



SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



Sussex Sharks v. Essex Eagles Royal London One-Day Cup, South Group The Saffrons, Eastbourne. Sunday 3rd June 2018.

An unbeaten Laurie Evans hundred was the highlight for Sussex Sharks during a four-wicket defeat to Essex Eagles in the Royal London One-Day Cup at Eastbourne.

The loss in Sussex's final match of the South Group confirms the side's exit from this year's competition.

In front of over 4,000 people on a glorious summer's day at The Saffrons, Evans' 107 not out was the backbone of the Sharks' 281-7.

Having been inserted by the visitors, Sussex were in trouble at 46-3 in the 11th over when Evans arrived at the crease to put on 113 with Harry Finch in 22.5 overs.

Against generally accurate Essex bowling it was never easy for the pair to accelerate on a slow wicket.

Sussex were forced to rebuild again when three wickets fell for six runs, including Finch for 56 who was stumped by Wheeler off a wide, the first of two wickets in successive balls for Zaidi who then deceived Michael Burgess with an arm ball.

The Sharks were 174-6 with ten overs to go, but Evans found excellent support from Chris Jordan and Jofra Archer as 107 were plundered off the last ten overs.

Jordan made 35 at a run a ball before Archer hit out spectacularly with 33 from 15 balls including three sixes and two fours to the delight of the bumper crowd.

Evans reached his century in the final over when he belted Sam Cole to the mid-off boundary for his eighth four. He also hit two sixes and faced 117 balls.

This was the second List A hundred of the 30-year-old's career to go with the one he scored for Sussex against Kent in last year's Royal London One-Day Cup.

Adam Wheeler and Varun Chopra gave Essex's reply a good foundation with 86 in 14 overs before Jordan pinned Chopra for 33.

Wheeler looked in good touch, hitting eight boundaries in his 60 off 62 balls, before he missed a reverse sweep and was lbw to Danny Briggs.

Tom Westley was the architect of Essex's successful chase with his fourth half-century in this season's competition.

Major Sponsors





SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



He had some luck along the way. Chris Jordan put down a difficult chance at slip when he had scored one and he was also dropped on 68 at long off by David Wiese, also off Danny Briggs.

The 29-year-old made the most of those reprieves with 88 from 89 balls including five fours and two sixes, adding 84 with Dan Lawrence to take Essex to within 35 runs of victory.

There was a wobble when Westley was run out after being sent back by Lawrence when he was halfway down the pitch and Jofra Archer bowled Lawrence for 36 later in the same over.

Ravi Bopara (14) was pinned in front by David Wiese but by then Essex were only six runs short of their target which they reached with 12 balls to spare.

Looking back at the match and Sussex's tournament as a whole, head coach Jason Gillespie said: "It was a similar story to quite a few of our games in this competition. Laurie Evans went on and scored a really good hundred which I am delighted about, but a few others got starts but didn't go on which is disappointing and frustrating, both for me and the players themselves.

"With the ball we allowed them to probably play too many big shots without much risk involved. Those are two things which we need to improve going forward.

"A positive was seeing Laurie bat as well as he did and also to score 107 off the last ten overs but overall in the competition it's a case of opportunities missed, both today and in a number of the other games."

Major Sponsors

