



Ireland wins ICC Intercontinental Cup 2005

Ireland claimed the ICC Intercontinental Cup 2005 title by beating Kenya by six wickets in a thrilling climax in Windhoek, Namibia. The success caps a fantastic year for Ireland that has also seen them qualify for the ICC Cricket World Cup for the first time.

Final Score: **Ireland** 313 for 4 dec and 245 for 4 (Bray 64) beat **Kenya** 401 for 4 dec and 156 (M Suji 52, McCallan 4-34) by six wickets.

A tactical declaration on Friday by Ireland captain Trent Johnston helped to turn what looked like a certain draw into an almost incredible victory in the final of the Intercontinental Cup against Kenya. If reason is ever a genuine part of cricket, it has to be Johnston's imaginative declaration when his side was still 88 runs behind. It gave Ireland the time to attempt to bowl Kenya out or force them into setting a target in the fourth innings.

Having more bonus points than Ireland at that stage, should they just close up shop and bat out the game for a winning draw? Or should they be positive and try to set Ireland a high total in an effort to win outright? They got caught somewhere in the middle and with Ireland knowing exactly what they were doing, Kenya's batsmen didn't last long.

Ireland then showed great composure to knock off the runs, with all the top order chipping in. Dom Joyce and Jeremy Bray set the foundation with an opening stand of 83 and after that, the positive run-rate kept Ireland ahead of the posse. In the end they passed their target of 245 to win with six wickets and 13.1 overs to spare.

Associates gear up for World Cup as ICC's Winter Training Camp launches in Pretoria

The build-up to the Cricket World Cup 2007 moved up a gear for 23 players from six Associate countries as the International Cricket Council (ICC) launched its first Winter Training Camp (WTC) in Pretoria, South Africa.

Players from Bermuda, Canada, the Netherlands, Ireland, Kenya and Scotland are all set to feel the benefit of the residential camp which will offer the attendees technical, tactical, physical and mental training. The Camp, part of the ICC's High Performance program (HPP) for the six Associate countries heading to the Caribbean tournament, runs until December 21, 2005 at the University of Pretoria's high performance centre.

Explaining the idea behind the WTC, the ICC's High Performance Manager, Richard Done said: "As each of these six countries have similar needs in preparing for the ICC Cricket World Cup it makes perfect sense to share coaching and training resources in this way. The WTC will be staffed by coaches with a wide experience of working with Associate member countries so they will be well aware of what is required to achieve success with these players."

In addition to cricket-specific training, the WTC includes work on physical fitness, nutrition, vision, psychology and recovery as well as specialist sessions from current and former South African players. Each of the other national coaches not already present will also be invited to attend for two weeks.

The camp is being attended by eight players from Scotland, four each from Bermuda and Canada, three each from Ireland and Kenya, and one player from the Netherlands. Two current players, Canada's John Davidson and Clay Smith of Bermuda, will also be involved as coaches and are being encouraged to develop their coaching skills as there may be opportunities to become more involved in their countries' respective coaching programs in the future.

The WTC has been financed by a combination of the ICC High Performance Program budget, the \$500,000 preparation grant offered to each Associate country after they qualified for the ICC Cricket World Cup, and contributions from the countries. Done added: "The value offered by the WTC is two-fold as it will not only assist in the development of those players and coaches that attend but also allow us to develop a model for future training programs ahead of the opening of the ICC's Global Cricket Academy in Dubai in 2007."

Players attending the WTC from the Americas are:

Bermuda

Jekon Edness (22), Jim West (23), Stephen Outerbridge (22) and Azeem Pitcher (25)

Canada

Qaiser Ali (28), Umar Bhatti (21), Kenneth Carto (19) and Henry Osind



AROUND THE REGION

ARGENTINA

The month of October was highlighted by the Argentine Cricket Association's Annual General Meeting and Annual Awards dinner which was held at St. Albans College on Friday, October 21.

Best Cricketer of the Year Award:

Gary Savage, CEO of the ACA won Argentina's top Cricketer of the Year award.

Other winners:

Juniors

U13s: Santiago Irixity Irigoyen (Lomas A.C)

U15s: Tomas Birnie (St.Albans)

U19s: Pedro Bruno (St.Albans)

Seniors

2nd Division: David Smith (St.Albans)

1st Division: Gary Savage (Hurlingham)

Most promising cricketer: Tomas Birnie
(St.Albans)

Most improved cricketer: Hernan Williams
(St.Albans)

Springbok Cup (outstanding contribution by young person): Julian Villarino (Belgrano A.C)

2nd Division Championship: Old Georgians

1st Division Championship: St. Albans Sharks

Sixes Tournament

The 2005/06 Argentine cricket season kicked off on Sunday, October 30th with their annual Sixes tournament held at Longchamps/Barker. The 1st Division tournament was won by the St. Georges Knights and the 2nd Division was won in dramatic fashion by St. Albans.

