

Phoenix 2 v North Kildare 1 - 9th July 2011

Savage, Ford, Neill, Gopal and Joseph dropped out of the side for various reasons leaving Chris Cavanagh a difficult task to assemble a team to travel to the scene of one of 2010's defeats to forget. Eoin Cleere retained his place in the side with fellow teenagers Thomas and Rory Anders and Adam Chester also in and Michael Fahy accepting a call up at 7.30 the night before the match. Kaleem Sheikh returned to bolster the bowling attack. Phoenix won the toss and chose to bat first. The batting order was: M D Masud Ahmed, A Battan, T Anders, A Nazir, V Vaidyanathan, C Cavanagh, E Cleere, R Anders, A Chester, M Fahy, K Sheikh.

At 25 for 0 after 6 overs, Masud was 1 run behind Battan but the Bangladeshi began to take over from this point and at 50 for 0 he was 26-15 ahead. There was an alarm when Walshe dropped Masud in the gully but the batsmen tightened their grip and Satchwell, Pyne, Ali and Singh had all suffered in the 100 partnership as Masud increased his lead over Battan. At drinks Phoenix were 135 for 0 and looked capable of reaching 300 and Masud's century and the 150 partnership were registered in the 27th over. The runs continued with Battan's 50 in the 31st over and the 200 partnership in the 32nd. It seemed that the bowlers were unable to get any life from their own mat. McGreivy and Neavyn were unable to stem the flow of runs with the former withdrawing from the action as a back problem flared up. The 250 partnership came up in the 37th over and Masud's 150 in the next as Battan looked to close in on a century. Masud was finally caught just inside the boundary for 195 to end the stand on 311 as Battan went on with Thomas Anders until he was out for 108. Anders finished on 27 not out as his stand with Asim Nazir added 28 in the last 10 minutes of the innings.

North Kildare's target of 377 was about 20 more than they had set Phoenix in 2010 and the visitors got off to a good start when the normally productive opener Ian Walshe was run out backing up before he had faced a ball. Now it was Phoenix's turn to be patient as Neavyn and Singh tackled the bowling of Cavanagh and Sheikh and then Vaidyanathan and Thomas Anders. In North Kildare's best spell of the match the stand added 102 before Masud bowled Singh for 45 in the 20th over. The home team now found themselves up against Masud from one end and Asim Nazir from the other and wickets began to fall at regular intervals. Masud added Ali and Sethi to his list of victims and Nazir ended the resistance of Neavyn, Gilmore, Pyne and Horn as Phoenix took the 9 wickets necessary to bring proceedings to a close as McGreivy had already left the scene. Phoenix won by 217 runs.

Phoenix batting: Masud Ahmed 195, Amit Battan 108

Phoenix bowling: Asim Nazir 4-19, Masud Ahmed 3-36