

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | TUESDAY 1 | APRIL 2014

TNCA FIRST DIVISION

FINAL



The victorious Jolly Rovers, winners of the TNCA first division league for the Raja of Palayampatti Shield defeating Vijay CC at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Monday.

—JAISON G

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History repeats itself

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MARCH 31

They began as the defending champions and ended the TNCA first division season as reigning champs. Jolly Rovers, by virtue of possessing a better net run-rate (+0.5210) over their opponents Vijay CC (+0.5168), lifted the Raja of Palayampatti Shield for the second time in succession at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Monday.

Having required to just bat out the final day to defend their title, Rovers did it in style as they ended the day at 252 for three in 117 overs. R. Sathish (117, 195balls, 12x4s, 7x6s) and Napoleon Einstein (31, 267balls, 4x4s) added 155 runs in 68.4 overs to deny Vijay an unlikely win.

To their credit, Vijay tried every option they had in their sleeve — as many as eight bowlers used in the day— only to be successful on two occasions.

Ajay Kudua, assistant coach of Jolly Rovers, termed his team's show



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as a phenomenal effort.

"At the start of the day we fancied ourselves to chase down the target. But we were not able to carry on the momentum after losing a wicket early in the first session," he added.

After lavishing praise on centurion Sathish,

Kudua reserved special words for Einstein who "curbed his natural instincts". "He had faced 267 balls to score 31 runs. In the context of the game his knock is a vital factor in us batting through the day without any hiccups," he said.

SCOREBOARD

Vijay CC (1st Innings): 147 in 75.5 overs

Jolly Rovers (1st Innings): 147 in 49 overs

Vijay CC (2nd Innings): 387/5 decl. in 96 overs

Jolly Rovers (2nd Innings): K. Bharath Shankar b Balaji 56, M. Vijay c Abhinav Mukund b Rahil Shah 22, Napoleon Einstein c R. Rohith b Rahil Shah 31, R. Sathish (ret'd. not out) 117, C. Hemant Kumar (not out) 0, K.H. Gopinath (not out) 4. Extras (b6, lb4, nb12) 22. Total (for three wickets in 117 overs) 252.

FoW: 1-72, 2-92, 3-247.

Bowling: L. Vignesh 20-4-57-0, L. Balaji 11-4-20-1, Yo Mahesh 14-4-33-0, Rahil Shah 39-20-78-2, Vijay Shankar 4-1-9-0, B. Aparajith 15-10-40-0, Abhinav Mukund 8-7-1-0, R. Prasanna 6-2-4-0.

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Satish Ton Seals the Deal for Rovers



The Jolly Rovers team after winning the TNCA senior division league title | **RAJESH LOUIS**

Express News Service

Chennai: R Satish's century (117 retired hurt) for Jolly Rovers against Vijay CC was the feature of the fourth and final day's play in the TNCA senior division league final at MA Chidambaram Stadium on Monday.

Chasing 388 for an outright win, Rovers made 253 for three in 117 overs. Although Vijay CC had a lead in the second innings, Jolly Rovers were declared win-

ners by virtue of better overall run rate. As per league rules, the net run rate was calculated for 12 matches up to the semifinal stage. Stats showed that had Vijay scored six runs more runs in the last 12 matches, they would have bagged the title.

Needing 302 in a minimum of 90 overs on the final day, Rovers saw Napoleon Einstein (31) and Sathish add 155 for the third wicket. After losing Satish, who was at his vintage best making a

patient century, Rovers played safe and concentrated on preserving wickets.

Starting the day, Rovers knew that a draw was sufficient, while Vijay had to go for an outright win. They tried their best to break the partnership between Einstein and Satish but met with little success.

Brief scores: Vijay CC 147 & 387/5 decl drew with **Jolly Rovers** 147 & 252/3 (K Bharath Shankar 56, R Sathish 117 retd hurt). Rovers won on better run rate.

Net Run Rate helps Jolly Rovers retain title

CRICKET / Match peters out to a draw as last session descends into a farce

Sports Reporter

CHENNAI: Jolly Rovers won the Raja of Palayampatti Shield for the fourth time in six seasons at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Monday.

Despite the TNCA first division league final ending in a draw, Rovers retained the title by virtue of a better net run-rate (0.5210) through the season, excluding the final, than opponent Vijay CC (0.5168).

Although the match was engaging for the most part, the last session on day four descended into a farce. Requiring 388 to win, Rovers ended with 252 for three. R. Sathish (117 retired hurt, 195b, 12x4, 7x6) and N. Einstein (31, 267b) played diligently and added 155 runs to put the match out of Vijay's reach.

After the tea interval — at which point the score was 234 for two — C. Hemant Kumar and R. Prasanna, the captains of Rovers and Vijay respectively, were ready to call the game off.

Going by the rule-book

But the umpires and the



IT'S JUST NOT CRICKET! Players from both the sides showed their reluctance at being asked to play till the close of day by going through the motions in a casual and informal manner. — PHOTO: K. PICHUMANI

match referee ruled that the purpose of extending the game into the fourth day was to achieve a result after the first-innings scores were tied. Hence, they motioned for play

to continue till the scheduled close.

Visibly tired and uninterested, the players made little attempt to score runs or take wickets. With fielders bunched

up together and sharing a laugh with the batsmen even as the bowler delivered, the proceedings resembled a casual net session.

Left-arm spinner Rahil S.

Shah didn't bother with a run-up, bowling from where he was, while Hemant (0 n.o., 48b), Einstein, and Gopinath (4 n.o., 41b) didn't attempt to take any runs. Of the 30 overs bowled after tea, 26 were maidens.

Later, the captains reasoned that many of their players had to leave for Visakhapatnam for the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament early on Tuesday morning and play a match on the same day.

"The bowlers were tired and we realised we couldn't chase the total. That's why you saw what you saw," said Hemant.

Prasanna said the teams wanted to complete the formalities with due respect to the game. "The wicket had eased and I didn't think we could bowl them out in the last session. We were also unsure about the rules. We saw some good cricket and it shouldn't have ended this way."

The scores: Vijay 147 & 387 for five decl. draw with Jolly Rovers 147 & 252 for three in 117 overs (K. Bharath Shankar 56, R. Sathish 117 ret'd. hurt). **Rovers wins title by virtue of better NRR (season excluding final).**