School Junior Open League

The first match of the ACA Open Schools league was played on October 18th at Corimayo when hosts St. Albans College easily defeated Bedes Grammar School by 69 runs.

BERMUDA

Cricket gets \$11 million to prepare for WC 2007

The Bermuda government announced its largest single investment ever in a single sport – an unprecedented \$11 million for Bermuda cricket. The five-year commitment, announced by Premier Alex Scott at a Cabinet Press conference, will help fund ambitious plans to prepare the team for the cricket World Cup in 2007 as well as improve infrastructure and facilities at clubs and schools. “You cannot buy inspiration,” said Mr. Scott, wearing a Bermuda cricket cap at the informal announcement. “But you can support those who provide inspiration. It is a new era for cricket in Bermuda and the government will do all it can to ensure that we are on the world cricketing stage for many, many years.”

Sports Minister Dale Butler said that the \$100,000 cheque, handed over to the BCB at a public ceremony after they had returned from Ireland where they qualified for the World Cup, was the first payment in the \$1.9m being handed over this year.

Bermuda is in an upbeat mood after the team qualified for the showpiece World Cup in the West Indies in 2007 with hundreds turning out at the airport to welcome the team home and a similar number already expressing an interest in attending the tournament in the Caribbean.

“Government is fully committed to assisting our Bermuda national cricket team as they prepare for international competition on the world stage,” said Mr. Butler. “In this regard, it gives me great pleasure to announce that government has agreed to commit \$11m for the future development of Bermuda cricket.” “The money will be presented to the Bermuda Cricket Board to assist our national team with their preparations first, for the ICC World Cup 2007, for the further development of our domestic cricket infrastructure, and also to qualify for the World Cup in 2011.”

Money will be put to good use – promises skipper Clay Smith

The \$11 million government donation to cricket brings with it great expectations and responsibility. That is the view of Clay Smith,

national cricket captain and a man now under extra pressure to perform on, and off, the field. “Of course everyone in the cricketing fraternity is grateful for this investment,” said Smith following the Cabinet Press conference. “It means a lot to the players that they are getting such incredible support from the government and the Bermuda public. And I think for the players it means greater responsibility now. We know that when we go in to the World Cup we are carrying the expectations of the whole of Bermuda but now we have this extra financial incentive to do well.”

Some of the money will help soften the blow of the players not being able to work – although some of their employers have already pledged to let them take paid representative leave – with the Premier promising that “no player will be out of pocket representing Bermuda at cricket.” Smith believes the players and their families are ready to make the commitment that goes with the extra responsibility. “A lot of us dreamed of being professional cricketers when we were younger,” said Smith, with his trademark cheeky smile. “In a way, this is the closest we are ever going to get. There is a big commitment and responsibility for us, in the way we play and the way we conduct ourselves, but I think, yeah, everyone in this team is ready for that level of commitment.”

Smith also revealed that the excitement surrounding the country’s qualification for the World Cup in 2007 has not gone away. The players were greeted upon their return from Ireland by wild scenes of jubilation at the airport and Smith believes the goodwill is still in the air. “I still have people come up to me and talk to me about it and congratulate me,” he added. “There are folks who I have never seen at cricket matches saying they are going to the World Cup – it’s amazing how it has captured people’s imagination.”



Clay Smith

BCB's commitment to cricket program

The Bermuda Cricket Board (BCB) reiterated its commitment to the long-term future of the country's cricket program following government's recent pledge of support for the next 4 ½ years. Reg Pearman, President of the BCB noted: "As previously mentioned, the BCB has developed a 4 year strategic plan to cement our deserved standing as an elite Associate country. The major objectives of this plan are:

- a. *Be competitive at the CWC 2007*
- b. *Win the ICC Trophy in 2009 and therefore re-qualify for the CWC 2011*
- c. *Establish a new era of cricket across the country through developmental programs, youth schemes and infrastructure upgrades.*
- d. *Increase enjoyment and participation of all those in the game.*

It is important to note that the investment provided by government, and the complementary private sector funding we plan to secure, is to be used over a 54 month period reaching all aspects of the game".

Pearman concluded his statements with a request for support and unity from the cricket and local community. "The Board recognizes that it has set lofty goals; the pursuit of excellence and best practice shall be relentless as we continue to evolve. I call on each and every person and corporate body in this great country to support your heritage and culture that lives in our national sport, the great game of cricket".

Bermuda's Intercontinental Effort

Favorite Kenya proved to be too strong for at least Bermuda's bowling attack, while the Bermuda's batting attack came through with flying colors. The problem was the bowling – trying to get Kenya out twice was never going to be an easy task. With the points system the way it is, Bermuda was up against the odds from the moment they lost the toss.

