



SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



Sussex vs. Glamorgan Specsavers County Championship - Division Two The 1st Central County Ground, Hove Sunday 22nd – Monday 23rd July 2018

Day One

Sussex, attempting to boost their promotion ambitions with a third straight win against bottom of the table Glamorgan, needed a spirited last wicket partnership between Jofra Archer and Danny Briggs to gain the upper hand on the opening day of their day-night Specsavers County Championship Division Two fixture at The 1st Central County Ground, Hove.

Sussex had the better of the opening session but the Glamorgan bowlers proved tenacious and took five wickets in a 20-over spell, assisted by a pink ball that swung after lunch. Sussex's tail wagged once again and the partnership of 61 between Archer (19) and Briggs (46) saw them to a third batting point for passing 300/

Openers Luke Wells and Phil Salt built a decent foundation to the innings, with an opening stand of 73. Salt was in particularly impressive form, striking eight fours in his 52-ball 48 before he was dismissed by a fine delivery from Michael Hogan, which straightened and lifted to have him caught behind in the 19th over.

Sussex were still well set at 114 for one at lunch. But they lost Tom Haines to the first delivery after the interval and the Glamorgan bowlers remained on top for the rest of the session. Haines, playing his first championship game since scoring a century on debut against Durham at Arundel last month, came into the side for the rested Luke Wright. But, attempting to work the ball to leg, he edged Lukas Carey to Nick Selman at second slip.

Wells, who had been more sedate than his opening partner Salt, leg-glanced Michael Hogan to reach his fifty from 100 deliveries. But Sussex lost third wicket at 139 when the in-form Harry Finch caught behind off Hogan. One run later Wells hooked Hogan to long-leg for 71 from 142 balls.

Michael Burgess was dropped first ball at third slip but Glamorgan were not made to pay for their aberration. The batsman was caught behind having a swing at a wide delivery from Jeremy Lawlor for 13. And it became 171 for six when David Wiese swung wildly to give the busy keeper Chris Cooke another catch.

Ben Brown and Chris Jordan revived the faltering innings with a seventh wicket stand of 83 in 24 overs. Both batsmen failed to reach deserved half-centuries. Brown (49) was caught behind attempting to cut a ball that was too pitched up for the stroke, and in the next over Jordan (46) was bowled by Hogan.

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Sussex were 254 for eight and Glamorgan were on top once more, even more so when Ollie Robinson was caught at second slip at 266 in the first over with the new ball. But in Briggs Sussex have a first-class century maker batting at No 11 and he and Archer hit merrily under the floodlights until Briggs fell in the last over of the day.

Speaking at the close, Wells said: "It felt good to be back in the runs. I didn't feel at my flowing best but I'd rather make some ugly runs than a pretty 20 any day. I was disappointed I didn't turn it into three figures but it was nice to get a few.

"The pink ball didn't feel too different. But it did get a little more difficult as the ball got older. The new ball didn't do much but it swung later on and the bowlers were able to get some seam movement too."

Day Two

Sussex stepped up their promotion campaign with a comprehensive defeat of Glamorgan by an innings and 154 runs inside two days to move to second in the Specsavers County Championship second division table.

It was their third straight win and they achieved it by taking 20 Glamorgan wickets in two sessions, the two innings neatly divided by the first 40-minute interval. It was a day-night game but the floodlights were not required as the match was wrapped up by seven o'clock.

It was a disappointing performance by bottom of the table Glamorgan, with only one win this season. But they ran into a Sussex side with too much firepower in their attack, with Jofra Archer, Ollie Robinson and Chris Jordan all superb. It was appropriate that the match was completed by its outstanding player, Archer, who uprooted Lukas Carey's middle-stump to give him eight wickets in the match, four in each innings.

Sussex coach Jason Gillespie said: "I can't remember a performance like that. It was pretty special. The boys should be really proud of themselves. I've been around county cricket quite a while and that bowling performance was brilliant, as good as I've ever seen.

"We were ruthless on that off-stump. And when you stick to your disciplines you get rewarded. We keep challenging ourselves to get better.

"Jofra is bowling very well. He's had a winter of playing basically short-form cricket, and it's taken him a while to get back in the swing, but today he showed what a quality performer he is."

Archer said: "I've been away for a while so it's good to be back in and help the team to win. Everyone is buzzing. We didn't expect to do it in two sessions today but it will give the bowlers a rest."

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It had been Archer who had propelled Sussex towards their sensational day with a devastating burst that brought him four wickets for four runs in just 11 deliveries as they were bowled out for 85 before lunch in response to the Sussex innings of 327.

When Glamorgan followed on after the interval, 242 runs behind, the pattern didn't change. They continued to lose wickets steadily against a Sussex bowling attack that gave them little respite, bowling straight and making them play. Openers Nick Selman and Jack Murphy fell in successive overs, the first bowled by Robinson for two and the second caught behind for a duck as he played hesitantly forward to Archer.

Connor Brown was third out at 15, lbw to Archer as he attempted to work a straight delivery to leg. And Usman Khawaja failed again, this time mistiming his pull shot to give Phil Salt a good running catch. Cooke edged Jordan for Salt to take another good catch, this time tumbling to his left at third slip. And then Jeremy Lawlor was beaten and bowled as he played forward to Jordan.

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