



Kent Spitfires vs Glamorgan

Sunday 3 July Match starts at 18:30



SPIJFIRE

VITALITY BLAST
The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Canterbury

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PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

















Hello everyone and welcome to all associated with Glamorgan for this Sunday evening Vitality Blast match-up at Canterbury.

Sadly, tonight is our final home match of this season's Vitality Blast. We've spoken enough about performances on the field, so I'm going to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in T20s this season.

The atmosphere at The Spitfire Ground despite our position in the table, especially in our matches against Surrey and Sussex Sharks, were electric. On behalf of all the players and coaches, I'd like to thank you for continuing to support us even when times have been tough in T20 cricket this year.

With no pressure on us now, I've tasked the group with going out there and expressing themselves with no fear in this match with our visitors from Wales.

We saw this against Sussex last week as we picked up a huge win over our local rivals, and all I ask from the players and from you as supporters, is that we match that same energy this evening.

Enjoy the game, and back the boys.

Walks

LAST TIME OUT



Kent Spitfires missed out on victory at the Kia Oval in a high-scoring encounter under the lights in the Vitality Blast.

View full scorecard

A full house crowd of 30,000 at the Kia Oval lapped it up as 25 sixes in all were struck as Surrey, with 14 of those blows in their 195 for 6, hunted down Kent's 191 for 5 with nine balls to spare.

Alex Blake had earlier entertained the packed stands with 50 not out from 25 balls included four sixes and two fours, but even his hitting paled besides the extraordinary strokeplay of Roy and Curran.

Fast bowler Matt Milnes, who finished with figures of 3-0-48-0, felt the full force as Roy took three successive and almost contemptuous legside sixes and then a four from his second over, the sixth of the innings, which cost 24.

And, when Milnes was recalled for the 17th over, Curran twice smashed him straight for six and also pulled him with whiplash force for another six over deep square leg as 19 more were plundered from it.

Both Curran and Roy hit five sixes, with opener Roy also striking five fours before he was bowled by spinner Qais Ahmad in the seventh over.

Aaron Hardie pulled Grant Stewart for six in 15 on debut, before being run out failing to answer Curran's call for two, and Qais later removed both Jamie Overton (6) and Curran in his final over to end up with a creditable 3 for 28. But, even though Kent tried seven bowlers, the fit-again Darren Stevens strangely did not bowl at all and Jamie Smith ended the game by crunching Fred Klaassen over cover for four.

Kent's total was based around three sparkling innings - 41 off 29 balls by

LAST TIME OUT (CONTINUED)

Tuwanda Muyeye and Jordan Cox's 31-ball 54 at the start, and then the explosive Blake at the end. Perhaps Blake, indeed, should have come in one place earlier, rather than at No5, so cleanly did he strike the ball.

Blake's most eye-catching stroke was when he skipped down the pitch to Sunil Narine, whose first three overs had cost only 12 runs, to smash the West Indies mystery spinner a long way over the wide long on boundary for six. It was a stroke which also inspired George Linde to drive Narine back over his head for another six as the Trinidadian's final over, the 18th, cost him 14.

There were also maximums for Blake high over extra cover and square cover off Overton and Reece Topley, respectively, plus another huge blow mowed into the stands over wide mid wicket off Jordan.

Put in, Kent lost Joe Denly for 5 in the second over when all-rounder Hardie, Surrey's overseas player replacement for the injured Kieron Pollard, struck with his third ball for the club to have the former England batsman caught off a skier at extra cover

But, kick-started initially by Muyeye who later in that over superbly picked up a legstump ball and deposited it high over the deep square leg ropes for six, the second wicket pair played beautifully to add 75 in 6.3 overs – in the process accelerating Kent to 67 for one after the six-over powerplay as 24 also came off Hardie's second over, the fifth.

Muyeye pulled Hardie for six over long leg and guided the next ball behind backward point for four before Cox hit the Australian for two sixes, first flicked over deep square leg and then hammered to wide mid wicket.

A risky second run to deep mid wicket in the eighth over saw Muyeye run out by Evans' sprint to the ball, pick up and throw and Cox, after hitting Overton for three successive fours in the ninth over, fell to a good catch by Roy running back at short third man five overs later, when he skied an attempted big hit at Overton.

By then Jack Leaning had gone for 6, caught by keeper Smith sweeping at Dan Moriarty's left arm spin and Stevens kept Blake company for a while before, on 13, skying Narine to Roy running around behind the bowler from mid off.



