

On a steamy Saigon morning, UCC showed no signs of rust as commanding performances all around the park ensured a 70-run bonus point victory that slingshot the UCC into top of table on 12 points against the Men in light blue who were sitting on top until they were put to the sword.

Vijesh won the toss and made a positive pivotal decision to bat first. With batting right down to 11, UCC were confident of putting on a big score against a determined ICCS side who, on their day, can take wickets and score big runs.

UCC's innings got off to a quick start with both runs being made but with wickets falling at regular intervals.

Chetan fell to great in swinging delivery that unfortunately kept low, LBW to Karthick and Rajesh (7) to slow delivery of Tanveer to leave UCC reeling at 21-2 off 3 overs.

From this point the 2 Aussies Debutant Rob Weiks formerly of the SACC and Joel Willis new to Vietnam from Sydney joined the crease and built an excellent partnership with some speedy running between wickets and pure shot selection.

The Indians decided to bounce Rob Weiks and they soon realized this was not the best option . Whilst the bowling was tight at times the Indians offered up enough loose deliveries for Weiks and Willis alike to dint the boundary rope to keep run rate high and shot selection risk low. The 80-run partnership ended in the 11th over with UCC debutant Rob Weiks being trapped plumb LBW in front after scoring 50 off 25 (8x4's – 2x6's) and few overs later Joel Willis was dismissed after a rock solid 41 off 43(5x4's).

Crucial contributions followed with Ankit 20 off 18 (4 x 4's) Nitin 10 off 7 and Skipper Vijesh putting some nice icing on well-cooked cake with 14 off 6 (1 x6's , 1 x4's) including a big dorothy(six) late in the innings. Pankaj scored 7 off 3 including the biggest 6 of the day over midwicket. The fact that these 4 batsmen got there runs quickly allowed the UCC to amass 175 which was felt to be slightly above par, batting first.

6 for 175.

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The Indians chase started well with some controlled hitting but UCC bowled extremely tight giving them nothing and all bowlers contributed very well to a tight fielding effort. Joel Willis in particular in close was exceptional taking a speccy one hander to get rid of the Indian skipper and cutting off some runs fielding at mid wicket. Bala contributed well in the field with some excellent ground fielding including a run out later in the innings.

Chetan did a great job behind the stumps as always ,considering that one end on particular was keeping low.

Both opening bowlers did a great job and Vijesh 0-17 and Bala 0-23 bowled very well as a unit. Combined 0-40 off 7 overs with only 2 fielders out is very good.

In the meantime our injured warrior Dan Malone was on scoreboard duty, it has to be said, that he was born for this role and there is a bright future ahead in scorebaord attendance for Dan :)

At 2-49 off 8.2 overs the Indians were still in the game with wickets in hand and a fast outfield anything was possible.

Enter Rajesh with 2 wickets in his first over which changed the momenteum of the game completely and took whatever living breath the Indian had in them exhale in to the thick Saigon morning air.

Rajesh finished with best bowling figures of the day with 3-21 off 4 overs in a sublime display of left arm orthodox bowling (Allan Border like it was heard in the crowd!)

At the 10 over drinks break the UCC unit committed themselves to working to a set goal and the disciliplined effort was implmented by each and every player to reduce the paltry Indians to 5-65 off 11.2 overs.

Rohan 1-16 off 3 bowled extremely well in an important part of the innings and Pankaj with 2-21 off 4 sealed the deal around the 15 over mark. Pankaj also took 2 excellently judged outfield catches that were heading for sixes.

Rob Weiks bowled tightly for 3 overs 1-9 at the dead end of the innings where the Indians were more interested in taking a shower than batting.

After the powerplay skipper Vijesh settled for 5 out and this strangled the Indian batting where singles were the norm. Only a total of 12 boundaries were hit (1x 6's and 11x 4's) by the Indians which is testament to the discipline by both bowlers and fielders from the UCC.

Ultimately the bowling and fielding effort was worthy to that of a final. Heaps of chirp in the field and energy thwarted any come back from the Indians who ended up 8 for 105 after their 20 over allotment