Final Score: Kenya 403/6d – S. Tikolo
220 and 282/4, A. Suji 103*
Bermuda 346/9 – C. Smith
128, I. Romaine 56, D. Minors 51

Captain Clay Smith again proved he is one of the most consistent batsmen in the Americas with his brilliant century to lead the fight back.

Dwayne Leverock bowled 51 overs in the second innings, giving up only 90 runs.

The Unfriendly "Friendlies"

After their elimination from the I-Cup, Bermuda played the Namibia national team in two "one days", losing both to the host country. The second game ended when Coach Gus Logie withdrew his team from the field for safety reasons, after quickie Kola Burger sent down three consecutive bouncers to their number 11 batsman Kevin Hurdle.

The Bermuda Cricket Board backed Logie's decision and added that there would be a full investigation. The Namibian Cricket Board declined to comment until it had all the facts.

The team returned home on October 30th.

BRAZIL

As the 2005 domestic season nears its conclusion, Brasilia is set to win its second Ambassadors Cup in three years, having swept Sao Paulo and Parana in four home matches on successive weekends in October. Brasilia captain Vince Bastick put several of the Brazilian university students he's been coaching into the side, and the results were impressive. In particular, Rudyard Hartmann, who until a few months ago had never seen a cricket ball, opened the bowling against Curitiba with some fine medium pace deliveries, taking 1-19 off six overs. Perhaps for the first time in Brazilian interstate play, the opening batsman was also Brazilian – in this case Parana's Givanildo Rosa. Full marks also to three other Brasilia players: Haik Manning for a match-winning 118* after Curitiba had scored 214-7 (to go with a 70* against Sao Paulo the weekend before), Rubab Ullislam for playing during his Ramadan fast, and to Australian Ambassador Peter Heywood for canceling all diplomatic appointments and being first at the ground to help prepare the wicket. He also took a fine catch at deep long off to dismiss your correspondent. All the action took place on the hard baked red surface of Brasilia's temporary ground (pictured). The new ground next door should be ready next year.

Now it all comes down to the season-ending 20:20 tourney in Curitiba, where each team will play four games over three days – November 12, 13 and 14. Sao Paulo still has a shot at the Cup, but they'll need at least two wins plus some help

from Parana. Stay tuned for more news next month on which club will be downing the bubbly.



Brasilia's temporary ground

CANADA

School Cricket in Alberta

(submitted by Chris Marathalingam)

Akashdeep Brar of William Aberhart High School of Calgary was named cricketer of the year when Cricket Alberta handed out its year-end awards at the indoor tournament at the Saville Centre recently. The day-long tournament produced numerous champions, both school and individual.

High School – Champions NW Thunderbirds
Middle School – Champions Edmonton Rams
Lower School - Champions Edmonton Cubs
League Premier Division – Combined Schools

Summary of Events in October

(reported by Marcus Akhtar)

- CCA has sent 4 young hopefuls to the ICC School of Excellence in South Africa. They are fast bowlers Henry Osinde, young Canadian quick bowling prospect Umar Bhatti, Quasir Ali and the promising young wicket keeper Kenneth Carto.
- The CCA has set up a committee to select a new National Coach. This committee will be chaired by CCA 1st Vice President Mr. Howard Petrook, and includes Ron Aldridge, Ramesh Jagoo and Elvin Pompey.
- CCA has also set up a committee called the Cricket World Cup 2007 Business Advisory Committee. This committee's brief is to

liaise with the World Cup 2007 Marketing Committee in Jamaica and coordinate strategy with them. Furthermore, it will be exploring business opportunities, which will benefit cricket in Canada. The committee will be chaired by Mr. Steve Ferley and includes a number of prominent Canadian businessmen. This committee will be augmented with other talent from the Canadian business community as and when necessary.

MCC Scores

MCC 175/5 (20 overs) vs Ottawa Selects 16/1 (2 overs) – match abandoned (rain).

MCC 233 (all out 49.4 overs) N. Compton 96, Alberta 121 (all out 44.5) – MCC won by 121 runs.



MCC on tour in Canada

MEXICO

Regular League Play

The Mexican cricket season restarted in October after the summer rainy season break. Champions Tigres de Bengala got off to a perfect start in defense of the Brian Gay trophy, defeating MCCC in the opening game of the season. However, there are already signs that they won't be having it all their own way this season, as they were bowled out for 130 runs inside of the maximum 30 overs, and MCCC came extremely close to snatching a victory before falling just short at 124 all out in pursuit. So far this season we have welcomed 12 new playing members into the association which will, judging by their solid contributions in the opening weeks, further strengthen the base of cricket in Mexico.

