



Stalwarts Cricket Interclass Series, By Marc Kiragu and Aloysius Maina (An unbiased Form 3 liaison) Strath Media

The cricket community in Strathmore once again congregated to have their yearly competition. This year the stakes were higher, and the competition was fierce. The tournament hosted four teams, 3A under the name of the Task Alliance (abbreviated T.F...somehow), 3& using the name Crick-Yaah! (Off a popular song by a well-known artist), Form 2 with a combined team ('Unleashed' is what they decided upon) and the rookie Form 1s known as Marshals.

The stage was set for a tourney to be remembered with the bookies making the Form 3 teams odds-on favourites. The most powerful men on a cricket XI, the captains were given the task of coming up with the best players from their classes. Form 2s are not known for their cricketing spirit, so one can imagine the pleasant surprise that the Cricket Board got when they literally unleashed a 26-man strong squad. The Form 1s were at the time undergoing intense training in order to make them match-ready and, as such, all their fixtures were precariously found towards the end of the tournament.

To everyone participating, this tournament was bound to be thrilling. Ancient rivals among the Form threes were set to clash while fresh talent was to be thrown into the fire. In our opinion, the chief objective of the interclass league was to temper old steel and bolster the real truth about cricket. It is not a game to be joked with; it is a game of giants, a battle to the death for utter supremacy. This is Cricket.



F.3A Vs. F2: The Task Alliance Vs Unleashed.

It is certain that the Form three A team, captained by **Mark Mugwe (F.3A)** was not expecting the Form 2s to be any formidable threat. After all, they were only new blood. Unfortunately, these young dragons did not hesitate unleashing themselves, as their name suggests. **Martin Waithaka (F.2A)** an excellent, left-handed bowler scared the wits out of the Form 3s, by taking wickets by the "tens". The Form Threes put up a good defence, though, and forced the game into a draw. It is very rare for a cricket match to be called on a draw. It was certainly a first for those involved.

F.3& Vs F.3A: Crick-Yaah! Vs. Unleashed.

After hearing the gnawing tales concerning the Form 2s, Crick-Yaah!(Form 3&) was slightly jittery as they walked onto the cricket oval. The captain, however, (**Joseph Migwi F.3&**) would not let his troops go numb with apprehension. Instead, he raised his voice in the war cry of "Crick-Yaah!" and led his warriors into the game. Though the bowling was not up to par, 'Crick-Yaah!' put up a daring batting side.



In the end, they won by 2 runs.



Crick-Yaah! Vs The Task Alliance

Silence...Heckling...Crackling...The atmosphere before the hottest game to take place in the league was electrifying. Wasting no time, the two captains met and the coin was tossed. Crick-Yaah!! chose to bowl first and fast at times. The player of the match, **Asad Omar(F3&)** took home three beautifully-sung wickets, two of them in quick succession. Other wicket-takers included **Joseph Migwi, captain(F3&)** and **Aloysius Maina(F3&)**. The Task Alliance set a target of 43 runs. Would Crick-Yaah make this goal? The challenge was taken up heartily, but unfortunately, constant gunfire from the three F3A trendsetters: **Derrick Gaitho, Mark Mugwe and Ryan Ombara** put a halter to Crick-Yaah's hopes. The last over was witness to ingenious bowling; a point in the way of The Task Alliance. But Crick-Yaah! will see to it the rivalry does not end in a simple match of 43 runs to 36. No, much more play is yet to come.

Details>>>

An umpiring misunderstanding between the two captains forced a follow-on at a lunchtime at a later date. This only added to the animosity between the two classes. This game was a sneak peek for the final, and a few things that the captains must have noted were Crick-yaah!'s high score in the extras column (33), T.F.'s lack of depth in their batting line-up, and the few danger men in each side.

Asad Omar ripped through the batting order of 3A, and Spinner **Marc Kiragu** got another 4-wicket haul, Ryan "Obama" Ombara doing likewise. Eventually T.F. ran out eventual winners, with a show of good fielding, and a spell where what Mugz termed as "Prize wickets" fell, these including **Asad, John Ng'ang'a, and Joseph Migwi.**



For Marc, it was a morale-boosting victory, for Joseph, however, it was back to the drawing board.

