

Ken Wright helps Jamaica win the SFCA Sims Cup Classic

By Ricardo Inniss

In weather ideal for cricket, a large crowd of South Florida cricket fans turned out at the Lake Stevens Elementary School-West on Sunday April 3 to watch a repeat of last year's Jamaica vs Guyana final. The tables were turned this year as Jamaica inflicted a decisive 89 run whipping on Guyana to reap sweet revenge to walk away with the coveted Classic Sims Cup in a low scoring final. Jamaica's captain, the very elegant right-handed Ken Wright, stole the spotlight and the MVP award, leading by example, he carried his bat for a boundary studded 84.

Winning the toss and electing to bat first, Jamaica were dismissed for a modest 186 off 35.4 of the regulated 40 overs. Skipper Ken Wright, batting at number 5, and leading by example with a cool head, did the bulk of the scoring. The very elegant right-handed stroke player counted 6 fours and 4 sixes in his face saving knock of 84*. Other useful scores came from Sunil Mittoo who banged 4 fours in a score of 29 and O'Brian Jones who hit one four in his score of 11. No other batsman reached double figures.

Bowling for Guyana, medium-fast Nazim Ali captured 4 for 37 from 8 overs, whilst Riad Mohamed, Masood Mohamed, Vickram Ramoutar and Imran Sadick, each took a wicket for 18, 26, 27 and 35 respectively. There were two run outs, and 17 extras.

In a feeble and disappointing reply, Guyana was bundled out for a paltry 97 after only 26.2 overs. The only batsmen offering resistance were Skipper Masood Mohamed, who topscored with 26 (2 fours & a six), Riad Mohamed with 20 (3 fours), and the young Ryan Ramnarine who got 12 (2 fours).

Bowling Jamaica to the 2011 SFCA Sims Cup Classic championship, medium-fast Glen Anglin ripped out 4 for 19 off 6 overs, Herlando Johnson bagged 2 for 12 from 5.2, Keyonie Gayle 1 for 5 from 3, Clarence Salmon 1 for 19 off 6 and Fredrick Redwood 1 for 25 from 5. There was 1 run out and 9 extras.

Speaking after the match, Guyana's captain Masood Mohamed said, "after we held the strong Jamaica batting line up to 186 all out, we thought we had it made, but our batting let us down badly. They played better so they deserved to win." Speaking on behalf of Jamaica Mark Johnson said, "it was simple, we had a plan and with the backing of all the players we stuck to it."

Melton Taylor, president of the South Florida Cricket Alliance (SFCA) thanked Mr. Sims for his generosity in sponsoring the SFCA Sims Cup Classic and hoped for many more years of sponsorship.

During the 2011 SFCA Sims Cup Classic Competition, Mark Johnson (Jamaica) emerged as the player with the most runs (511) including two centuries, and was named MVP of the competition. Masood Mohamed (Guyana) was the bowler with the most wickets (16). The most improved youth player was Hensworth Wallace (SFCA U23) and the most promising youth player was Omari Williams (SFCA U23). Jamaica's captain Ken Wright was named the MVP of the final.



Jamaica: Back row L to R. N.Dawkins, G. Campbell, C. Salmon, F. Redwood, O. Jones, E. Thomas, A. Williams, H. Johnson, M. Johnson, S. Taylor & S. Mittoo. Front Row L to R : D. Ranger, K. Gayle, O. Roper, K. Wright (Captain), G. Anglin & G. Grant.