



SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



Durham vs. Sussex CCC Specsavers County Championship - Division Two Emirates Riverside, Chester-le-Street Monday 10th – Wednesday 12th September 2018

Day One

Sussex exposed Durham's fragility with the bat in their Specsavers County Championship Division Two match at Emirates Riverside, reducing the home side to 92-7 at the end of day.

Durham were inserted following an uncontested toss and were put on the back foot by impressive bowling from the visitors. David Wiese led the way with figures of 3-12, while Ollie Robinson also notched a couple of wickets to continue his impressive term.

The home side have struggled with the bat at Emirates Riverside this season, accumulating just two points in the campaign. Once again Jon Lewis' men have it all to do against promotion-chasing Sussex.

Only one over of play was possible in the morning session due to bad light. Cameron Steel successfully negotiated the spell from Robinson, although he did get off the mark by edging through the slips to the boundary.

Durham's problems began almost immediately after lunch. Alex Lees drove at a fully Jofra Archer delivery, edging the ball straight to Phil Salt at third slip. Will Smith became Robinson's first victim following the opener back to the pavilion in the following over, while Graham Clark was undone by a good delivery as Harry Finch took the catch at second slip.

Steel and Michael Richardson were able to offer brief resistance, producing a partnership of 42 runs, using the short boundary to their advantage to attempt to swing momentum back in Durham's favour. However, Wiese made the breakthrough as Richardson fell for 23 driving loosely at a wider delivery. Steel followed in the next over to begin a collapse, allowing Chris Jordan to enter the wicket column.

Axar Patel's found the boundary twice early in his innings before being bowled through the gate by Wiese. Captain Paul Collingwood tried to see out the session, but left a straight ball from Wiese to become the seventh wicket of the day. Rain prevented any further play on the first day, much to relief of the home side in their attempt to salvage a meaningful score from their first innings.

Day Two

Ollie Robinson secured the sixth five-wicket haul of his first-class career – and his third in as many innings – on the second day of Sussex's Specsavers County Championship match against

Major Sponsors





SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



Durham at Emirates Riverside, which ended with the home side leading by 201 runs with six wickets remaining in their second innings.

With the rest of this fixture and two further matches left to play, Robinson's 63 wickets so far this season is already the best Championship haul for a Sussex bowler since Steve Magoffin's 69 in 2015.

Durham began the day 92-7 in need of an effort from the tail to guide them to a competitive first-innings' score. However, Robinson was able to strike three times, removing Stuart Poynter, Matt Salisbury and Nathan Rimmington, to dismissing the hosts for 103.

Sussex were immediately pegged back in their response as Tom Haines edged a Rushworth delivery to third slip in the first over. Phil Salt and Luke Wells attempted to see off the new ball and made steady progress before both players were dismissed in back-to-back deliveries as Rushworth and Salisbury struck.

Chris Rushworth – who ended with the remarkable figures of 8-51 - then took command of proceedings from the Lumley End. He notched his 400th first-class wicket for Durham by bowling Harry Finch for 12 with a fine delivery. The dismissal opened the floodgates to bring the home side back into the contest. Ben Brown and Michael Burgess fell to the seamer, who claimed a 21st five-wicket haul in the four-day format.

A brilliant catch by Will Smith at gully sent Chris Jordan on his way, while Jofra Archer lasted only a solitary delivery when he was cleaned up by Rushworth. Robinson handed the veteran his eighth wicket of the innings, although Poynter and Paul Collingwood had to combine to take the catch behind the stumps. Another scalp would have seen Rushworth claim his career-best figures, but Salisbury ended the innings by trapping David Wiese in front of the stumps, bowling out the visitors for 122 and a lead of 19.

Durham capitalised on their momentum to eradicate the deficit without loss as Cameron Steel and Alex Lees built a solid partnership. The duo put on 72 for the first wicket before Lees was given out caught behind on 43 off the bowling of Robinson. Archer then accounted for the scalp of Smith to apply pressure. Steel held firm at the other end, reaching his fifty off 78 deliveries with a boundary down to fine leg. Graham Clark struck three boundaries early in his knock, but was pinned lbw by Archer for 21.

