

Phoenix at Leinster 14/07/11

After his innings at Kilcock, Masud Ahmed could not be left out of the side for this 20/20 clash at Rathmines. With Ted Williamson and Coach Bray both out Vish Vaidyanathan also earned another 1st XI outing. Leinster had already overcome both Rush and Terenure and had to be beaten to give Phoenix something to play for in their double header the following Sunday. The team was: M D Masud Ahmed, Rory Flanagan, Ryan Gallagher, Conor Kelly, Vish Vaidyanathan, David Langford-Smith, Captain Dickeson, Thomas Anders, Osama Khan, Jonathan Wardell, Sadaf Raza. After the toss Leinster chose to bat first.

Langford-Smith bowled a maiden first up against Jones but Scholtz took on Khan with sufficient success that Phoenix introduced Kelly a little earlier than would have been ideal. The Dubliner's second over saw the willow hit the leather to good effect and Langford-Smith's final over was deferred as Raza and Gallagher now bowled in tandem. Leinster were 70 for 2 after 7 overs with Scholtz caught by Raza off Langford-Smith for 14 and symmetrically Jones caught by Langford-Smith off Raza for 16. Gallagher bowled 4 overs for 23 but Raza grabbed a second when Anders caught Faizan for 46. Masud bowled 3 overs for 20 and it was Flanagan who removed Edwards for 38 and Carroll for 5 with Captain Dickeson and Ryan Gallagher respectively taking the catches. Dwyer and Mallon added a stand of 26 for the 6th wicket as the innings closed on 163 for 5.

Phoenix opened with the two big guns of Langford-Smith and Masud Ahmed but this tactic did not work as they were out for 2 and 1 respectively to Edwards. Gallagher and Kelly set about trying to improve the situation for Phoenix and achieved some level of recovery with a 53 stand to bring Phoenix to 63 for 2 in the 9th over. However, the loss of Kelly for 33, Captain Dickeson for 7 and Gallagher (stumped off a wide again) for 29 left Phoenix on 90 for 5 still very much up against it. Vaidyanathan's death or glory shot first up resulted in his dismissal and Flanagan's contribution of 21 was not quite enough to turn the match Phoenix's way. Khan hit 28 from 17 balls but lost Raza with 37 still needed and his own exit left Phoenix on 142 for 9 with 22 needed from 10 balls. The next legal delivery saw Anders dismissed (a feat which has eluded several bowlers in Division 1) and Wardell's innings brought to a close before the wicket keeper had a chance to face a ball. Phoenix lost by 20 runs.

Phoenix bowling: R Flanagan 2-19, S Raza 2-32

Phoenix batting: Kelly 33, Gallagher 29, Khan 28, Flanagan 21