

From The Editor-in-Chief

Q2 heralded two major tournaments in which Team Nigeria participated in: the Pepsi-ICC World Cricket League Division 7 (WCL 7) held in Botswana and the Pepsi-ICC APL T20 Division 2 that was hosted by South Africa. The NCF commenced preparations for the tournaments by selecting a squad of 16 players and subjecting it to both fitness and match training locally before embarking on a 15-day training camp at the Benoni Academy. Team management comprised former Nigerian Captain, Kome Agodo as Team Manager and South African Sean Phillips as Coach/Player. The team achieved second place in the WCL 7 losing only to Kuwait twice in the tournament and defeating the host, Botswana in a tense final day match in front of the home supporters. Ramit Gill, Segun Olayinka, Sean Phillips distinguished themselves by picking up individual awards in a team performance that earned promotion along with Kuwait the tournament winners to WCL 6 in Malaysia.

The team headed back to South Africa to participate about a week later in the APL T20 Division 2 tourney and despite dropping a close match to Botswana, defeated Tanzania in its final match by a close margin of 6 runs to clinch the trophy and earn promotion to the division 1 tourney scheduled for Uganda in July.

With these heart-warming performances, it is expected that Nigeria's ODI ranking both in Africa and globally will be enhanced. Before the two tournaments, Nigeria's global ICC ODI ranking was 39th whilst it was ranked 6th in Africa.

The NCF in conjunction with CubeServ, a Nigerian software company launched an online database that will assist the Federation in enumerating its players, coaches, administrators, Umpires, Scorers, sponsors etc. The database is hoped would assist the Federation in completing the Annual ICC Survey in a more qualitative manner when registration levels reach an optimum level.

BRF Cricket Club dethroned the erstwhile GTAssur champions GCI Old Boys Cricket Club. GCI OBCC were all out for 113 runs which the BRFC batsmen knocked off in 16.4 overs.

Lagos State retains the National Womens Cricket Championship trophy as they edge out Imo State on Net Run Rate. The other participating states were Ogun and Edo states who finished third and fourth respectively.

Finally the Indian Language School emerged winners of the Phillip Asiodu trophy at the 15th Howzat National Cricket Super League that had 6 schools participating. Comprehensive High School, Aiyetoro and Bishop Crowther Seminary, Awka finished in second and third places.

- Kwesi Sagoe



The Wicket



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MR. KWESI SAGOE ELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF AFRICA CRICKET ASSOCIATION (ACA)

• Mr. Kwesi Sagoe, newly elected Chairman, Africa Cricket Association (ACA)

Mr. Kwesi Sagoe, on Friday 15th April, 2011 in Nairobi was elected chairman of the Africa Cricket Association (ACA) at the body's Annual General Meeting which held at the Nairobi Hilton, Kenya. He is the first Nigerian to occupy the exalted position. He will be serving for the next two years. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Kwesi

Sagoe is the current chairman of the Nigeria Cricket Federation.

Congratulating the newly elected ACA Chairman, Mr. Cassim Suliman, Chief Executive Officer, Africa Cricket Association (ACA) & Regional Development Manager, ICC-Africa, said that "we do hope that your term spent with the ACA is both fruitful and a beneficial one".

NIGERIA AND KUWAIT PROMOTED TO WORLD CRICKET LEAGUE DIVISION 6



• Team Nigeria in a group photograph in Gaborone, Botswana.

Nigeria and Kuwait will participate in the Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 6 (WCL Div. 6) tournament in Malaysia in September after the Nigerians defeated Botswana and Kuwait's match against Japan was abandoned due to rain in Gaborone, Botswana today. Germany beat Norway by 18 runs in a rain-shortened game thus relegating its fellow European side out of the league and maintaining its own position in WCL Div. 7.

found itself reeling at 123 all out in just 37 overs in a game that was key for both African sides as it would prove the decider as to which would be promoted to Division 6 and which would be remaining in Division 7. Having lost the toss, Akrum Chand's side was put into bat and it was the day of Nigerian bowlers Sean Philips and Femi Oduyebo with the spinner and the medium pacer claiming three wickets each.

