

Bengal Poised for First Innings Lead Against Punjab in Quarter Finals of Cooch Behar Trophy

Resuming at overnight 190 for 5 Bengal were bowled out for 259 in 115.2 overs. Punjab medium pacers Rishab Bhagat and Nipun Pandita made early inroads into the Bengal defence as Rishab Bhagat cleaned up Mohd. Irfan Ansari for 42 off 88 balls inclusive of 7 boundaries with teams total reading 193 for 6. Thereafter Arif Ansari and Knishak Seth put on 35 runs for the 7th wicket before Knishak Seth was cleaned up by Nipun Pandita for 17 inclusive of 2 boundaries and one six. Nipun Pandita bowled Arif Ansari for 22 reducing Bengal to 235 for 8 in 104.5 overs. Rishab Bhagat then had Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal caught by Abhishek Sharma for 04 and leg spinner Mayank Markande trapped Ishant Porel in front of the wicket for 11. Bengal's innings ended at 259 in 115.2 overs. For Punjab Rishab Bhagat 6 for 62, Nipun Pandita 2 for 73, Akul Partap Pandove 1 for 29 and Mayank Markande 1 for 29 shared the spoils.

Punjab started their reply on a dismal note as opener Shubman Gill fresh from his exploits from Asia Cup was done in by medium pacer Knishak Seth who induced an edge to be taken by wicket keeper Arif Ansari for 04 with the team's total reading 7 for 1. Prabh Simran Singh was castled by Sandeepan Dass for 3. Punjab then lost their skipper Anmolpreet Singh who became Sandeepan Dass next victim being caught by Mohd. Irfan Ansari for 6 reducing Punjab to 23 for 3 in 11.4 overs. Punjab was in for another rude shock when their Asia Cup skipper Abhishek Sharma was snapped by wicket keeper Arif Ansari off Ishant Porel for 11 reducing Punjab to 37 for 4 in 17.5 overs. Thereafter Taranpreet and Abhinav Sharma added 29 runs for the 5th wicket before Abhinav Sharma was caught by Sudeep Kumar Gharami off Knishak Seth for 20 inclusive of 2 boundaries. Wicket keeper Mayank Sidhu was then snapped by Sudeep Gharami off Sandeepan Dass before the batsman could open his account. At this stage Punjab were looking down the barrel with the score reading 68 for 6 in 35.3 overs. Then Akul Partap Pandove in company of Taranpreet Singh added 41 runs for the 7th wicket to take the team past the 100 mark. Taranpreet Singh then was snapped by Arif Ansari off Kanishk Seth for 41 off 168 balls inclusive of 3 boundaries. Kanishk Seth Arif Ansari combine then accounted for Mayank Markande for 6 while Akul Partap Pandove kept one end up with an unbeaten 26 off 79 balls inclusive of 4 boundaries and keeping him company was Nipun Pandita who was yet to open his account. Punjab at close of 2nd days play were 123 for 8 in 62 overs trailing by 136 runs on the first innings. For Bengal Knishak Seth 4 for 34, Sandeepan Dass 3 for 29 Ishant Porel 1 for 23 were the main wicket takers.