

1964 – THE GOPALAN TROPHY

The Colts story is intended to reveal to readers aspects of Ceylon cricketing history. It encapsulates national cricketing events that Colts players were involved in. In 1964 Darrell Lieversz and Abu Fuard were in the national team.

In 1964 Lyndon Johnson was returned to power after a landslide victory. The Beatles took the world and America by storm and Beatlemania went into overdrive. Other British groups also found success including The Rolling Stones and The Animals and together with the American acts such as The Supremes and Bob Dylan made 1964 one of the greatest years for music in the last century.

1964 was also truly the year of the Colts opening bowler, Darrell Lieversz. He shone in the Gopalan trophy game and followed that with similar success against Pakistan. This chapter deals with the Gopalan trophy game.

Darrell commenced employment at Neuchatel Estate, Kalutara, on 15th May 1963, a few months after the completion of the 1962-63 Sara trophy season. He played two more seasons for the Colts although his availability for matches was hindered by the distance he had to drive for matches. But he was able to practice sufficiently to gain representative honours. How Darrell was able to plant and bowl makes interesting reading.

“Very few planters had the opportunity of playing first class cricket. However, Mike Ondaatje who was my boss gave me complete support. Because I could not attend regular training in Colombo, he had a concrete cricket pitch built at his own expense at the Thebuwana Planter’s Club a few miles from Neuchatel, just so that I could practice my bowling. The Board of Control gave me a box of new balls and I used to go down to the Thebuwana Club with Mike Ondaatje in the evenings after work. I used to bowl at one stump and used a handkerchief to indicate where I should pitch the ball for good line and length. Mike used to stand behind the net and return the ball to me indicating where exactly the ball had pitched.”

The Tebuwana Club was once a popular centre of social activity in the district, with hostel accommodation, a well-maintained cricket ground, and a nine-hole golf course. The club was then the hub of social activity. Today the Thebuwana bungalow is a three-star hotel. It is doubtful that the club is a hive of social activity although photos of members of yore still hang off the walls. It is also doubtful whether the golf course and cricket ground are well maintained. Times have changed and the social structure that supported club life is long gone.

The Gopalan trophy

This match was played at the Oval from 7th to 9th April 1964. Ceylon won by 6 wickets.

First day

MADRAS PULLS OUT OF TROUBLE

Frederick gets hat-trick

IF not spectacular, it certainly was sensational, this first day's play in the Gopalan Trophy match between Madras CA and the Ceylon Cricket Association, so much so that such intense interest was created in the proceedings as to render reluctant even the most casual observer to take his gaze away for more than a minute at a time.

The wicket was such that neither skipper would have minded calling wrong at the formal toss for innings. And when Kripal Singh won he had a difficult decision to make. He batted.

At the outset

Within a few minutes, he must sorely have regretted his choice for wickets tumbled, one for five, two for 23, 3 for thirty,

four for forty five and five for forty-five. A hat-trick had barely been averted.

But who can say Kripal was wrong in his choice when he and Mani, a champion of modest physique added a hundred and more for the sixth wicket?

They did that, and did it most attractively. They took a close look at the bowling, tested it, relished and savoured it and went headlong, circumspect naturally, but only for necessity's sake. They put together their one hundred in even time, Mani by no means assuming junior proportions.

Kripal we have seen before. We saw him again more mature in outlook—a finished product. He made good bowling look quite easy to play till attempting something a trifle extraordinary, he was out to a remarkable catch.

Facing Channugam he attempted to glance it down past the leg-slip: he hit it on to his pad and the ball rebounded: H. I. K. Fernando was waiting for it, full length on the turf where he had flung himself in anticipatory reflex.

No accident

It was no accident. Kripal played a similar shot earlier—two overs earlier. Fernando perhaps saw it, noted and tucked the knowledge away for use, if perhaps the need should arise. He could scarce have hoped for need so soon.

Fuard bowled an extraordinary spell in the morning session; three wickets for 7 runs in 6 overs and two wickets in two balls. He never quite recaptured that magic charm.

Lieverz did his duty well and competently. He was justly rewarded.

And Frederick not quite up to his accustomed pace at the outset and with the initial red ball, came thundering in to the call when he sent the second. Three wickets in three balls, unique performance in the series.

But the days top honours were undoubtedly Mani's. With everything against him, he played his unruffled game, and bloomed into attractive stroke play as his innings grew in stature, eliciting hidden poten-

tials: drives both off and on, well-timed cuts and a delightful, wristy drive off his toes to the on. Anything less than a hundred would have constituted miscarriage of justice: the fact that he remained unconquered was but poetic justice.