Some poor batting by the hosts saw a number of errors with seven of the side out after being caught by some

athletic Nigerian fielding. Thursday's star batsman Faisal Raza Rasheed departed for just four runs and not long after Denzil Sequeira departed after the diminutive batsman went down on one knee and skied the ball up for it to be caught by Ramit Gill. The downward spiral continued with the removal of captain Chand for just 28 runs, incidentally the top scorer of the side, and from there things went from bad to worse with the all-rounder James Moses' attempts to stabilize the innings thwarted when he departed for 24 after being judged leg-before.

The removal of Omar Ali, when the 26-year-old edged the ball to have it caught in the slips by Gill, signaled more bad news for the hosts as the bottom order fell apart leaving the side on a low score of 123 all out. After a short innings break, Nigeria's openers Ademola Onikoyi and Segun Olayinka took to the field and it appeared the duo were only dealing in boundaries. Onikoyi smashed his way to six boundaries before being dismissed but not before the pair had made some 71 runs.

A heavy downpour of rain interrupted play at the 11th over, leaving players and spectators running for cover as the heavens opened over the BCA Oval 1. After an extended lunch interval and drying up of the outfield, play resumed at 1500 with a revised target for the Nigerians of 120 in 47 overs. At the resumption of play it took the Nigerians another 14 overs to knock off the revised target with a star turn by Olayinka to guide the Nigerians to victory and a place in Division 6. The 22-year-old's 53 not out proved to be the highlight of Nigeria's innings after some disappointing bowling from Botswana with the hosts failing to spark after a poor morning with the bat.

Only Karabo Modise and Segolame Ramatu took wickets for the hosts on a day that saw slack bowling and quality batting by Nigeria's batsmen. Winning captain Endurance Ofem was obviously delighted if a little surprised at the performance offered up by Botswana: "I expected more from them today, considering the fact that they chased down 271 but I told my guys that if we do well in the morning then the afternoon would be ours for the taking and they gave us the game. "I think our bowlers worked hard today and it really paid off for us and I'm very happy with how they've put smiles on the faces of those back home and everyone is happy with their performances.

"Today is a great achievement for us as players and for the Nigerian supporters at home who have been following us throughout this event." Botswana national team coach Arjun Menon was disappointed with a poor batting display from his team. "The batting let us down today, from a bowling perspective we were in good form, we'd taken 33 wickets before today's game and we were always on top. You always need a good total to bowl at and 123 just wasn't good enough just like when we played Kuwait. It's just a real disappointment especially after coming off such a good batting display against Norway."

NIGERIA ICC-AFRICA APL T20 DIVISION 2 CHAMPIONS

Nigeria beat Tanzania in a top of the log clash at the ICC-Africa T20 WCL Division 2 in Johannesburg. Winning by a small margin of only 6 runs Nigeria was run very close by a superb Tanzanian team.

Nigeria played Tanzania in a top of the table clash. Both countries being top African Associates playing in the ICC World Cricket League Global Divisions met on Sahara Park Willowmoore main oval.

Nigeria won the toss and elected to bat. Yet again Sean Phillips was the star performer with the bat he ended up with 80*. He also ended this tournament with 446 runs at an average of a 148 runs.

Nigeria put on 150 runs for the loss of 6 wickets in 20 overs. Tanzania looked like a team wanting a win and pursued the target vigorously. They managed to score 144 runs for the loss of 4 wickets in 20 overs. A mere 6 runs short of the target. Nigeria won by 6 runs.



