



Kenya secure an important I-Cup win over Canada

Kenya registered their first win in this season's ICC Intercontinental Cup over Canada by 4 wickets at the ICC Global Cricket Academy in Dubai, UAE between 18th and 21st March, 2013.

Canada, put in to bat by Kenya went on to pile 358 runs over a day and a half before reducing the Kenyans to 95 for 3 moments after tea on day two.

However, in-form Rakep Patel and Tanmay Mishra safely negotiated the final session of play on the second day to lift Kenya to 202 for 3 at stumps. Patel's 59 off 71 balls was the more aggressive of the pair stroking eight boundaries and a six in the process while Mishra had a more defensive approach notching his 57 from 119 balls.

Kenya eventually posted 406 runs all out from 116.2 overs, Rakep Patel's 130 runs the stand out total from the Kenyan batting line-up.



Nelson Odhiambo is bowled

The match seemed destined for a draw at the end of the Kenyan inning and Canada was expected to bat out the afternoon session. That was not to be, as Nehemiah Odhiambo struck on the final delivery of the second over to dismiss Ruvindu Gunasekara for four and five balls later it was his younger brother Ngoche who trapped first innings hero Nitish Kumar leg before for nought. Canada had been left tottering at 12 for 2. Hiral Patel (33) and Raza-ur-Rehman (17) then guided them to close on day three.

Kenya was still looking for her maiden win in this edition and if they needed inspiration they did not have to look further than paceman Nehemiah who produced one his best spells to return figures of 5 for 43 and send Canada packing for a low second innings total of 175, leaving them with a lead of 127.

With the required total below 130, Kenya had sensed they had a chance with 46 overs remaining. Mishra's 38 not out and Duncan Allan's 35 guided them to a four wicket win and with it all 20 points on offer that helped them jump a place in the table to fifth position.

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Centurion Irfan Karim

Karim joins an elite group of Kenyan ODI centurions

Irfan Karim became the latest entry into the elite group of One Day International (ODI) century makers when he scored 112 runs against Canada in the second World Cricket League Championship match that took place at the ICC Global Cricket Academy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

He becomes the youngest century maker for Kenya at just 20 years and 169 days and is the only player amongst the current squad to have achieved this feat. Collins Obuya 98, Alex Obanda 96 and Rakep Patel 92 are the other players in the present team to have come close to the century mark.

Karim who has a mere four innings under his belt has already notched up 230 runs to his name at a healthy average of 57.50 and a strike rate of 75.90. The opening batsman who also acts as a wicketkeeper now joins a group of six that include former greats Kennedy Obuya (144), Deepak Chudasama (122), Ravindu Shah (113), Steve Tikolo and Thomas Odoyo (both 111).

Mombasa Sports on a high in Coast 30 overs tourney

Mombasa Sports Club continued with their dominance in the Coastal cricket by staying unbeaten by the fifth week of the Coast 30 overs tournament.

As the tournament which has attracted seven top teams from Mombasa entered week six MSC had not dropped any point in the league winning all their matches.

Other teams taking part in the league are Mombasa Jafferys, Burhani Sports Club, Mombasa Sports Club, Mombasa Heat, Coast Gymkhana and Shree Cutchi Leva Patel Samaj.

Burhani who had been placed second for close to three weeks were toppled after losing to MSC to pave way to Jafferys.

Jafferys have eight points similar to MSC but they have played five matches. MSC was due to play Gymkhana and Heat. Four teams will qualify for the knockout stages

Sanjay Patel of Gymkhana is topping the batting with 253 runs followed by Taha Firoz of Burhani who has 147. Other players that have gotten past the hundred-mark in the event are Tim Jenz (Heat), Yusuf Hussein (Burhani) and Moh'd Fazal (Jaffery).

Imran Jagani (Jaffery), Shafik Alibhai and Shiraz Esmailjee (Burhani) and Kshitij Patel (Gymkhana) are on top of the bowlers chart.

Nairobi 50-over tournament league enters final stage

The Nairobi 50 overs league entered its final stages with favorites Kanbis making it in the finals without dropping any point. Kanbis will meet Sir Ali who beat Twenty20 champions Sikh Union in a tough match played at Sir Ali.

