7 forcing the skipper to pull the pin on the pursuit in hopes of forcing a reverse outright.

The visiting captain, not content with his first innings victory, gamely forfeited his side`s second innings leaving our boys a target of 192 in the second dig but only 36 overs in which to chase them.

Once again the University innings begun badly with Ansell and Rowland falling cheaply and it was left to the skipper once again to resurrect the chase.

Ellison again combined well with Wanden as the pair added 64 for the third wicket before Wanden departed for 39 from just 24 deliveries. Dineen came in next but was unable to repeat his first innings effort being dismissed for just 10 but Richard Sillars came to his captain`s aid and the pair helped Varsity chip away at the target.

Sillars stuck a six and two fours while Ellison cleared the ropes on three occasions as he passed 50 for the second time in the afternoon. Despite being a two-day game the run chase felt more like a limited overs dash but the Waitak skipper smartly used the lack of fielding restrictions to his favour placing all his fielders on the line to prevent boundaries whilst keeping the asking rate above six runs per over.

The tension mounted as the day moved towards its conclusion and our boys were left needing eight runs from the final over to secure a reverse. Sillars managed a single from the opening delivery but with the field spread Ellison holed out trying to clear the ropes bringing an end to superb innings of 72. New batsman Warren Barnes managed a single from the next delivery but a dot ball

followed leaving Sillars needing to clear the fence to secure a win. Unfortunately Sillars fell short in his efforts but he did manage to bring up his half-century finishing unbeaten on 50 from just 51 deliveries.

The first innings defeat was a disappointing start to the two-day campaign for our boys but they have a chance to put this right in a hurry this coming weekend when they meet Cornwall in a Saturday/Sunday encounter at CMP.

Result:

Waitakere City 330 (V Jeet 4/82, C Dineen 3/44, A Fong 2/43) **defeated AUCC Premier Men 139/7 dec** (M Ellison 61, C Dineen 43no) **& 188/5** (M Ellison 72, R Sillars 50no, N Wanden 39) **on first innings.**

Next Fixture:

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th November

AUCC v Cornwall – Colin Maiden Park