

Ceylon cements its place atop JCA league

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JAKARTA: Ceylon continued its dream run in the Jakarta Cricket Association's (JCA) Apple Coal League last weekend (15th January 2012), beating India XI by three wickets at Cibubur.

Sent in to bat first, India XI started slowly and was 38/1 after 12 overs, before Lalit Balchandani (56 not out) and George Manghnani (51) formed a solid partnership to be 98/3 after 24 overs. In the 35-over match, the home side finished with 179/5, with Dihan Silva doing the most damage, taking 2/27.

Ceylon started cautiously and was 53/2 after 12 overs, but Geoff Polonnowita (81 not out) and Kavinda Nanayakkara (43) raised the run rate with a quick 75-run partnership. Despite a brief middle-order collapse, where Ceylon slipped from 106/3 to 129/5, Ceylon reached the required total with three overs to spare. Polonnowita was again named man-of-the-match, guiding his side to victory and to the top of the JCA table.

Over at Karawaci, Emerio beat the KMV Tigers by seven runs in a low-scoring thriller, posting only their second win of the season. The decision to bat first backfired when Emerio slipped to 41/6 after just 12 overs. Satya Mendarkar top scored for the visitors with 14 not out, with his side all out for 98. The star of the innings was Melven Ndoen, who took 5-13.

At 38/1 after 12 overs, the Tigers's run chase seemed to be on track, but an inspired bowling performance from Anji Katta (3/12) left the Tigers all out for 91. Yeri Rosongna top scored for the home team with 20.

At the half-way stage of the tournament, Ceylon is leading the way with 74 points. Bogor, WISCI Wanderers and Menara are fighting for the minor placings, with 50, 44 and 41 points, respectively.