

Manula troubles Thomians, Kalana strikes back

BY REEMUS FERNANDO

After spinner Manula Perera choked the Thomians with a five-wicket haul, left-arm paceman Kalana Perera relived his last year heroics as he fought back with three quick wickets to even honours on day one of the 139th Battle of the Blues at the SSC on Friday.

The Sri Lanka Under-19 paceman Kalana justified the Thomians' decision to declare on 166 for nine wickets under overcast conditions when he struck in his first over getting Bhagya Dissanayake lbw for just one run. He also had Gayan Dissanayake and Kamil Mishara out before they reached double figures to leave Royal struggling at 33 for three wickets when bad light forced an early end to the first day's play.

Kalana's impressive feats with the new ball was the ideal lesson for the Royal pacemen who failed to capitalise under somewhat similar conditions in the morning. Kalana was also the chief wrecker of Royal first innings at the last edition.

Instead it was Royal's left-arm spinner Manula Perera who troubled the Thomians. Kamil Mishara broke the opening stand and Perera then took the wickets of Shalin de Mel (caught off his own bowling), Kishan Munasinghe (lbw) and skipper Dellon Peiris.

The Thomians were slow to score and could add only 52 runs in the morning session.

Sithara Hapuhinna and Manthila Wijeratne were the highest scorers. Hapuhinna who top-scored with 34 (4x4s) would not have achieved that, had Manula held on to a catch off his own bowling when the batsmen was on a night

Scoreboard

S. Thomas' 1st Innings

Dulith Gunaratne ct. B. Dissanayake b. Mishara	16
Shalin de Mel ct & b M. Perera	15
Kishan Munasinghe lbw M. Perera	13
Dellon Peiris ct Pathirathne b. M. Perera	12
Sithara Hapuhinna ct G. Dissanayake b. Pathirathne	34
Manthila Wijeratne bowled M. Perera	24
Kalana Perera ct. Bandara b. M. Perera	13
Maneesha Rupasinghe ct. Sooriyabandara b. Bandara	13
Thevin Eriyagama not out	05
Pavith Rathnayake run out	04
Extras (6b, 5lb, 2w, 4n)	17
Total (for 9 wickets decl.)	166

Overs 64.3

Did not bat: Shannon Fernando

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-38, 3-54, 4-69, 5-115, 6-128, 7-149, 8-153, 9-166

Bowling: Dimal Jayasekara 2-0-8-0, Kavindu

Pathirathne 10-3-20-1 (1w), Lahiru Madusanka 11.3-

1-31-0 (1w, 4n), Kamil Mishara 11-3-17-1, Manula

Perera 19-5-43-5, Gayan Dissanayake 5-0-28-0,

Pasindu Sooriyabandara 2-0-2-0, Themas Bandara 4-

1-6-1.

Royal 1st Innings

Bhagya Dissanayake lbw b. K. Perera	01
Gayan Dissanayake ct. de Mel b. K. Perera	06
Kavindu Madarasinghe not out	13
Kamil Mishara ct. Gunaratne b. K. Perera	08
Pasindu Sooriyabandara not out	04
Extras (1n)	01
Total (for three wickets)	33

Overs 15

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-8, 3-21.

To bat: Thevinu Senaratne, Lahiru Madusanka,

Manula Perera, Dimal Wijesekara, Kavindu

Pathirathne, Themas Bandara.

Bowling: Shannon Fernando 4-1-5-0, Kalana Perera

