

Saturday, 21st March: 7th/8th Play-Off: El Salvador vs Brazil

El Salvador: all out 114, 19.2 overs

El Salvadorian captain, teacher and all-round guru, Murgatroyd, marshaled his troops well from the beginning of the innings with a knock of 67 that saw a mix of early circumspection and, later, clean hitting.

Brazilian bowling allowed only one other batsmen to hit double figures, although Brazilian keeper Allison – tiring in the second game of the day – second topped scored with 21 alleged byes.

It seems the scorers were also tiring at this stage of the day, as the bowling figures are in disarray, but a combination of Avery (2 wickets), Allen (3), Brunt (2) and Bastick (1) cleaned up the El Salvadorian tail. According to the scorers Orellana even bowled himself, a rare sight in a cricket match.

Brazil 115 – 2, 13.1 overs

Captain Caisley (bowled 7) got one that kept low, whilst Miziari couldn't quite replicate his earlier innings (bowled 11). Ballhatchet (significant single figure score) was unlucky to pick out a fielder hiding behind square with a cleanly hit pull.

After one reprieve, Jones made his first meaningful contribution of the tour. Doing what he does in his working life, bullying South (here read Central) American teenagers, he ended up undefeated on 46. He was ably assisted by the polite calls ("would you like to run?") and clean hitting of Brunt who ended with 25 not out.

The consolation win saw Brazil dodge 8th position, but this was a tournament in which the team largely underperformed on the field or, rather, failed to perform at the same time as each other, in the way that you need to, to beat good teams.

It should also be mentioned that several members of the national squad who would have added depth to the team, were unable to make this tournament for various reasons.

by Nick Jones

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