Steel continued his impressive knock, making his runs at a good pace to break into the nineties. He was given a life on 95 when he top edged a delivery from Jordan, but Salt running back slipped as he attempted to make the catch. The 22-year-old made his first century of the campaign, reaching the milestone with a boundary through the covers off his 158th delivery. The partnership between Steel and Richardson was ended on 55 as the former was removed by Robinson. However, Steel remained unbeaten at the close alongside Axar Patel his side well poised on 220-4.

Major Sponsors





SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



Day Three

Sussex fell to a 186-run defeat against Durham in their Specsavers County Championship match at Emirates Riverside thanks to a fine performance with the ball by Chris Rushworth.

The home side appeared to be in trouble after their first innings after being bowled out for 103. However, Rushworth dug his team out of trouble with an outstanding spell of 8-51 before a brilliant hundred from Cameron Steel put Durham in command on day two.

Jon Lewis' men set Sussex a daunting chase of 322 in their final innings, and the visitors were never able to threaten as Rushworth dominated with the ball, claiming another four wickets to take his tally to 12 for the match. Axar Patel wrapped up the tail on his final match for Durham, allowing the home side to ease to the victory.

Durham began day three 201 runs ahead of the visitors, although they lost Patel almost immediately as he played a loose shot against Danny Briggs that landed in the grasp of David Wiese. Steel maintained his form at the crease, notching his highest score at Emirates Riverside on his way to 150.

He produced a stand with Paul Collingwood to edge Durham's lead towards the 300-run mark, although Steel was to fall to Tom Haines for 160, becoming the 19-year-old's maiden first-class wicket. The home side collapsed after lunch losing their final four wickets for four runs to be bowled out for 340, despite a season-best knock from Collingwood of 47.

Ollie Robinson finished with 4-75, to finish with nine wickets in the match, 19 in his last two appearances and move onto 65 wickets in the Championship season: eight more than any other English-qualified player.

Sussex lost Phil Salt in the first over of their reply, chasing down 322 for the win. Rushworth burst through his defences to clean bowl the opener for a duck, while Matt Salisbury notched the scalp of Luke Wells in his first over. Harry Finch was then bowled by Rushworth, which reduced the visitors to 11-3 and allowed the seamer to claim his 10th wicket of the match.

Haines and Michael Burgess battled at the crease without looking comfortable amid tight bowling from the Durham attack. However, Rushworth's persistence paid off as he bowled Burgess for 22 before trapping Haines lbw for a hard-fought 40. The home side seized the initiative to close in on the victory as Patel removed Ben Brown, while Salisbury claimed his second wicket of the innings, bowling David Wiese.

Jofra Archer was run out by Michael Richardson after surviving an lbw shout. Patel pinned Chris Jordan lbw before Ollie Robinson clipped the left-arm spinner straight to Steel to allow the home side to secure the win.

Major Sponsors





SUSSEX CRICKET MATCH REPORT



At the conclusion of the match, Sussex head coach Jason Gillespie said: "It was a couple of days to forget overall, if we're perfectly honest. I think Durham outbatted and outbowled us. It's something that we have to learn from. I've just spoken to the boys, it's about individual self-reflection what they can take away from this game and what they've learned.

"I thought Cameron Steel played very well, and Chris Rushworth bowled wonderfully well. It's up to us to learn as much as we can from this game. While it's disappointing and the lads are disappointed, it hurts to lose a cricket game in that manner. We must take something away from it and hopefully be better for the experience."

Sussex take three points from the game and are now 21 points behind second-placed Kent. Their next match is against league leaders Warwickshire at The 1st Central County Ground next week.

Before then, they travel to Edgbaston for the Vitality Blast Finals Day on Saturday. Gillespie had this to say about the showpiece of the domestic season: "The Vitality Blast is a completely different format. We're really excited about that. We've lost today and that's disappointing. The overall feel around the squad is excellent. The whole club is buzzing about Finals Day, we're really looking forward to that. We'll put this game to bed quickly. As I said to the lads in the dressing room as soon as we walk out of here, we'll hold our heads held high and move forward."

Major Sponsors