• (From left) Coach / Player Sean Phillips and Saheed Akolade (Nigeria's Opening Bowler)

WORLD CRICKET LEAGUE DIVISION 7, GABORONE, BOTSWANA, MAY 1-8, 2011 & AFRICA PREMIER LEAGUE (APL) T 20 DIVISION 2, BENONI, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, MAY 14-19, 2011: LIST OF NIGERIA CRICKET SENIOR NATIONAL TEAM PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

1. OLAYINKA SEGUN OLALEKAN
2. OLAYINKA TEMITOPE
3. ONIKOYI ADEMOLA ADENIYI
4. AKOLADE SAHEED OLAWALE
5. OKWUDILI EMMANUEL AKABUOGU
6. GILL RAMIT
7. BEJIDE OLAJIDE JULIUS
8. OLYMPIO OLUSEYE ANDREW
9. OFEM ENDURANCE ANI
10. ODUYEBO OBAFEMI LADIMEJI
11. OGUNLOLA JOSHUA OLADELE
12. ADEGBOLA ADEKUNLE PHILLIP
13. AWOLOWO OLALEKAN SHEHU
14. SEAN PHILIPS -(Player/Coach)
15. AGODO OGHENE KOMO ONOZIAPEZI -(Team Manager)
16. ONWUZULIKE OSITADINMA BENEDICT- (On standby as player)
17. ADENIRAN SAMUEL OLUMIDE - (On standby as player)

Nigeria Cricket Federation launch Online Database for Cricketers/ Administrators



• Abimbola Maduka, Head of Operations CubeServ and George Wiltshire, General Manager / COO NCF at the signing ceremony.

Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF), in its on-going exercise to re-engineer its processes to make it more efficient and effective in service delivery to stakeholders of cricket in Nigeria has entered into a relationship with CubeServ, an Information Technology Company based in Victoria Island, Lagos which operates as a complete Information System Provider.

The federation successfully launched an Online robust database software that captures information of Cricketers in Nigeria/Foreign based Nigerian players that play at the Primary/Secondary School, Tertiary, Club, State and International level, Ex-Internationals, Umpires, Scorers & Curators. The robust software package, designed by CubeServ, has also been customized to capture data of Cricket Administrators in the country, Club Owners, Sponsors and Media Personnel who cover cricket.

At a brief signing ceremony performed on behalf of NCF by the General Manager/COO, George Wiltshire & Head of Operations, Abimbola Maduka, on behalf of CubeServ, held at the Secretariat of the federation in Lagos today, George Wiltshire explained that cricketers, administrators, other stakeholders of Cricket in Nigeria can access the Url www.nigeriacricketfederationdatabase.com from cybercafes, comfort of their homes, office, from mobile phones with internet access and follow the simple procedure to register as appropriate either as Player, Umpire/Scorer, Administrator, Sponsor or Media Personnel etc. The user friendly system will serve as information bank and will be very useful to anybody who is interested in knowing more about stake holders of cricket in Nigeria.

He urged stakeholders to start registering online from today in order to populate the database with profiles of themselves.

Wiltshire, on behalf of the Nigeria Cricket Federation sincerely acknowledged the contributions and genuine support of CubeServ towards the Federation and looks forward to a long and fruitful relationship with the company.



• Nigeria's Opening Batsman, Ademola Onikoyi in action.

BRFCC'S CHAMPAGNE CLASS PERFORMANCE DETHRONES CHAMPIONS GCIOBCC IN 20/20 FINAL



● *Winners of GTAssur 20/20 Cricket Tourney 2011: BRFCC*

Nigeria's first change bowler Joshua Ogunlola of BRFCC took five of the nine Government College Ibadan Old Boys Cricket Club Wickets as his side wrapped up a 9-wicket victory at the Final of the GTAssur 20/20 competition played at the Tafawa Balewa Cricket Oval.

The Ibadan based side won the toss and elected to bat first loosing the wickets of Chimezie Onwuzulike, Olumide Adeniran, Segun Olayinka and Captain Oluwaseun Odeku early owing to superb bowling from BRFCC Bowlers led by Joshua who grabbed 5 wickets, 16 runs, 1 maiden in 4 overs and was supported by the quartet of Saheed Akolade, Lekan Awolowo, Seye Olympio and Endurance Ofem.

