

2013/02/14

Title : Rovers, a jolly good Chennai team

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Location : CHENNAI

Article Date : 02/13/2013

The club used to take particular pride in spotting young players and grooming them into performing players

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

 Jolly Rovers, which for years been the premier cricket club of the city, will soon be celebrating its golden jubilee. That the club has won the Palayamapatti shield 18 times is an indication of how it has been able to string together sustained team performances right through long seasons of city cricket. Team spirit is quite the byword at a club that has attracted the top talent right from the early days when players from Bengaluru used to be popular players and performers in Chennai.

It was in the salad days of Mr K.S. Narayanan, about the time he was just beginning to make a name as a major city industrialist, that the club was first sponsored by India Cements and then Chemplast Sanmar. The club used to take particular pride in spotting young players and grooming them into performing players even as they were given a career and job security to grow as men.

There is no prominent state player who has not turned out for the club but its huge success has not been dependent only on the stars. The bits-and-pieces men and club regulars who did not make it big on the first class scene were also solid contributors. The camaraderie running through the club also made it the place to be in as winning



Rovers, a jolly good Chennai team

all trophies possible was not the sole aim.

The enjoyment of the game was something that was dinned into the club's players as the patrons were such keen followers of the game that they were always appreciative of good cricket, the tradition that Mr Narayanan set being followed by his sons N.Sankar and N. Kumar. From the days of KR Rajagopal and Najam Hussain, who were prominent 'imports' from Karnataka, right down to today, several Ranji stars form the backbone of the team. Such players helped raise the standards of their colleagues long before the

game became more professional in the city with senior division players also demanding appearance money from their clubs.

In the old days the keenest rivalry used to be between Jolly Rovers, State Bank and Alwarpet CC with matches between the giants drawing crowds of up to 2,000 for Sunday or weekend games. Today, Jolly Rovers' biggest rival is Vijay CC, curiously from the same parent company that was a pioneer of sponsoring cricket, India Cements. The most recent win of Chemplast came in BCCI's Corporate trophy in which they beat arch rivals Vijay CC from Chennai.

MILESTONES

The record of Jolly Rovers / Chemplast is quite stupendous as can be gleaned from the trophies won:

1. Palayamapatti Shield – 18 times (5 times in a row from 2000, three times in the last 5 years); 2.VAP Trophy – 5 times in 8 years; 3. Moh-nud-Dowla Trophy – 6 times; 4. KSCA Trophy – 3 times; 5. BCCI Corporate Trophy – first time (February 2013); 6. Hindu Trophy – 8 times; 7. MCA corporate trophy – once; 8. Buchi Babu Trophy – 3 times; 9. Canara Bank Centenary – once; 10. Calcutta T20 Tournament – once and 11. YSCA Trophy – 2 times.

Chemplast clinches Corporate Trophy

CHENNAI: Chemplast won the Raj Singh Dungarpur Corporate Trophy one-day tournament at the Holkar ground in Indore on Friday.

Driven by a punishing century from R. Sathish (105, 123b, 13x4, 2x6) and a destructive six for 32 from leg-spinner Piyush Chawla, Chemplast defeated the star-studded India Cements by 79 runs in the final.

Replying to Chemplast's 267

• **Sathish added 132 for the fifth wicket with Kudua**

• **Chawla took six for 32**

for seven in 50 overs, India Cements made just 188. Sathish was adjudged Man-of-the-Match. Chemplast (as Jolly Rovers) had overcome the

same opponent (Vijay) in the final of the TNCA first division league with Chawla's leg-spin playing a major role.

This time, the side recovered from 84 for four after electing to bat with Sathish and Ajay Kudua (58, 75b, 6x4, 1x6) putting on 132 for the fifth wicket in 137 balls. Syed Mohammad biffed an 11-ball unbeaten 25.

Yomahesh picked up four wickets for India Cements.

The chasing side, despite contributions from Vijay Shankar (67, 57b, 3x4, 2x6), Dinesh Karthik (44) and R. Ashwin (36) was never really in the hunt with Chawla striking telling blows.

The scores (final): Chemplast 267 for seven in 50 overs (R. Sathish 105, A. Kudua 58, Yomahesh four for 53) bt India Cements 188 in 45.1 overs (Vijay Shankar 67, D. Karthik 44, R. Ashwin 36, P. Chawla six for 32).



Piyush Chawla

CHAWLA GUIDES CHEMPLAST TO TITLE TRIUMPH

Indore: India Cements skipper R Ashwin was smashed for 69 runs in 12 wicketless overs as his India teammate Piyush Chawla grabbed six wickets to guide Chemplast to a 79-run win over India Cements in the finals of the BCCI Corporate Trophy here. An impressive bowling performance from Chawla, six for 32, helped Chemplast dismiss India Cements for 188 in reply to the winner's 267 for seven. Opting to bat, Chemplast rode on a hundred from Rajagopal Sathish (105) to post a competitive total in their quota of 50 overs. Sathish hit 13 fours and two sixes. Chemplast received the Raj Singh Dungurpur Trophy and a cash prize of ₹one crore. —PTI

TIMES OF INDIA FEB 9th 2013 Pg NO: 18.

Chemplast thump IC for Corporate Trophy:

Chemplast beat India Cements by 79 runs in the final of the BCCI Corporate Trophy limited-overs cricket tournament in Indore on Friday in a clash between two Chennai teams. Riding on R Sathish's century (105) Chemplast posted 267-7 after opting to bat first. Leg-spinner Piyush Chawla then grabbed six for 32 to skittle out Cements for 188.



A JUBILANT CHEMPLAST TEAM with the trophy after winning the BCCI Corporate tournament recently.

CHEMPLAST PROVES ITS CLASS

Chemplast emerged triumphant in the Raj Singh Dungarpur Corporate Trophy one-day cricket tournament at the Holkar ground in Indore recently.

Two men played central roles in the Chennai side winning the BCCI's premier competition in this category. A responsible century by R. Sathish (105, 123 balls, 13x4, 2x6) and a match-winning six for 32 by leg-spinner Piyush Chawla enabled Chemplast defeat the star-studded India Cements by 79 runs in the final.

Responding to Chemplast's 267 for seven in 50 overs, India Cements was bundled out for 188. Sathish was named Man of the Match.

In the summit clash in Indore, Chemplast bounced back from a worrying 84 for four after electing to bat with Sathish and Ajay Kudua (58, 75 balls, 6x4, 1x6) adding a crucial 132 for the fifth wicket in 137 balls. The chasing side, despite contributions from Vijay Shankar (67), Dinesh Karthik (44) and R. Ashwin (36) was never really in the hunt with Chawla striking telling blows.

Bharath Reddy, vice-president,

Corporate Affairs, Chemplast, said, "By winning the Corporate Trophy we have proved that we are the best team in the country. There has been great support from the management, particularly from N. Sankar, chairman, Sanmar Group."

Over the years, Chemplast has had a commendable record in various tournaments. It has won the Raja of Palayampatti Shield, the symbol of supremacy in the Chennai Senior Division League, on 18 occasions, including five times between 2000-2006 and thrice in the last five seasons (as Jolly Rovers). Chemplast has also won titles in the Moin-ud-Dowla (five times), KSCA (thrice), The Hindu Trophy (eight) and the Buchi Babu (thrice) tournaments.

THE SCORES: Chemplast 267 for seven in 50 overs (R. Sathish 105, A. Kudua 58, Yomahesh four for 53) beat India Cements 188 in 45.1 overs (Vijay Shankar 67, D. Karthik 44, R. Ashwin 36, P. Chawla six for 32).

A Special Correspondent