Tour

In September a 16-man squad from Mexico traveled up to Houston to play Memorial CC in the 27th year of this annual fixture. Mexico journeyed as current holders of the Travelex trophy after winning on home turf 18 months ago. With Memorial CC crowned recently as Houston league champions, keeping the trophy was a daunting prospect. Saturday's limited overs warm-up game hinted at the difficulties ahead, as the MCA 2nd XI struggled to find their timing on the unfamiliar artificial surface, and their fitness in the stifling temperatures. In the end, Memorial's total of 154 off 30 overs proved beyond Mexico's batsmen, as they ran out of time with only 134/7 on the board. In Sunday's main fixture, Memorial batted first and knocked up 255/7 before declaring in the 45th over. In order to claim the trophy, our hosts had to bowl MCA out in less than 50 overs. Mexico's opening pair of Nick Houston and Chris Westphal survived 10 overs of incredibly hostile bowling to provide a solid platform, before the former lost his wicket. With the run-rate already out of sight, Mexico's only option was to try and bat out the draw. The MCA batsmen all dug deep and played impeccably in resisting Memorial's potent bowling attack, none more so than Chris Westphal who battled through 41 overs to reach his fifty before finally succumbing to the next ball. After this blow, the tail-enders hung on grimly until the last man went in with only 2 balls remaining. Facing up to the incredible tension, number 11 Jay Kishan casually blocked the last two balls to leave Mexico returning home with the trophy for the first time since the 1970s.

Coaching

Following on from the recent ICC Coaching Seminar held here in Mexico, we have appointed our delegate Eric Acton as development officer within the MCA. Eric's priorities this season are to establish coaching schemes within local schools and begin to develop cricket at the grass roots level in Mexico, applying the techniques and ideas gained at the seminar. Two of the new playing members are teachers at international schools in Mexico City, and we have established contact with a number of other schools in the areas as a first step in developing an inter-school competition. A boost to our plans was the donation of 10 Rapido cricket sets by ICC Americas, the first of which has arrived, and which has already been pressed into service. Our

ICC liaison officer Keith Foster took the kit up to the Victoria School, where the kids enjoyed their first taste of cricket, walloping the ball to all corners of the playground, in what was the first of many such coaching sessions to come.



Eric Acton receiving Mexico's first Rapido cricket set



Rapido pressed into action at Victoria School, Mexico City

USA

Cricket in Kansas

Edward Fox, a transplanted Aussie, has spent a great deal of time and money investing in the future of junior cricket in this mid-west state. Twenty two schools over three years were visited by Edward for up to 2 weeks each, teaching cricket as a PE unit. Over 10,000 American school children have gone through the classes. At least 100 play in a Cricket Little League from which a Kansas U15 team has been selected.

Edward is currently looking for resource material to distribute to these new kids of the cricket world. If you can assist, please contact him at edward@aussiefox.com

Cricket Sporting Academy (Aurora, Illinois)
grooming thinking cricketers

ICC Americas certified coach Linden Fraser praises CSA's work. CSA started on its course to attract, retain, and educate young enthusiasts to cricket some time ago. Notwithstanding all the growing pains, it achieved a good amount of success with youngsters. Since the time it had built its first U-13 team two years ago, the youngsters have made tremendous progress.

This year the youth slowly graduated from U-13 to U-15 category, and were looking hungry to play more and test their skills and fitness. CSA simply promoted this group of U-15 as a team and registered them into the National Youth Cricket League. In order to further groom them on field, CSA made sure that at least one coach played with the boys in each match. This effort really paid off big time. Not only did this team perform very well, they also managed to reach the semi-finals in the very first year.

CSA believes in this strategy and approach as a means to overcome shortage of tournaments and regional opportunities for the youngsters to play more. Although playing against other regional and country teams is certainly beneficial, touring on a regular basis without sponsors would become extremely cost prohibitive.

Photo gallery Americas 2nd Annual Coaching Seminar at the Reforma Athletic Club, Mexico City



The group representing 11 countries of the Americas

CSA attributes the success of this strategy to the NCL management, NCL teams and the United Cricket Club. The story does not end here. CSA's very own "Sparrows – Play for fun" program has produced 17 potential players who will start training under its own innovative "Doves – Play to Learn" program. These Sparrows trained at CSA for the past 1-3 years while playing for fun. Currently CSA is building a suitable platform for these U-10s to play and build on their skills.

For more details, please visit <http://CSAofUSA.com> or contact CSA at information@CSAofUSA.com

Our thanks to the following for their contributions this month:

Gary Savage (Argentina); Neil Speight (Bermuda); Norman Baldwin (Brazil); Marcus Akhtar, Chris Marathalingam (Canada); Chris Wood (Mexico); Ismael Patel (Panama); Edward Fox, Chidambar Joshi (USA).



WI instructors Philip Service and Kumar Rampat)