

Eidgenossen avoided the wooden spoon in the Apertura on Sunday, 26th Feb with a very impressive win against old foe, The Kiteflyers. The game was a cracker to be part of, which went down to the last over. Everyone chipped in and performed.

The Curators at Lima Cricket Club prepared a Karachi Special for Sunday's game. Dusty and full of nooks and crannies, leaving the batsmen with the same decision-making process that's involved in reading a 'Choose Your Own Adventure' novel. Having lost the toss, and being asked to bat, Eidgenossen had to bat well, if they were going to post a decent total.

Cameron Smith got the Eidgenossen off to an explosive start with 12 off the first over, but was out for 12 in the next over. Joel Start fell quickly for a duck, soon followed by Nick 'Don Draper' Jones for 1. Gary Sargent (5) 'chose his own adventure', which was to hook the short ball for 6. Well, it would have been a six on any other pitch, but the ball kept low and took his middle stump. The end.

Chris 'Enigma' Mahoney put in a gutsy stint to see off the Kiteflyer opening spearheads Nick Barsby (13 for 3 off 4 overs) and Miles Buesst (23 for 1 off 4 overs) scoring 33. But it really wasn't enough.

However, Nick 'Nook' Fitzpatrick put an end to any negativity and brought the Eids back into positive territory - and then some - by swashbuckling, smashing, spanking and tearing the Kiteflyer attack apart, making a crucial 61 not out. A great performance. He was well supported by Cricket Peru's only 'LA Dodger' Matt O'Connor (8*) who put some into the bleachers. *Hitting some homers for the E's.*

Eidgenossen finished on 158 on a dodgy track. A defensible total.

When Kiteflyers batted, Mark Bowie (41 for 0 off 4 overs) and Nick Jones (34 for 0 off 4 overs) got the honors taking the new ball. The Kiteflyer openers, Miles Buesst (22) and Nick Barsby (84*), had a lot of work to do and they were not mucking around. They were scoring runs and at a rapid rate. After 10 overs the score was 87 for no wicket, and Eid heads were well and truly in the sand.

As we all know cricket is a funny game and the game can turn around with one ball.

The changing point for us was when 'Nook' Fitzpatrick (5 for 3 off 4 overs) came on to bowl. Straight away he applied the pressure. Each ball he bowled lifted the team's morale. It wasn't long until The Kiteflyers felt the pressure and soon enough Buesst looked for the boundary for answers. Unfortunately Gary Sargent was fielding on one of those boundaries and off Nook's bowling took a screamer, diving and plucking the rocketing ball inches from the ground. That was the game changer.

Fitzpatrick was supported equally by Cameron Smith (18 for 0 off 4 overs) who bowled tight and got the ball to turn. Nook and Cam applied the screws and bowled out their 4 overs.

Game on! Nick Barsby was still in for the Kiteflyers, who is capable of changing the game around in one over. Nick 'The Drapist' Jones had an over left and stepped up to bowl a very tight and important 6 balls. More like the Don Draper we are used to. Given the pressure cooker situation we were under the team captain, Chris 'The Enigma' had to turn to his best option and secret weapon. Someone who eats up the pressure and can dictate a game. That man was John 'The Tight Shadow' Bell. Shadow dominated and kept the runs down. Enigma on the other hand was Enigmatic and got carted in his first overs and tightened up in his last over. In the end there were just a few too many runs for the Kiteflyer to chase. A great Eidgenossen victory.

It just goes to show that catches do win matches. Joel Start kept really well behind the stumps.

On The Field Man Of the Match – This goes to Nick Fitzpatrick. Played an absolute blinder. Won the game for Eidgenossen both with bat and ball.

Off The Field Man of The Match – This goes to Peter 'New Body' Richards for his mammoth drinking abilities. Highlight being the 'Tequila Suicide' followed by swim

With many thanks to Chris Mahoney for this report.