Kanbis qualified without any ball being bowled after their opponents, Stray Lions failed to turn up at their own home ground at Peponi School.

In Division One, David Tikolo continued to prove that age is nothing but a number when he scored a century to steer Swamibapa B into the finals. Swamibapa beat Nairobi Jaffery and will now play Kanbis B who silenced Ngara in the other semi final match. With the ton, Tikolo is the leading scorer in the league.

Samaj and Parklands top boy's secondary school league

The Nairobi secondary school league came to an end last month with Samaj School and Parklands emerging victorious in their respective groups. The league which started on the 26th January consisted of 15 schools from Nairobi. Teams drawn from both government and private schools were pooled in three pools –A, B and C.

The league was very competitive this year as the winners could only be determined through the run rate unlike in the past when the winners could be known long before the end of the matches.

Samaj A won Pool A followed by their perennial arch rivals Arva Boys A. Samaj garnered 8 points from 4 matches while Arya finished with 6 points after their only loss to the eventual winners-Samaj A.



Development Director, Kalpesh Patel (r) donates a bat to Parklands School

Kalpesh Solanki the Development Director donated two bats to Lenana and Parklands. The national team coach and NPCA Fixture Secretary and the two National team players present encouraged the boys to keep working hard and maintain high standard of discipline if they wanted to play at the top level.

Baharini swim in double at Rift Valley mini-cricket tournament

Baharini Primary made it a plentiful Easter weekend when the school lifted both the boys and girls Rift Valley mini-cricket tournament titles at the Rift Valley Sports Club, in Nakuru on Saturday.

In the boy's category Michael Karanga led the chase of 56 posted by Crater Primary with a well crafted 17 runs after Eugene Ochieng 2 wickets for 4 runs had restricted their opponents to 55 earlier on.

The girl's event was equally entertaining as the two rivals locked horns again for the right to be mini-cricket champions. Baharini girls won the toss and elected to bat posting 54 in their allotted overs thanks to a magnificent 18 from Teresia Wanjiru. Emily Wambui then picked up 2 wickets for a single run to put paid to Crater's chances.

Rift Valley schools program moves a notch higher



Pupils in Nakuru take part in a mini-cricket match

Rift Valley pupils have had a good time with cricket thanks to a new program that was started at the beginning of the schools term. Rift Valley coaches led by Head of Elite Peter Ongondo and Development Officer David Asiji started a new primary league aimed at identifying new talent and giving the growing number of players a chance to play the game in the most competitive manner.

The league which comprises of primary schools for both boys and girls was divided into two zones namely Western and Central. Each zone had 5 schools. Central had Baharini, Flamingo, St Joseph, Kisulisuli and Hill Valley while Western Zone consisted of Menengai, Crater, Jamhuri, Roots Academy and Lions.

After weeks of competition that saw the teams played each other twice on a round robin format, Baharini and Crater won their respective zone and are expected to fight it out in the finals to be slated next term.

Ongondo said Lions who had only started playing in January were the most impressive school as they kept on improving with every match and it was not a surprise when they registered two wins on the way.

Kenya takes part in Inaugural Coaches workshop

Last month, ICC- Africa Cricket Association conducted an inaugural Africa Assessors and Presenters Workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa. Over ten participants from the continent took part in the event that was aimed at improving the coaching standards of the game in the continent. Kenya was represented by CK-Development Officer, Special Project Dun Okinyo. The participants, exchanged views and generated a number of interesting ideas on the development of cricket in the continent is concerned through coaching.

Okinyo said the camp was useful as it was noted on how the continent was doing as far as coaching is concerned and what needs to be done to improve it.

“It was noted that the continent was having a big increase in the number of players but the coaches’ number was not improving. The numbers of active coaches to the trained coaches was also worrying such that there were more coaches who have gone through the training but are not involved in coaching at any level,” he said.

Okinyo said that ICC-Africa have resolved in getting more coaches improve on their levels so as the players can get proper training.

During the workshop, an Africa cricket coaches’ organization was formed. The organization that will among other things ensure that African coaches get more exposed will be known as ‘Cricket Coaches Africa.