Kunle Adegbola Nigeria Cricket National Team Vice-Captain who came in as batsman Number seven formed a 68-run stand with Obed Harvey who also serves as Vice-Captain of the Ghanaian Cricket National Team.

Kunle top scored for his side with 37 runs, Obed Harvey (31 runs) while the duo of Wale Adeoye and Osita Onwuzulike both had 10 runs each.

Despite GCIOBCC'S Bowlers denying Nigeria's Wicket Keeper and Opening batsman Ademola Onikoyi an opportunity to reach half century he still manage to smash 43 runs and

that did not deter Femi Solebo from posting 60 runs not out which included some amazing fours and sixes with Captain Sean Phillips ending the game with 10 runs not out.

As much as the GCIOBCC Side tried to unsettle the BRFCC Batsmen the unbeaten team in Division 1 kept tightly their wickets to finish on 116 runs for loss of 1 wicket in 16.4 overs with Chibuike Iteogu having one wicket in the process.

The 4th edition of the GTAssur was not all about Cricket as awards were given to some deserving players who exhibited great display during the competition.

Champions BRFCC claimed four of the six awards available which had Man of the Final Match going to Joshua Ogunlola, Bowler of the Series Leke Oyede, Wicket Keeper of the Series Ademola Onikoyi

and Batsman of the Series also went to Femi Solebo of BRFCC. Other recipients of the awards are Segun Ilori for Foundation Cricket Club who won the Fieldmans of the Series and Government College Ibadan Old Boys Cricket Club Captain Oluwaseun Odeku was crowned Cricketer of the Series.

Tafawa Balewa Cricket Oval was filled to capacity with alot of dignitaries and Cricket enthusiasts in attendance notable amongst them are Mr Tosin Runsewe Chief Client Officer, GTAssur, Mrs Yetunde Ilori Chief Executive Officer GTAssur, President of Nigeria Cricket Federation and Chairman of African Cricket Association Kwesi Sagoe, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Mr Nyahuma Obika, Managing Director Iris Smart Technologies Limited Mr Olayinka Fisher, Dr Jibola Keshinro Chairman Lagos State Cycling Association, Mr George Wiltshire Chief Operating Officer of Nigeria Cricket Federation, 1st and 2nd Vice-Chairman of Lagos State Cricket Association Mr Ephraim Barnaby and Akin Denton, Prince Bayo Balogun Chairman of Ibeju Lekki Local Government amongst others.

During his speech sponsor of the competition Mr Tosin Runsewe was proud of Nigeria's achievement on the International Cricket Scene most especially at Pepsi International Cricket Council/Africa Premier League T20 Division 2 Tournament where they came first which he said was their concept. He however concluded by saying "Our company will continue to support the growth of cricket at the Lagos State and Secondary School level".



● *Action at the 2nd National Women's Cricket Tournament*

Lagos State Women's Cricket team again proved a tough nut to crack as they won for the second time, the second edition of the National Women's Cricket Championship staged in Lagos from May 25-28.

In the last match of day 3 played between Lagos State and Ogun State at the Tafawa Balewa Cricket Oval in Lagos on Saturday May 28, Lagos showed supremacy again over Ogun winning by 7 wickets. Ogun State scored a paltry 72 runs all out in 20 overs. Lagos State chased down the scores, scoring 73 runs in 11.4 overs with 7 wickets at hand.

Earlier in the day, Imo State women's team defeated Edo State by 34 runs. Imo won the toss and elected to bat first, scoring 113 runs for 5 wickets in 20 overs. Charity Izogu was the top scorer with 29 runs, Chioma Oluchi also weighed in with 17 runs. Omoye Asika, Munikat Abu and Evelyn Odion took 1 wicket each.

