

QUADRANGULAR CUP 2012 FINALS- MATCH REPORT

By Satish Prabhakar

BOCC wins the inaugural edition of "Friends of Philadelphia Quadrangular Cup 2012". Boy! No better way to end the season! Kudos to the team!, Kudos to all members that played in this tournament. The key to our success from the start to the end was playing as a team, as a unit, most importantly having fun! We should be proud of the way we played and the end result. Winning was a habit. In the road to the finals we won almost every game except one. We were pushed to the bottom many times under different match situations, but we fearlessly boiled up. In every match we had a different person stepping up. We played against quality players but we did not let that get to our head. The final was not very different.

After winning the toss on a cold November day the decision to field first was a good one and it paid off. Prior CC opened the batting with openers Sunny and Deepak. We opened the bowling with birthday boy Rajat and Baba. Baba and Rajat bowled 6 good overs between them, but Sunny and Deepak played cautiously and ensuring that they don't throw their wickets away. The plan was to save Baba and Rajat for the last six overs and that would also give us extra options in the middle overs. So we quickly changed the bowling to buy wickets and brought in Klausy and Umadhav. Klausy bowled one of the best spells all season and we could not keep track of the number of number of times he beat the bat. Klausy was so unlucky that he missed the edges and we missed the catches. Umadhav has been a regular participant through the length of this tournament, but his participation in the final was doubtful due to an injured left hand. But upon me requesting him to take one for the team he readily agreed to play with no second thoughts even though he had a few stiches in his hand.

Umadhav bowled a beautiful spell and got two danger men out in his first two overs. Sunny for 17 and Dil Bajwa for no score and both catches caught very well by Peter at unorthodox first slip. Even though Prior CC lost 2 quick wickets they had a few more good batsmen left. Deepak the opener along with their No.4 built a 40 run partnership. Deepak was out eventually caught behind of my bowling. Rana (36) their big hitting middle order bat licked me for two big sixers in one over and I had to take myself out of the attack. We brought back Umadhav, Baba and Rajat back for the last 8 overs to put breaks on the RR and we soon got wickets tumbling. Baba (3w), Rajat (3W) completed the wickets. Our target was to restrict Prior to under 160 runs and we stuck to the plan. Prior lost their way in the end trying to push the RR up and ended with 154-9 of the allotted 30 overs.

We started our batting innings with a very positive frame of mind. We opened with Rohith and Jay and we had a measured start. Rohith and Jay scored at the required RR and with the score reading 37 after 7 overs; Jay was out caught at deep mid-wicket for 10. Sunil Rabari walked in at No.3 and played very sensibly and kept up the required RR with Rohith. Rohith and Sunil quickly constructed another 30 run partnership. We were comfortably cruising at 68-1 of 13 overs.

At this point strange things happened. Sunil was out of a legal no ball. Yes, that is correct. Sunil was caught at point with the umpire calling a no ball and rightfully according to laws of cricket. Prior CC fielders had taped their palms fully to protect from the cold. They ignored the repeated warnings from the umpire. After a lengthy on field controversy and debate, just to ensure that the cup ends in an amicable way and with the calculated measure that the game was going smoothly for us, I made a call as the BOCC skipper to call Sunil back even though I completely agreed with the umpires on field decision. I wanted to defuse an ugly situation on the field even though it was the oppositions own doing. This decision almost came back to haunt me.

We lost Baba the very next ball for no score and followed by Rohit who was very unlucky to be caught of a very freakish catch after a well-made 42. We were 4 wickets down for 71 runs with our backs against the wall.

Rajat and I started to reconstruct the innings and we scored 40 plus runs between us before Rajat was caught at long on for 28. I followed soon to be caught of another freakish catch by the same fielder that caught Rohith after making 16 runs. So to give everyone an idea, this same fielder at square leg caught 2 catches without watching the ball closely or the required anticipation. Both times the ball stuck to the wrong hand and these were not very simple catches either. It appeared comical for Prior CC but for sure not me or Rohith. We soon had Sunil Gaikwad and Kenny out with score reading 123-8 of 24 overs. We needed close to 6 RPO of the last 5 overs. Umadhav (No.10) joined Peter at the crease. I was worried given the condition of his left hand and the fact that he cannot grip the top hand. Umadhav had other plans. He quickly engineered a 32 run partnership for the 9th wicket with Peter. Peter the other star of the day with two important catches played very sensibly with Umadhav to bring the game home. The 32 runs came of all singles and two's. Peter and Umadhav completed the match with an over to spare. This was a fantastic game and must say a sweet result for the club.

Given the situation of the match, the contribution, the circumstances, Umadhav was chosen as the man of the finals for his 2 important wickets and crucial 14 not out.

All is well that ends well. We retired to our usual drinking hole and cherished the win. More information about the cup and other information will be shared at the annual dinner. Until then..... Adios!

QUADRANGULAR CUP 2012- WINNERS (BOCC)

