



NORTHERN TERRITORY CRICKET

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MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 14 January 2010

Strike win on first innings after an amazing comeback against WA

The Northern Territory Strike have taken a step closer to claiming the Australian Country Cricket Championship, after taking the first innings lead against Western Australia.

NT had originally lost the toss and were sent into bat on a good wicket.

A strong bowling display from WA, coupled with poor shot selection from the NT, resulted in the loss of 6/60 by lunch on day one.

A gutsy revival from Lavers (55) and off spinner Udara Werrasinghe (39) and a good fighting partnership between Simon Lavers and Jack Flynn, carried the Strike to a defendable total of 175.

In response, rain delays allowed the Strike the opportunity to bowl 16 overs to close out the day's play.

Due to first class bowling by Matthew Hanna and Morgan Hartney and an outstanding team performance in the field, the NT finished the day in a commanding position with WA reeling at 6/35 at stumps.

With the championship on the line, the NT displayed one of the greatest bowling performances in the Territory's history.

The NT side came in today knowing that a first innings lead could possibly be enough to win the championship and followed yesterday's stunning performance, by bowling WA out in the first innings for a score of 86.

Young gun Matthew Hanna led the charge taking 6/33 off 16 overs with two great spells of swing bowling.

In their second innings, the Strike made 4/200 with Martin Brown 100 not out.

Having placed themselves in pole position, all eyes then turned to New South Wales in their final match.

New South Wales was required to achieve an outright victory against Victoria to take out the title.



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NSW needed take an improbable 20 wickets on the final day of play, while defending a first innings total of 302.

In response, Victoria were bowled out in the first innings for 235.

A gallant 70 runs from MJ Mulcahy provided NT the resistance they were after from Victoria, with NSW eventually conceding the championship and pulling stumps in the 83rd over.

The NT had become national champions for the first time in the history of the event.