

The Match Report: The U17s Romande Cup 2021

ZCCC vs. Swiss Romande

After a long journey our players arrived at the cold and dew-drenched grounds of Bout-du-Monde. Vadim and Danyal opened the batting carefully to get used to the pitch conditions. Lack of bounce from the wet ball was unsettling for batters. Once Danyal (2) was bowled out due to a low bouncing ball, and Shankar (6) was caught by Srivaas from Jeremie's skidding ball, Vadim (18*) tried to keep the scoreboard ticking until he retired after 9 overs. Max (30*) then accelerated the run rate by scoring 30 runs off 22 balls, which included a magnificent six over long off. After the team's nerves were settled with a decent run rate (around 6.5 an over), Gianluca (4) came in and batted sensibly before he succumbed to Arya's good length ball brilliantly caught by the keeper. Faisal (32*), Khalid (32*) and Ziaulhaq (32*) then opened the floodgates with flurry of sixes and fours. The run rate skyrocketed to around 8 an over. After Paarth departed from Drewdan's excellent ball. It was left to Shayedullah (16), Emal (15) and Farhad (1) to finish the job with a formidable total of 233 to defend. It was an excellent batting performance by ZCCC. With huge scoreboard pressure Swiss Romande struggled to score runs throughout the innings. Khalid (2 wickets) surprised the team by switching to pace bowling and taking a brilliant caught & bowled. With the pace and accuracy of Khalid and the good length bowling of Danyal (1) Swiss Romande were in real trouble losing the 3rd wicket in their 6th over when Vadim ran out Adarash. Vadim also got one wicket with his leg spin. Then Farhad and Gianluca shared one wicket each with some excellent bowling. The penultimate over by Paarth was a maiden. Shanker completed the task when Dirushaan was LBW. ZCCC won by 178 runs. An excellent performance all round.

ZCCC vs. Basel Dragons

In order to allow for a rest from fielding ZCCC opened the batting. The team demonstrated the importance of depth – We saw Danyal (19), Shankar (51), Gianluca (11*), Dirushaan (15) and Paarth (4-0-14-2-3.5) taking the baton to get the team home. Max and Vadim shuffled the team to balance the opportunity to play. This caused a little wobble at the beginning. The team lost 6 wickets in quick succession and the run rate after 19 overs was hovering around 4. After opener Faisal (12) was out LBW, Danyal played sensibly before getting out from Ziaulhaq's excellent spin. Shankar played carefully to steady the ship and retired after facing 30 good balls. Unfortunately, Paarth was bowled out by his own team mate Ziaulhaq, followed by Vadim (5), who inside edged a seaming ball from Sashank onto his stumps. Gianluca (11*) then came in and displayed some brilliant defensive batting before retiring. Captain Max (13) decided to bring himself in to calm the team's nerves when they were 7 wickets down and the team had scored only 116. However, he departed after three brilliant fours. Emal (6) followed after playing offensively. Dirushaan (15) came in as the last batter and finished the innings with Shankar by scoring 3 fours. The team finished on 176 all out. Ziaulhaq, who played for Basel, bagged 3 wickets. During the fielding there were visible signs of fatigue among the team. However, they only conceded 13 extras and there was a runout by Faisal. Khalid (1 wicket) and Farhad opened the bowling with very good pace and economy. Then there was a drought of wickets until Emal took the crucial wicket of Ziaulhaq, and Connor, the opener, miss-timed Vadim's leg spin. Basel's run rate was 4.5 at this stage. Paarth then took the wicket of his name sake Parth and the form batter Vignesh

with his brilliant spin. Danyal took the important wicket of the aggressive batter, Sai. Although the pace and length suffered due to fatigue in the second match, the team demonstrated that we have talent in all departments. They certainly must have enjoyed the happy and sleepy journey back home.