IVAN THOMAS' EPIC IRONMAN CHALLENGE



Ivan Thomas always wanted to do an ironman challenge, however he didn't envisage doing one so soon. Thomas had ambitions of completing an ironman once he'd had a full cricket career but that was cut short in 2020 when he had to retire from the game.

The 30-year-old is undertaking a mammoth challenge on 10 July which includes a 3.9km swim in Switzerland, followed by a 180km cycle through the Alps and finishing off with a marathon, all to raise funds for the Professional Cricketers' Trust and CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young).

Donate here

The former Kent bowler had to have heart surgery as a youngster after finding out that he had an undetected heart condition. Thomas went on to take 114 wickets for Kent before his retirement.

The Professional Cricketers' Trust sat down with Ivan to discuss his upcoming challenge:

Q. It seems like an extremely difficult challenge, why choose an ironman?

A. There are definitely easier ways to raise money but I'd heard about it before playing cricket and I started telling everyone that when I retire I'm going to do an ironman, thinking that would be 20 years down the line but then I had to retire and people kept mentioning doing the ironman. It's one of those challenges that's tough enough that hopefully people will feel like they can donate towards it so it's a good challenge.

Q. Why did you want to raise money for the Professional Cricketers' Trust and CRY?

A. The Professional Cricketers' Trust is something that you hear a lot about when you're playing cricket and you don't necessarily see what great work it does while you're still in the game. For me personally it really came to light when I went to a golf day for Alan Igglesden and saw what the Trust did for him was incredible. I've been helped a lot by the PCA when I retired with my transition from the game in to my next career and it's been phenomenal so it's something that I really want to keep giving back to over the next few years and this felt like a great opportunity to raise money for the Trust.

I first came across the charity CRY when I was playing cricket for Leeds Bradford University and my captain, Tommy Hardman, actually passed away in his sleep from an undetected heart condition. His parents told us about the charity when we wanted to raise some money in his

IVAN THOMAS' EPIC IRONMAN CHALLENGE (CONTINUED)

memory. Then, when I was playing for Kent I heard Calum Haggett's story who was once pulled out of an England Under-19 World Cup squad to have immediate open heart surgery to fix a damaged valve in his heart which saved his life. He carried on playing professionally for 10 years, which was a great success story for CRY.

Not too many years after that, very luckily, I found out that I had a heart condition too and was whisked away for heart surgery, which fixed what could have been a much more serious issue in the future and now I'm fine. So, I learnt a lot about the incredible work they did, but sadly too often people come to the charity because of a sad story. It would be really nice to push the great work that they do.

Both charities have suffered during the pandemic because they rely on people doing these sort of events to raise money which we haven't been able to do properly since before Covid. So, it's nice to be able to do this for two charities that have had a real impact on my life.

Q. How did the PCA help you in your transition from cricket to coffee?

A. Each county gets a Personal Development Manager and at Kent mine was Tom Jones, he was phenomenal. He approached me and asked what interests I have outside of cricket that I could do when I retire. I ended up doing quite a few work experience placements in my time off over the winter but really I just learnt what I didn't like. Then I fell into the coffee world by spending time in coffee shops and wanting to learn a little bit more about it.

I approached Tom and he mentioned that PCA member, Tim Linley, had opened a

coffee shop up in Leeds. He was a great help because I spoke to him a lot about how he transitioned into the world of coffee and how he's made that change to become a business owner. The PCA has also helped finance some of my education since leaving cricket such as my roasting qualifications and that helped me get the job I'm in now and I'm lucky enough to say that it's a dream role. It's been an awesome 18 months after leaving the game and I've been able to set up my own coffee business because the PCA has supported me.

Q. What's the preparation and training for the ironman been like?

A. Originally I just planned to do a half so it was a bit of a shock to myself and my girlfriend after two weeks of booking it that I noticed it was actually a full ironman. It normally takes 18 months training for a full one but I've only given myself six months because I thought it was a half. There's been some tough training and dark mornings getting up early in the winter. Preparation has been challenging but I feel in a good place now just two weeks out. If I'm not ready now I don't think I ever will be.

Q. How much are you looking to raise?

A. I hope that we can raise the £2,000 that we set on the JustGiving page but I understand that it's a difficult time and people don't really have a lot of spare money in the current climate so the main aim is to raise as much awareness for both these great charities as possible.





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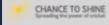




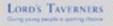


















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