Ceylon weathered a difficult period after Ponniah went beaten by a beauty from Thomas. But Edwards and Reid are still there with 60 neat runs tucked beneath their collective belts.

The wicket is somewhat a problem. The ball turned sharply and there was dust.

Madras: P. K. Bellappa b Lieversz 5; J. C. Patel b Fuard 23; Milka Singh c Channugam b Lieversz 9. T. M. Murray c Polonovita b Abu Fuard 3; H. D. Ballal lbw b Abu Fuard 0; Kripal Singh c H. I. K. Fernando b Channugam 42; S. V. S. Mani not out 101; V. Rajendran c H. I. K. Fernando b Polonovita 1. R. Ramesh b Frederick 20; V. V. Kumar c Tissera b Frederick 0; G. Thomas c Polonovita b Frederick 0; Extras 7; Total 212.

Wickets fell at 5, 27, 30, 45, 45, 147, 150, 212, 212, 212.

Bowling: D. W. L. Lieversz 2 for 34; N. Frederick 3 for 46; Abu Fuard 2 for 41; A. Polonovita 1 for 21; N. Channugam 1 for 28.

CEYLON 1st innings (at close of play 60 for 1)

C. E. M. Ponniah	...	0
B. G. Reid not out	...	30
T. C. T. Edwards	...	20
not out	...	10
EXTRAS	...	10

Kripal Singh and centurion Mani in unbroken partnership



HARD DAY AHEAD FOR CEYLON

A N advantage was gained, lost and regained once again through an unbroken 6th wicket partnership of 97 runs between Mani and Kripal Singh for Madras in their Gopalan Trophy encounter with All-Ceylon at the Oval last evening.

A significant beach head was gained in their quest for the Cup when the visitors dismissed Ceylon for 182 runs, thirty runs behind their own total of 212.

Ceylon then struck back handsomely, through Darrel Liversz and Nerton Fredrick to have half the Indian side back for 38. Then the same pair that saw India out of the 'Blues'

SCOREBOARD

MADRAS—1st Innings: 212

CEYLON—1st Innings

(Overnight 60 for 1. Continued)

T. C. T. Edwards, c Ballal, b Kripal Singh	.. 23
C. M. Ponniah, b Thomas	.. 9
B. G. Reid, c and b Patel	.. 46
M. Tissera, c and b Patel	.. 37
C. I. Gunesekere, c Milkha Singh, b Patel	.. 28
H. I. K. Fernando, c Murari, b V. V. Kumar	.. 9
N. Channugam, b V. V. Kumar	.. 9
Abu Fuard, lbw, b V. V. Kumar	.. 9
A. Polonowita, c Rajendram, b V. V. Kumar	.. 23
D. W. L. Liversz, run out	.. 2
N. Fredrick, not out	.. 0
Extras	.. 14
Total	182

Fall: 1, 64, 112, 121, 146, 146, 156, 175, 182, 182.

BOWLING: G. Thomas 10-4-14-1; J. C. Patel 19-5-23-3; V. V. Kumar 34-4-11-68-4; A. J. Kripal Singh 25-7-34-1; S. U. S. Mani 1-0-4-0.

MADRAS—2nd Innings

P. K. Delipapper, c Fernando, b Liversz	.. 11
J. C. Patel, b Fredrick	.. 6
A. J. Milkha Singh, c Fernando, b Liversz	.. 11
T. M. Murari, b Polonowita	.. 7
S. V. S. Mani, not out	.. 31
H. D. Balail, b Liversz	.. 3
A. J. Kripal Singh, not out	.. 41
Extras	.. 5
Total (for 5 wickets)	115

Fall: 15, 20, 25, 38.

BOWLING: Fredrick 7-1-22-1; Liversz 13-8-15-3; B. J. Reid 7-4-14-0; Polonowita 12-7-15-1; Abu Fuard 8-2-22-0; N. Channugam 2-0-15-3; M. Tissera 1-0-2-0.

again, and got merrier every minute to take the score to 115. The 97 runs coming in even time.

Reid and Edwards who had manfully taken the score along to 80 for 1, after Ponniah's quick dismissal early in Ceylon's innings were

Is the CCA joining forces with the anti-Press agencies in the land? Otherwise it is difficult to understand the shabby treatment the Press is accorded.

There weren't even chairs in the Press Box, at the Gopalan Trophy game yesterday from the outside it is a sweet haven—ivy coloured walls and all. From the inside it is the dingiest place imaginable. Talking of whitened sepulchres, this is it.

