

UCC v SSC

24th Feb 2019

After winning the toss and electing to bat, the Sri Lankans got off to a strong early start but were restricted by some tight bowling when Rohan (1/21 off 4) and Bala (1/39 off 4) joined forces. Both picked up a wicket each to have Sri Lanka at 60/2 when drinks were called at the halfway mark. However, the next 10 overs were dominated by a brilliant batting partnership between Bertu (69 off 59) and Sumedha (62 off 37) as both batters took on the UCC bowlers with some clean hitting, often taking on the man on the boundary, and clearing it with ease. After two quick wickets by Pankaj (2/26 off 4) brought their partnership to an end, a 6 off the last ball by Anushka concluded the Sri Lankan innings with a highly competitive total of 153/4 after their 20 overs.

From the start of their chase, the UCC batters came unstuck by a tearaway spell from Sri Lanka's opening bowler, Anushka (3/24 off 4) who decimated the UCC top order to have them at 4/41 after the first 6 overs. With Anushka bowling out his 4 overs early, the UCC batters finally found some stability with crucial partnerships in the middle order bringing them back into the game. Rohan was the star scoring a calculated, Dhoni-like 45 off 31. He was well supported by Chetan (20 off 22) and Saurav (29 off 23) to take UCC chase to the last over requiring 10 runs to win with 3 wickets remaining. The last over was bowled by Janaka (2/28 off 4) with 5 runs coming off the first two

balls to bring the target down to 5 to win from 4 balls – UCC for the first time ahead of the game. But with some clever bowling, Janaka picked up 2 wickets for only 2 runs in the next 3 balls leaving UCC needing to hit a 4 off the last ball to win the game. With Vijesh on strike, he managed to squeeze the ball to a vacant square leg as Bala set off like a mad-man almost lapping Vijesh between wickets. As the ball was finally hurtled in, Bala was completing his 3rd run to take the game to a tie – 153 each.

An exciting end to the game played in great spirit between two competitive sides saw the 4 points split in the end and UCC just remain on top of the points tally with a favourable NRR. Rohan's all-round performance, Berty's batting and Anushka's bowling all deserve special mention, but it was Sumedha's batting performance that earned him man-of-the-match on this occasion. As always, thank you to the scorers, umpires and supporters for making this match possible.