

Cricket – Cross wants more big scalps



Mathew Cross chats to captain Kyle Coetzer during a critical stage in Sunday's headline-grabbing win over England. Picture Nigel Duncan Media

Scotland wicketkeeper/batsman Matthew Cross looks to the T20 double-header with Pakistan on Tuesday and Wednesday to claim another prize scalp.

He back-stopped in the sensational, six-run victory over England at The Grange on Sunday.

And the 25-year-old shared in a 100-plus opening stand with skipper Kyle Coetzer which set the platform for the history-making victory.

Scotland kept their cool to deliver and now Aberdeen-born Cross wants more.

He said: "We have two big (T20) games against Pakistan and they are the No 1 team in the world, just like England are at one day internationals.

“The message to the rest of the world and the International Cricket Council (ICC) is that Scotland are here and want to be part of everything.

“It is criminal that we can be here not going to the World Cup when we can turn over the best team.

Reflecting on Sunday’s win, which grabbed the national headlines as Scotland humbled England, Cross said: “We played a hell of a game against the world-ranked No 1 side and we deserve every bit of it to be honest.

“The first innings by us was amazing and 371 was a big total. We had to expect them to come out and play like they did.

“They are a very good team with a lot of batting and the start they got was ridiculous, but we held on.”

He agreed that when England got to 100 they were cruising but he added: “The game was in the balance all the way through.

“They were on top at times, but we got two quick wickets which really changed the game. We knew that if we stuck in there and kept coming at them then we had a chance.”

Cross, who made his Scotland debut against Canada four years ago, revealed he had a small conversation with paceman Fife-based but Huddersfield-born Safyann Sharif as the tension mounted towards the final few overs.

And he added: “He knows what he is doing and Saf has deserved the respect he’s receiving. He bowled another brilliant Yorker to win the game.”