

CRICKET

Gopinath anchors Jolly Rovers' successful chase

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: Despite a hiccup towards the end, Jolly Rovers nailed a regulation chase against Vijay CC in the final of the V.A. Parthasarathy Memorial one-day tournament at the quaint IIT-Chemplast ground here on Monday.

K.H. Gopinath — adjudged Player of the Tournament and Man of the Final — produced a valuable 77 (92b, 5x4, 2x6) as his team successfully pursued 254. Notwithstanding a slump before Piyush Chawla (31) essayed some bright strokes, the win was easier for Rovers than the margin of three wickets with two balls remaining suggested.

Openers Gopinath, light on his feet, and a belligerent Sheldon Jackson (60, 50b, 6x4, 1x6) put on 117 runs in 112 balls. On a surface that was a tad sluggish, these runs when the ball was newer and harder and travelled quicker off the willow were crucial.

Run-making became harder as the innings progressed. Left-arm spinner Rahil Shah, offie Malolan Rangarajan and Vijay Shankar, surprisingly sending down tidy off-spin, had their moments before paceman Aswin Crist struck twice. Rovers, though, was never really stretched.



The Jolly Rovers team which won the VAP Memorial tournament on Monday.

— PHOTO: K. PICHUMANI

Rovers' triumph follows its win over the same opponent in the final of the TNCA first division league this year.

Vijay won the toss but did not quite pace its innings adeptly. Vijay Shankar (73, 86b, 4x4, 1x6) and skipper R. Prasanna (56, 75b, 4x4) played a few pleasing shots without really putting their foot on the accelerator.

Piyush Chawla's 49th over of the innings — the leg-spinner scalped two in a maiden — was among the turning points.

Unfortunately for Vijay, key batsman B. Aparajith strained his side muscle while going for a cut and had to retire hurt on 16.

Rovers' skipper C. Hemant

Kumar said after the game, "The openers batted really well to set up the match for us. There was some turn later on. We have a strong side, so much so that we had to leave out Bharat Shankar from this game."

K. Srikanth, former India Test captain, was the chief guest. N. Sankar, chairman Sanmar Group, R.I. Palani, joint secretary, TNCA, and State chief selector S. Sharath, were present on the occasion.

The scores (final):

Vijay 253 for seven in 50 overs (Vijay Shankar 73, R. Prasanna 56, K.B. Arun Karthick 34, Piyush Chawla three for 61) lost to Jolly Rovers 257 for seven in 49.4 overs (K.H. Gopinath 77, Sheldon Jackson 60, Piyush Chawla 31).

Openers Set Up Jolly Finish



The victorious Jolly Rovers team at IIT-Chemplast | EXPRESS

Express News Service

Chennai: A clinical display helped Jolly Rovers-Chemplast beat Vijay-India Cements by three wickets in the VA Parthasarathy Memorial limited-overs final on Monday. Set a target of 254, Jolly Rovers achieved it without fuss, getting off to an excellent start through openers KH Gopinath and Sheldon Jackson.

They added 117 in 112 balls. Robin Bist (25), N Einstein (25) and Piyush Chawla (31) made useful contributions. A Aswin Crist, Vijay Shankar and Rahil Shah took two wickets each.

Earlier, Vijay CC failed to exploit the advantage of win-

ning the toss in good batting conditions. After KB Arun Karthick (34) and M Kaushik Gandhi (28) failed to convert starts, Vijay Shankar and R Prasanna raised 91 in 109 balls for the fourth wicket.

All the state selectors were present and former India captain K Srikanth gave away the trophies.

Brief scores: At IIT-Chemplast: Vijay-India Cements 253/7 in 50 ovs (V Shankar 73, R Prasanna 56, P Chawla 3/61) **lost to Jolly Rovers-Chemplast 257/7 in 49.4 ovs** (KH Gopinath 77, S Jackson 60); **Man of the final & tournament: KH Gopinath.**

Shijit to Lead

P Shijit Chandran of Tiruvalur will lead the TNCA Dis-

tricts XI in the Kalpathi-Buchi Babu All India invitational tournament which starts on August 15.

Squad: P Shijit Chandran (c), KB Arun Karthik, X Thalaivan Sargunam, NS Chaturvedi, S Suresh Kumar, R Srinivasan, Anand Subramanian, N Jagadeesan, DT Chandrasekar, AC Prathiban, J Kaushik, Abhishek Tanwar, M Mohammed, K Vignesh, C Hari Nishanth.

City III Best

K Vishal Vaidhya's 101 helped City III take a lead of 73 against Districts I in the final of the TNCA round robin U-19 tournament. They emerged winners on first innings lead.

