



## **JCCricket High School Fall Tournament – Week #1 Recap**

The long awaited JCCricket High School Fall Tournament got on the way on Sunday, November 15th at Shakerag Park in Johns Creek, Georgia after all players completed the Tournament's Covid -19 protocols. The first match saw Chargers (students from Wheeler High School) winning comfortably over Whirlwinds (students from Walton High School) by 83 runs. Chargers won the toss and elected to bat. That decision proved to be the correct one as Chargers opening pair, Mohnish Mara and Varish Varakanta batted for 19.5 overs and put on a 141 runs partnership. Varish was finally dismissed for a patient 38 off 57 balls leaving the more aggressive Mohnish at the non-striker's end, unbeaten on 77 from 63 balls. Mohnish innings included 6, fours and 3, sixes. Varish dismissal brought Chargers captain, Nasimul Labib to the wicket to try and get as many runs as possible from the final ball of the innings. He played the last ball of the innings nicely into the legside and rushed off for a sure two runs and then tried to convert it into three. A good return from the deep to the bowler's end, found him a couple feet short of the crease and therefore run-out.

Whirlwinds turn at the crease saw a steady start by openers Advait Kumar and Ishaan Immatty. They got to 31 by the 4th over but when Advait was catch by Mohnish off the bowling of Varish Varakanta for a well-played 23 off 18 balls (3 fours and 1 six), the wind was taken out of the Whirlwinds and wickets began to fall regularly. No one else got into double figures and they were eventually all out in the twelfth over for a disappointing score of 60 with extras at 13, the second highest contributor. The Chargers bowling attack was spearheaded by Varish Varakanta - 2 wickets for 12 runs from two overs, Misha Gupta- 3 wickets for 14 runs from 3 overs, Nikhil Kasaghatta - 3 wickets for 6 runs from 2.2 overs and Captain Nasimul Labib -1 wicket for 3 runs from his one over.

The match was watched and enjoyed by all who came out to witness what is believed to be the first ever organized High School Cricket tournament in the entire state of Georgia. The organizers of the tournament, Johns Creek Cricket Association (JCCricket), were very impressed with the high standard of play and were encouraged and excited to see what the rest of the tournament would bring. They didn't have long to wait because after a 20-minute break, the second match brought Thunder Eagles (students from South Forsyth High School) against the local team, Titans (students from Northview High School)

In the second match, Titans won the toss and elected to bowl first. Thunder Eagles openers were Chaitanya Nifadkar and Falih Faizal. They got off to a slow start and were in trouble in the 3rd over as they lost Falih, bowled by a good delivery from Abhiram Kalvakuntla. The score was then 12 and Falih was gone for 2 from 7 balls. Things got worse in the 4th over when Vasu Patel was Run Out for 1 from 6 balls with the score on 13. Things continue to fly south for the Thunder Eagles with resistance only coming from opening batsman Chaitanya (26 runs from 29 balls, 1 four and 1 six) and all-rounder Danush Kaveripakam (38 runs from 34 balls, 1 four and 4 sixes). Abhiram bowled well and picked up 4 wickets for 25 runs from his 4 overs. He was



joined in the wickets - column by Akhil Posa who picked up 4 wickets for only 9 runs from 3 overs and Harsha Dharmaraj who picked up 1 wicket for 24 runs from 3 overs. Thunder Eagles were eventually bowled out for 114 off 17 overs.

The Titans run chase started with openers Ateendra Subramania and Akshay Para. They batted carefully and blossomed as time went on. Thunder had to wait until the 7<sup>th</sup> over, with the score on 49 to take its first wicket of the tournament. It was Akshay who went for a well-played 33 runs from 22 balls, caught behind off of the bowling of Rohan Upadhyaya (Thunder Eagles Vice Captain). Ateendra was joined by Atherva Kalaskar and they took the score to 78 before Atherva was bowled by Danush for 12 off 16 balls. Captain Viraj Vaghela joined Ateendra who was now firmly set and together they completed the run chase in the 17<sup>th</sup> over with a huge six by Ateendra that got him to 50 not out off 52 balls and Titans the win by 8 wickets. The final score was 118 for 2 off 16.2 overs. Viraj was not out on 6 from 9 balls.

The tournament continues Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 1pm when the victorious Titans will take on Longhorns (students from Lambert High School).