Tamil Union Ground Secretary please note.

separated after only four runs were added on last morning, when Kripal Singh had Edwards caught by Ballal for 23.

Michael Tissera joined Reid at 64, and treated the crowds to a beautifully wrought

innings right from the word go.

Stroking the ball with peerless timing he drove and cut powerfully. He got most of his runs on the on side of the field. A superb drive off his backfoot will live particularly long in the memory.

on the first day came together Patel meanwhile was bowling with superb control, and along with Kumar and Kripal Singh did not allow the batsmen undue liberties.

At 112, Patel struck. A deft change of pace saw Tissera play a mite too early, which saw the Indian accept a return catch. Tissera had six boundaries in his gem of an innings of 37.

Reid meanwhile was playing with dedicated diligence. He had really put his head down and got on with the job for his country.

Skipper "CI" the "Peter Pan" of Ceylon cricket strode in once more to join Reid. But it was evident that he had lost touch. There was little or that sure-fire slaying of the ball—rather a groping, which seldom realized the desired effect.

Reid was out at 121 in the



**Darrel
blasts
them...**

same fashion as the early batsmen—Tissera.

C. I. was out at 146 for 28. Three wickets fell without a run being added to the total—148. Kumar, the Indian batsman, was the bowler scythed through Ceylon middle batting Channugam and Abu Fuard both bow out for blots.

H. I. K. collected 9 runs. I left for Polonowita who t with some perky audacious score 23, giving some w a otherwise listless ta Ceylon was all out for 18. Kumar had 4 for 68 in overs, and Patel 3 w for 28 in nineteen overs. India batting a second time off to a lousy start. Darrel Liversz moved th in the air nicely, while rick got zipp off the vic Liversz bowled with veng strike again and again bowl himself right into Ceylon side for their against Australia.

Wickets fell at 13, 20, 3 and 38. With 5 for 38 a end seemed possible. Mani and Kripal Singh pair that did so well the Madras CCA earli the game had other idea saw their side through sound 115 for 5 wicket the close of the day's p Liversz had the fine fig 3 for 12 in 12 overs, of them being maidens

Kripal, Mani pull game round CEYLON MUST WIN OUTRIGHT —to keep the Gopalan Trophy

THIRTY RUNS TO THE BAD ON THE FIRST INNINGS. ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY FIVE THE DIFFERENCE NOW, AND FIVE MADRAS WICKETS WITH PROBABLY THEIR BEST TWO BATSMEN IN AT THE CREASE.

How many more runs can Ceylon's XI afford to concede and how much longer can they let the visiting batsmen remain at the wickets?

This is the vital question posed and on the answer to that rests the destination of the Gopalan Trophy. As things stand Madras by virtue of their first innings lead have the right to take it back from Ceylon if the match ends indecisively.

If the CCA XI wish to keep it within these shores, they must win the match outright.

And a right good attempt did they make to do so, when having yielded first innings advantage they came bang into the picture again, dismissing five Madras batsmen for a negligible 38 runs in the second innings. There they were brought to a halt, their bid for victory, by the self-same pair who intervened in the first innings after a similar early debacle.

Kripal Singh and Mani have again come together as they did on Saturday and have, in identical fashion, restored the status quo, as it were, putting Madras back in with a bright chance. From 38 for five wickets they have increased the score to 115 and are unbeaten and very much in control of the situation.

Real class

Kripal, as he showed in the first innings is now the finished product in batsmanship. He gives himself ample time to play his shots and puts himself in the ideal position to do so. Innate skill mingled with matured judgment.

Mani again is there to

CLAY GETS ‘KEY TO CITY’

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky
MARCH 8.

Cassius Clay received the Key To The City when he returned to his home town here today as the new Heavy Weight Boxing Champion of the World.

He repeated, at a press conference later, that he had been converted to Islam and would make a world tour, starting in about three weeks (PTC-Reuter)

cient runs fast enough, they will no doubt bear that intention in mind.

For the Ceylon team, it was

before. Runs were saved and several certain fours cut off by good anticipation. It made the bowling more formidable. Bowling which though it lacked lethal qualities had accuracy as its first and last asset. Their bowlers gave nothing away, they called on the batsmen to earn them if they dared.

Lieversz was perhaps the only bowler on the Ceylon side in the second innings who compared as favourably. He had a remarkable spell as he switched ends—and bowled for the first time from the southern end. Three wickets for six runs in 11 overs provides some indication of his performance, eight of them maidens.