This match set the precedent for the rest of the tournament. The top 3 teams went into their games versus form 1s knowing just how lightly the scales were balanced. The form 1s, although showing a lot of potential, were just too inexperienced for the caliber of opponents they met...Unfortunately, the extreme stats all occurred



during their matches...against Form 2s, the fastest game was played, with 3 wickets taken in total... against Form 3&, the highest ever score was racked up by Crick-Yaah, 98... Ian Otieno got himself 48 runs in that particular game.... Against 3A, a routine game with a virtual reserve side playing walked over them... but credit to them, they played as well as they could, and showed potential for the future.

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The final was all but decided after 3A's defeat of the form 1s and they finished top of the log, unbeaten, heading into the final. The final was played on a fine Saturday morning, the sun heading overhead well before noon. The pressure was intense as the T.F. players arrived late due to unavoidable circumstances (Detention) and as such, the match began an hour later.

All said and done the time of reckoning had come and Crick-Yaah opted to bat first. In this Twenty20 game, strategy was what was important and new players were brought in to boost their teams' chances. **James Ndege and Edward Nyasya** were some of the beneficiaries of the captains' rotational plans. 3& started brightly with hit man Otieno grabbing a four and Asad doing likewise. This was the time when the bowling team of 3A needed to stand up and be counted.

The economy rate of 3A was a marvel to behold, and their on-field antics kept their field active. The 3& batsmen were constantly distracted by jokes and puns from the field, and the resultant target of 97 runs had **Marc** licking his lips. The outstanding

bowler was **Obama** who grabbed the wicket of **Asad**, and **Derrick Gaitho**, not to be forgotten in the party bowled out top-scoring Joseph. James Ndege, bowling for only the second time in his life grabbed a wicket and also ran out Gideon Sonoiya.

The innings came to a close with Marc's only wicket, and now, 3& had to defend their 97-run target with their entire arsenal... The midday sun was out, it was a tough act for any playing to go on, but **Gilbert Sonoiya**, and **Steve Cauri** led the pursuit of the golden number 98. Steve had a solid innings, but Gideon had everyone shocked when he pulled of an in swinger, leaving Steve stunned. **Ian Karimi** came in and did what he could, and **Marc Kiragu** left as soon as he came, Asad giving him his marching orders. The innings revolved around Gilbert who could not stop scoring fours.

The moment **Derrick Gaitho** stepped in and steered the team to 96, T.F, knew that they had one hand on the trophy. One can imagine the jubilation they felt as they won with a sound 5 wickets. Elation in everyone is enough said.



Overall, it was a great tournament, full of twists and turns. However, eventually, 3A's very own Task Alliance (shortened to T.F.) was the proud winners of the medals and the interclass shield. It showed every quality of the Strathmore Cricket spirit: Heart, Skill and Fun. One must not forget the other participating classes, like F3&, where a great fight was put up, with ace bowling from **Asad Omar, Joseph Migwi, and Aloysius** claimed his first four from a Captain Courageous bowl. Besides, F3& is a century-material team, which promises first rate action next year. This year's chance winners should watch the skies for the inevitable dropping cannonball of a cricket ball. Howzat!

Form 1 Leadership Course, John Kyallo (F1&) Strath Media

The well-adorned hallways of the usually silent school's residence were filled with the excited voices of the F.1 2008 leaders, which vehemently contradicted the extremely dull grey that hung over Nairobi on Monday August 4, 2008. Enthusiasm would be an understatement of what the leaders were filled with as they went about exploring their humble yet elegant place of sojourn.

By 10.30 am, the first lecture had begun. The talks, which touched on issues ranging from time management to character development to name but a few, were driven home by an assortment of professionals ranging from medical doctors to lawyers. By name, the esteemed professionals were **Mr. John Muthiora, Dr. Paul Kioko, Mr. Hesbon Odima, Fr. Joe Barbendrier, Professor David Sparling, Mr. L.F. Francesci, Mr. A.F. Gros and Mr. J.A Branya.**

The event organizers, **Mr. Hesbon Odima, Mr. Andrew Ritho and Mr. Robert Odero** did a commendable job organizing the three-day session in the following chronological order:

- 1) Breakfast
- 2) Lectures
- 3) A short break
- 4) Mass
- 5) More lectures
- 6) Lunch
- 7) Get together
- 8) A final lecture
- 9) Tea



- 10) Sports
- 11) Dinner
- 12) Movie/documentary
- 13) Bed time

Many will testify that there was raging debate on what the icing on the cake was, the trip to the **UN COMPLEX IN GIGIRI** or the sumptuous barbeque held on the second day of the course.

All in all, when it was over, many returned to their homes puzzled as to how fast time flew by.



The UN COMPLEX IN GIGIRI with the participants in the background