

# Kavindu, Thevindu defy Thomians

BY REEMUS FERNANDO

Given a target of 216 runs to chase in 48 overs, Royal lost five wickets for 60 runs but two contrasting knocks from Thevindu Senarathne and Kavindu Madarasinghe helped them defy the Thomians as the 139th Battle of the Blues ended in a draw at the SSC on Sunday.

Madarasinghe anchored the middle order with an unbeaten 58 runs (in 86 balls) inclusive of nine fours for Royal to reach 143 for six wickets when bad light forced an early end with some six mandatory overs remaining.

In adversity, Senarathne cracked three fours and a six with brute force to score 24 runs (in 43 balls). Speedster Kalana Perera took the first wicket and skipper Dellon Peiris took three wickets including two in the same over to get rid of Kamil Mishara and his opposite number Sooriyabandara. That lit up the atmosphere with the Thomians starting to sense victory.

It was so close yet so far for the Thomians as they did the hard work to remove some established batsmen with

ease only to be disappointed later when Senarathne and Madarasinghe added 56 runs for the sixth wicket.

Earlier, Royal used all their bowlers in the morning session to no effect as the Thomians opening pair provided a solid platform reaching 104 runs at lunch.

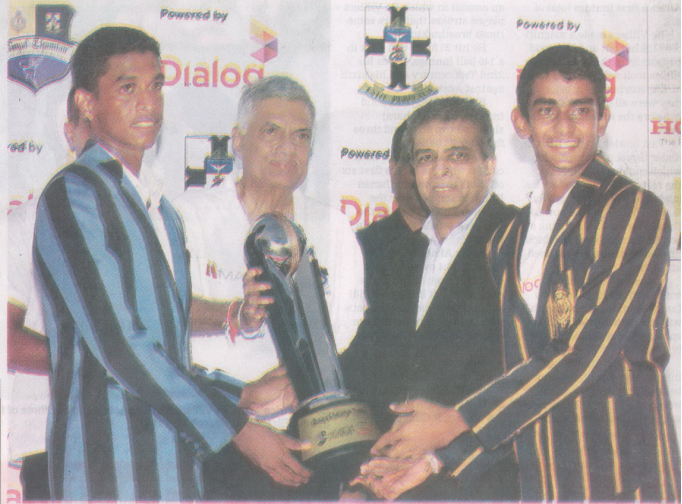
Shalin de Mel reached his half-century, the first for this match during that session. He was run out after lunch trying to back Dulith who attempted a run which was not there. De Mel scored five fours in his 57 which came in 138 balls. The Thomians accelerated the run rate after lunch and Dulith was the second casualty in that process. Trying to pull pacesman Madusanka, Dulith was caught at deep square leg for 59 runs (in 139 balls). His knock contained eight fours.

Sithara Hapuhinna played the major role in accelerating the run rate. He was both aggressive and innovative in scoring his six fours. He scored 47 runs in 42 balls before being run out by Sooriyabandara.

The Thomians have come to the annual battle as favourites for three consecutive years now but the underdogs have continued to disappoint them.

## SCOREBOARD

S. Thomas' 1st 168 for 9 decl	Royal 2nd Innings
Royal 1st Innings 178 all out	Bhagya Dissanayake bowled Rathnayake 18
S. Thomas' 2d Innings	Gayan Dissanayake bowled K. Perera 09
Dulith Gunarathne ct. Senarathne b. Madusanka 59	Kavindu Madarasinghe not out 58
Shalin de Mel run out (sub) Kuliasuriya 57	Kamil Mishara bowled D. Peiris 22
Sithara Hapuhinna run out Sooriyabandara 47	Pasindu Sooriyabandara ct. Munasinghe b. D. Peiris 00
Manthila Wijeratne ct. Pathirathna b. M. Perera 19	Kavindu Pathirathna bowled Munasinghe 01
Kalana Perera ct. T. Bandara b. M. Perera 10	Thevindu Senarathne bow D. Peiris 24
Manisha Rupasinghe ct. Mishara b. Pathirathna 10	Manula Perera not out 09
Dellon Peiris not out 14	Extras (2w) 02
Thevindu Eriyagana not out 01	Total (for six wickets) 143
Extras (4b, 8b) 10	Overs 42
Total (for six wickets decl.) 227	Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-29, 3-55, 4-55, 5-60, 6-116.
Overs 61	Bowling: Kalana Perera 11-3-37, 1(1w), Shannon Fernando 4-2-9-0, Dellon Peiris 14-2-50-3(1w), Kishan Munasinghe 6-3-14-1, Pavith Rathnayake 7-0-33-1.
Fall of wickets: 1-107, 2-150, 3-189, 4-194, 5-207, 6-215.	Umpires: Gamini Dissanayake, Asanga Jayasuriya
Bowling: Kamil Mishara 13-2-34-0, Manula Perera 14-1-45-2, Gayan Dissanayake 1-1-0-0, Kavindu Pathirathna 13-3-53-1, Lahiru Madusanka 7-1-39-1, Dimal Wijesekara 4-1-14-0, Thevindu Bandara 3-0-9-0, Pasindu Sooriyabandara 6-0-23-0.	Scorers: Thushara Cooray, Hemantha Ariyewickrama.



S. Thomas' skipper Dellon Peiris (left) and Royal captain Pasindu Sooriyabandara receive the Dialog Challenge Trophy from Han Wijayasuriya, Group Chief Executive, Dialog Axiata PLC and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. (Pic by Kamal Wanniarachchi)