Once again, nothing lethal: the reward rather of accuracy—and of course, good wicket-keeping. H. I. K. Fernando's catch with which he got rid of Milkha Singh down the leg side was a magnificent piece of work.

Fernando later received a blow from Mani's flailing bat and had to retire for repairs, a nasty cut over the eye needed a stitch or two. But he will be back on the field today. Edwards took over the gloves temporarily.

CCA XI IN STRONG POSITION NEED 141 RUNS TO WIN IN 4 HOURS PLAY Lieversz's excellent bowling

THE CCA XI were in a favourable position at the lunch break on the third day of their game with the Madras CA XI today at the Oval, when they needed 141 runs to win with nine wickets in hand.

Darrell Lieversz who had bowled excellently last afternoon met with early success this morning when he clean bowled Mani who failed to add to his overnight score. He later had Kripal Singh well taken by H. I. K. Fernando for 51 and the Madras 2nd Innings slumped to 150.

Lieversz finished up with the splendid figures of 21-11-29-6.

Set to make 181 runs to win in 305 minutes, the CCA XI, lost Edward at 17, when he was run out for 12, but Ponniah and Reid saw them safely through to the lunch break when the score stood at 40.

Yesterday's play

IF the Ceylon Cricket Association XI's batting is to be any criterion, the Madras Cricket Association are favourably positioned at the end of the second day's play when they led by 145 runs with five second innings wickets standing in their Gopalan Trophy match on the Oval yesterday, against clever spin bowling by Kumar, Patel and the captain Kripal Singh the CCA who had compiled 30 for the loss of one wicket on Saturday, struggled on to 182 by 2.30 p.m. The innings thus having lasted 270 minutes.

Reid top-scored with 46 made in three hours. Tissara 37 in an hour, the captain C. I. Gunasekera 28, Edward and Polonowita 28 each.

The others failed, most of them dismally so.

This batting break-down by what is virtually a Ceylon XI was totally unexpected after Saturday's sound start. It is true

the pitch was receptive to spin but never dangerously so at any time. And if the Madras fieldsmen had co-operated with the bowlers in greater degree, the CCA's plight would have been hopeless. They dropped a round half-dozen direct catches, without mentioning any that might have been 'made' by a high-class exponent.

Reid's marathon contained a solitary four, Tissara's six, C. I. Gunasekera's three and Polonowita's two, proof in some measure of the quality of the visitors' attack.

Reid's innings had its value in countering the new ball. But defence carried to extremes only allows the bowler to seize the initiative. And this is just what the wily Patel did. The left-hander caused a complete change in the CCA's fortunes when with the score 112 for two he trapped Tissara caught and bowled and nine runs later Reid in similar manner.

Tissara's innings was the finest played yesterday although it was neither the longest nor the highest. It contained every attacking stroke, bar the late cut while his defence was very sure. He is today a more mature player with many more strokes to the outside while his play on the off is of the same high quality.

Brave effort

While he was at the wicket the CCA seemed to be building up a big total, but with his dismissal the bowlers maintained their stranglehold. With Kumar, who produced a delightful exhibition of leg-spin googly bowling mopping up four of the lower half of the batting order.

C. I. Gunasekera made a most determined effort to find touch. He was well taken by Milkha Singh half-way to the mid-wicket boundary, when attempting a six. He was then sighting the ball better than at the beginning of his innings.

Polonowita at number nine made a brave effort to score as many runs as he possibly could and succeed where better known batsmen failed.

When the Madras team batted their fortunes followed the first innings' pattern five wickets were lost for 38, three to Lieversz and one each to Fredrick and Polonowita.

Then came another Kripal Singh-Mani partnership and 77 runs were added to the score in two hours and both are there to carry on today. Kripal has hit five fours and Mani two.

A bent-arm

Edward and Reid resumed yesterday with Kripal and Thomas bowling. Thomas who operated at the scoreboard end, bowled with a bent-arm which is worse when he delivers the faster ball. He was distinctly fortunate to escape the notice of the umpires. He however, failed to capture a wicket and was replaced by Kumar after five overs.

Kripal Singh was making a sustained attack on the middle and leg-stumps. He dismissed Edward at 64 and continued for an hour when he left the field. Patel then put himself on and struck immediately.

Both he and Kumar bowled to an excellent length and at lunch the total was 139 for four which represented 79 in two hours last morning.

Patel secured C. I. Gunasekera's wicket at 146 soon after lunch and then with his figures 19-5-28-3 Kripal who had returned after the interval took over. Two more wickets fell at 146 Chanmugam bowled by a Kumar googly and Fuard l.b.w. to one he missed completely.