Navin Champion

IM Navin Kanna of Defence Accounts clinched the 14th Adyar Times FIDE rated chess tournament. He won ₹25,000 on better progressive score after a draw with Ram S Krishnan in the ninth and the final round. Ram S Krishnan of BSNL and GK Monishaa of Vellammal Matriculation School finished second and third, also on 7.5 points.



Former Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari begins stint at Brazilian club Gremio poorly, losing 0-2 to Internacional

V.A. PARTHASARATHY FINAL

Gopinath sparkles in a Jolly win for Rovers

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, AUG. 11

Riding on half-centuries from opening batsmen K.H. Gopinath (77, 92balls, 5x4, 2x6s) and Sheldon Jackson (60, 50balls, 6x4, 1x6), Jolly Rovers lifted the V.A. Parthasarathy memorial trophy beating Vijay CC by three wickets at the IIT-Chemplast grounds on Monday.

Rovers, in pursuit of 254 on a sluggish wicket, galloped their way to 74 without loss in 10 overs. Gopinath, who bagged the man of the final and the tournament, was severe on pacer Aswin Crist whereas his partner from Saurashtra, Jackson, took a special liking to left-arm spinner Rahil S. Shah during the powerplay.

The nature of hitting



Jolly Rovers, winners of V.A. Parthasarathy memorial trophy. Rovers defeated Vijay CC in the final on Monday
—MAHESH RAMESH

from the duo was such, the umpires were on the firing line as balls kept whizzing past their ears at the non-striker's end. There was a drastic change, at least in

terms of the rate of scoring, as off-spinner R. Malolan stifled Jackson by cramping him for room. A visibly edgy Jackson, eventually, succumbed to a per-

severing Malolan for 60 after adding 117 runs in 18.4 overs for the opening wicket. Soon, Gopinath transformed himself from being belligerent to more of an

accumulator. By the time Gopinath scooped one to covers off the bowling of 'off-spinner' Vijay Shankar (who is generally a medium-pace all-rounder) in the 30th over at 163/2 the damage was done. Though Rahil (2/53) and Aswin (2/60) showed a big heart to put the brakes on the Rovers' middle-order to take the match till the end, a couple of streaky boundaries from Piyush Chawla got the Rovers over the line.

Earlier, Vijay (73) alongside skipper R. Prasanna (56) added 91 runs to propel Vijay CC to a competitive 253/7 in 50 overs.

Brief scores: Vijay CC 253/7 in 50 overs (Vijay Shankar 73, R. Prasanna 56, Piyush Chawla 3/61) lost to Jolly Rovers 257/7 in 49.4 overs (K.H. Gopinath 77, Sheldon Jackson 60).

Gopinath makes it a Jolly good day

S L Shanth Kumar



Jolly Rovers team after winning the VAP trophy on Monday

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: KH Gopinath played a match-winning knock of 77 (92b, 5x4, 2x6) to help Jolly Rovers lift the VA Parthasarathy Memorial Trophy beating Vijay CC by three wickets at the IIT-Chemplast ground on Monday.

Vijay CC opted to bat first after winning the toss and set a 254-run target for Rovers. Vijay, who scored 307 in their last game against Globe Trotters at MRF-Pachaiyappa's College 'A' grounds, could not cross 300-run mark on a slower track on Monday. Rising youngster Vijay Shankar, who has been in good form this season, once again played a good knock 73 (86b, 4x4, 1x6) and added 91 runs with skipper R Prasanna 56 (75b, 4x4) for the fourth wicket partnership. KB Arun Karthick scored 34.

Rovers, who boast of a formidable batting line-up, got off to a fantastic start as Gopinath and Maharashtra batsman Sheldon Jackson 60 (50b, 6x4, 1x6) fired at the top. They added

117 for the opening partnership which made the difference. Though, medium-pacers Ashwin Crist (2-60) and Vijay Shankar (2-27), along with left-arm spinner Rahil Shah (2-53) tried their best, it was not enough to stop Rovers from running away with the winners' trophy. Rovers reached the target with two balls to spare.

"We failed to win the title in last two years but we were determined to lift it this year. It's a good start for us and we all hope our good performance continues in future. Now our target is to bag the TNCA first division league title," Rovers captain C Hemant Kumar said.

Gopinath was adjudged man of tournament.

Brief scores: At IIT-Chemplast: Vijay CC 253 for seven in 50 overs (Vijay Shankar 73, R Prasanna 56, KB Arun Karthick 34, M Kaushik Gandhi 28, L Balaji 27 not out, P Chawla 3-61, P Parameswaran 2-57) lost to Jolly Rovers 257 for seven in 49.4 overs (KH Gopinath 77, Sheldon Jackson 60, Robin Bist 25, N Einstein 25, P Chawla 31, A Crist 2-60, Vijay Shankar 2-27, Rahil Shah 2-53)