Edo State team scored 79 runs for 6 wickets in 20 overs, Helen Okojie (7 runs), Yvonne Ajagun (4 runs). Imo State bowlers, Onyeoma took 2 wickets, Nnamdi, Ezirin, Uzuogu and Onyedum had 1 wicket each.

LAGOS STATE LIFTS NATIONAL WOMEN'S CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY

Ruth Ayannaiké (Lagos) won the Cricketer and Batsman of the Series, Peju Adetoro (Ogun) was Bowler of the Series, Ekaete Etim (Lagos) was awarded the Fieldsman of the Series while the Wicket Keeper of the Series went to Obumneke Akunaru of Imo State.

Lagos topped the points table with 5 points and Net Run Rate (NRR) of 3.41. Imo State came second with 5 points and Net Run Rate of 1.88. Ogun State came third with 1 point and Net Run Rate of -2.46 while Edo State came fourth with 1 point and Net Run Rate of -3.28.

The President of the Nigeria Cricket Federation and Chairman of Africa Cricket Association, Kwesi Sagoe, commended the participants for their performance. He promised that the federation will organize a coaching clinic for women cricketers soon in order to improve their skills.

The National Development Manager of the federation thanked the participants, officials, support staff, spectators and the press for making the tourney a resounding success.



● The NCF had a reception for the victorious Nigeria Senior National Cricket who are the Champions of the ICC-Africa APL T20 in Benoni, South Africa and Runner- Up at the Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 7 in Gaborone, Botswana. Standing from left: George Wiltshire, GM, Nigeria Cricket Federation, Captain of TEAM NIGERIA, Endurance Ofem & Coach/Player Sean Phillips presenting the ICC-Africa APL T20 Trophy to Kwesi Sagoe, President of NCF/Chairman, Africa Cricket Association



RESULT

- 1st Indian Language School
- 2nd Comprehensive High School
- 3rd Bishop Crowther Seminary
- 4th Federal Government College, Warri
- 5th Ansar-Ud-Deen College, Isolo
- 6th UNIBEN Demonstration Secondary School

AWARDS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Man of the match (final match) | - Neeraj Vaswani (Indian Language School) |
| Fielder of the series | - Suraj Tez (Indian Language School) |
| Bowler of the series | - Adeleke, Samuel (Comprehensive High School) |
| Wicket/keeper of the Series | - Behani, Varun (Indian Language School) |
| Batsman of the series | - Behani, Varun (Indian Language School) |
| Man of the series | - Behani, Varun (Indian Language School) |

OTHERS

Due to the post election crisis in some states, schools from Kaduna and Oyo state could not participate.

OBSERVATIONS

- * Some of the schools do not have cricket equipment
- * All the participating teams had coaches

PRAYERS/RECOMMENDATIONS

- * Schools should buy basics cricket equipment
- Games teachers should attend coaching courses so to familiarize themselves with the rudiments of the game.

15TH HOWZAT NATIONAL JUNIOR CRICKET SUPER LEAGUE PHILIP ASIODU TROPHY

● Action recorded at the 15th Howzat National Junior Cricket Super League

HOST: Ansar-Ud-Deen College, Isolo, Lagos.

THE LEAGUE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Number of schools invited | - 10 |
| Number schools that participated | - 6 |
| Number of states represented | - 5 |
| Total number of matches played | - 10 |

SCHOOLS THAT PARTICIPATED

1. Ansar-Ud-Deen College, Isolo, Lagos.
2. Bishop Crowther Seminary, Awka, Anambra.
3. Comprehensive High School, Ayetoro, Ogun.
4. Federal Government College, Warri, Delta.
5. Indian Language School, Ilupeju, Lagos.
6. UNIBEN Demonstration Secondary School, Benini, Edo.

TRANSITION

With a deep sense of loss, but total submission to Almighty God, the Nigeria Cricket Federation announces the demise of the father of Joshua Ogunlola our opening bowler, who slept in the Lord on Monday, May 16, 2011 after a brief illness.