

MATCH REPORT PERU vs ANDEAN MASTERS



With a few sore heads and slightly blurred vision, but with livers still intact and the hope of a potential visit from some brasileñas, the Llamas took to the field on another deliciously bright morning in Santiago, looking to record their first victory of the 2011 South American Championships. After a few layers of sun cream, a few swigs of water, and some gentle underarm catching practice, Peru stepped onto the field to bowl first against the unpredictable - and, by all accounts, dangerous - Andean Masters.

Peru's own adopted 'Brazilian – soon to be – Peruvian' Port merchant, Will Symington, began in typical, willow-wielding aggressive fashion smacking a couple of fours before being undone by the Kiteflyer connection of caught Barsby bowled Baxter. Nick 'Dom/Don Draper – Trixie – Drapist' Jones then decided to take the attack to the Masters, producing a couple of snorters to remove two of the opposition's top order, as well as making The Body wear a few behind the stumps, in a great spell that would prove to be crucial. Ed Baxter then proceeded to unleash what was described as "the ball of the tournament" (Craig Andrews. 19/12/2011) to remove dangerous Trevor from Brazil.

On the back foot from the get-go, the Andean Masters continued to be rattled, baffled and outright puzzled by Dave Sharples magic-spinning web, adding two more wickets to his international haul. From the other end, Nuck Fitzpatrick steamed in chucking down some thunderbolts with extreme accuracy knocking over the stumps of three of the Andean Masters. With tight fielding from Peru, who only fielded 10 men, spirits were high, not just because the low total towards which the Andean Masters were heading presented a huge chance for victory, but the arrival of a certain group of Brazilians certainly boosted the chirps and 'animó' during the last 5 overs. The innings was finished two balls short of the 20 Overs, with Tony Sandford claiming a stumping while 14-year-old Nicolas Hooper plastered Baxter for a few fours in impressive style.

As Peru left the field having kept the Andean Masters down to 94/10, Christmas had come early, as Peru's very own 'barra' of cheerleaders had arrived, offering the lads a chorus of "muito bom", followed by the customary double cheeked Brazilian kiss. A good start by all accounts.

As Captain Soulsby and Nick 'The Great White Something' Barsby took to the field to begin the chase, a series of applause rang out, not so much for cricket, but for the induction of the newly-acquired fan base from Brazil, who were all presented with Cricket Peru hats, accompanied by the award-winning speech from Harry 'The Concept' Hildebrand himself.

The going was tough at the start, with the Andean Masters opening bowlers bowling to a very tight line. Barsby, in test match fashion, struggled to get the ball off the square, while Soulsby knocked around a few singles before being cruelly dismissed off an attempted stop off a straight drive from Barsby. Enter 'Don Draper' Jones. With the fan base looking on, Mr. Draper produced some lusty blows to get the innings moving as the bowlers began to lose their line. After scratching around for 11 or so overs Barsby was finally dismissed, bringing Baxter to the crease as Don Draper continued to slap the Masters around the field and Peru honed in on their first win of the tournament. Baxter was quickly dismissed by Symington, but Chris Hodgson stepped up and stuck around with Draper while he clinically dismissed the bowling, bringing up the win, and his half century with a square cut over point. Game, set and match Peru.

The victory was followed by a feast of Cumberland sausages, beer, and a cracking final between Chile and Argentina. Nick Jones was awarded Man of the Match for his wickets and 51 not out, while Tony "the Finger" Sandford won the Spirit of Cricket award, and Harry 'The Concept' Hildebrand encouraged the other teams to make sure more women come and watch future tournaments, a plea that was met with approval from one and all.

