

Cricket – Coetzer upbeat despite defeat



Kyle Coetzer, looking to build on the win over England. Picture by Nigel Duncan Media

Pakistan blew Scotland away in the second T20 contest in Edinburgh to claim the mini-series 2-0.

Frankly, it was an anti-climax after Sunday's sensational win over a star-studded England side.

But Scotland captain Kyle Coetzer argued that his men had enjoyed the limelight and crave more success on the world stage.

Pakistan powered to 48-run victory in the first game on Tuesday, scoring 204 for four against Scotland's 156 for 6.

And they cruised to an 84-run victory on Wednesday, scoring 166 for six and skittling Scotland for 82 in 14.4 overs.

It was a comprehensive victory after Pakistan won the toss and elected to bat in overcast conditions with specks of rain falling.

There was a huge incentive for the Scots as captain Coetzer and the coaching staff were determined to build on Sunday's huge win over England.

The Auld Enemy are ranked No 1 in the world at one day international cricket and Pakistan are rated No 1 at T20.

It started promisingly for the home side as Chris Sole opened from the Pavilion end and Fakhar Zaman flashed an attempted cut through the slips for a boundary.

Zaman was anxious to push on and he flashed at Sole again in the third over but failed to connect.

The tourists 50 came up in style after 21 minutes when Ahmed Shehzad crashed the ball into the crowd for the first six of the game.

All-rounder Michael Leask was introduced at the Park end and he struck second ball when Shehzad was caught near the boundary by Calum MacLeod for 24 from 22 balls with the score at 60.

And Zaman followed two runs later when he was snapped up neatly by Coetzer off Mark Watt for 33.

Pakistan skipper Sarfraz Ahmed came to the crease and the score crept up to 76 at half-way.

However, Scotland were celebrating again as captain Ahmed was caught on the boundary by Sole for only 14 attempting to crash a ball from Mark Watt over the ropes. Pakistan were then struggling at 83 for three.

Wicketkeeper Matthew Cross made it worse for the tourists when he stumped Hussain Talat of Leask for 17.

And the fifth wicket fell also on 98 in the 14th over when Asif Ali was caught by MacLeod off Leask without scoring.

Pakistan moved onto 100 in the next over, however, slackness in the field cost Scotland.

All-rounder Safyaan Sharif also produced some loose deliveries and Pakistan capitalised with Malik powering back-to-back sixes as the tourists moved on to 151 for five with an over left.

Shadab Khan then departed for 17 runs with four balls remaining and Faheem Ashraf and Malik took the score to 166 for six at the close of the 20 overs with Malik unbeaten on 49 from 22 balls.

Leask was Scotland's top bowler with three wickets for 31 runs from four overs but problems came early for the home side as George Munsey lofted his third ball to Zaman off Usman Khan without scoring.

Skipper Kyle Coetzer departed for one after being bowled by Khan but Richie Berrington dug in and scored 20 off 15 balls. He was eventually dismissed, caught by Asif Ali off Faheem Ashraf.

The score crept along but left-arm spinner Muhammad Nawaz returned to operate from the Pavilion end, using the strengthening west wind to flight the ball onto the batsmen.

Dylan Budge's brief stay ended when he was on four after being run out despite a desperate dive.

The weather also closed in on Scotland as the umbrellas went up as the rain started to fall.

The home side crawled to 50 in the eighth over after 50 minutes, but they quickly lost another wicket as Leask was dismissed cheaply.

The rain really started to fall as Scotland toiled to 54 for five at the half-way mark.

Worse was to follow as Cross holed out for five as Scotland surrendered at 65 for six.

Sharif arrived and then lofted the ball into the deep and just survived. He then fired a six into mid-wicket and received a bouncer from Hasan Ali in reply.

Minutes later Sharif was back in the pavilion after being run out by Shadab Khan for ten as the scoreboard told a sorry story of 75 for seven in the 13th over.

And it got worse in the same over as Mark Watt was run out by Usman Khan at 78.

Four runs later top scorer Calum MacLeod was gone for 25, unable to deal with the pace of Ashraf. He was caught and bowled after scoring 25 from 27 deliveries.

And it was over in the 14th over when Ashraf had Alasdair Evans caught without scoring to take the series 2-0.