Fernando and Polonowita added 19 for the 9th. Lieversz was run out at 182 and Polonowita fell to Kumar at the same total as Fernando had done earlier.

Cautious start

Madras opened cautiously, but at 13 Fredrick crashed through Patel's defence. At 20 Lieversz who had changed ends

and was now operating at the tennis court end had Bellappa caught at the wicket by Fernando.

Milka Singh and Murari took the score to 35 when Milka Singh was snapped up brilliantly on the leg-side by Fernando off Lieversz. Murari was bowled by Polonowita at the same score and at 38 Lieversz clean bowled Bellal.

Mani was then joined by his captain Kripal, and the pair just as in the first innings first by dogged defence and then with attractive strokeplay snatched back the initiative as completely as they did in the first innings.

Pleasing strokes

Kripal drove with power while Mani made several pleasing strokes.

Lieversz bowled in excellent form to take 3 for 13 in 13 overs. He was easily the most impressive of eight bowlers tried.

Polonowita also proved most economical conceding only 13 runs in 12 overs for one wicket while Fredrick took one for 22.

H. I. K. Fernando received a facial injury half-an-hour before the close. He left the field for attention but is expected to resume today.

Scoreboard

MADRAS—1st Innings	212
CCA XI—1st Innings	182
MADRAS—2nd Innings (over-	
night 115 for 5)	
S. V. S. MANI, b Lieversz	.. 33
KRIPAL SINGH, c H. I. K.	
Fernando, b Lieversz	.. 51
RAJENDRAN, c H. I. K.	
Fernando, b Fredrick	.. 2
RAMESH not out	.. 8
V. V. KUMAR, c and b	
Lieversz	.. 2
G. THOMAS, b Polonowita	.. 9
Extras	.. 8
TOTAL	150

Fall of wickets: 115, 132, 132, 137, 150.

BOWLING: N. Fredrick 14-2-36-2; D. W. L. Lieversz 21-11-29-6; B. Reid 7-1-14-0; A. Polonowita 12-1-7-13-2; A. Fuard 8-2-22-0; C. I. Gunasekera 2-0-11-0; N. Chanmugam 2-0-15-0; M. Tissara 1-0-2-0.

CCA XI—2nd Innings	
T. C. T. EDWARD run out	.. 12
C. E. M. PONNIAH not out	.. 13
B. REID not out	.. 3
Extras	.. 12

TOTAL (for one wkt.) 40

Fall of wicket: 17.
FLASH: CCA 64 for 1 (Ponniah 26 not out, Reid 10 not out).

LIEVERSZ WRAPS UP MADRAS



Ceylon need 141 to win with 9 wickets in hand

CEYLON, FACED WITH FORCING AN OUTRIGHT WIN OVER MADRAS TO RETAIN THE GOPALAN TROPHY, DID A MAGNIFICENT JOB THIS MORNING AT THE COLOMBO OVAL TO DISMISS MADRAS FOR 150 WITHIN THE FIRST HOUR.

Darrell Lieversz, who shared the pace attack with Norton Frederick this morning took 6 for 29.

DARRELL LIEVERSZ

MADRAS 1st. Innings	212
CEYLON 1st. Innings	182.
MADRAS 2nd. Innings	
(overnight 115 for 5)	
S. V. S. Mani b	
Lieversz	33
A. G. Kripal Singh	
e H. I. K. Fernando	
b. Lieversz	51
V. Rajendran c.	
H. I. K. Fernando b	
Fredrick	2
R. Ramesh not out	8
V. V. Kumar c. and b.	
Lieversz	2
G. Thomas b Polonowita	8
Extras	8
Total	150

Wickets fell at (sixth)	115.
132, 132, 137.	
Norton Frederick	15-1-36-2
Darrell Lieversz	22-10-29-6
B. G. Reid	7-4-14-0
A. Polonowita	12.1-7-13-2
Abu Fuaq	8-2-22-0
C. I. Gunasekera	2-0-11-0

AT lunch Ceylon were 40 for 1 — 141 runs behind with 240 minutes play left.

Madras opened disastrously this morning when Darrell Lieversz in his first over bowled Mani, the first innings centurion without any addition to his score. Lieversz's figures were 15-10-13-4.

Kripal Singh hit Darrell Lieversz to the fence to reach his 50. But next ball kicked up and Kripal snicked a high catch to wicket-keeper H. I. K. Fernando. That was Lieversz's fifth victim.

At the same score Rajendran swung at Norton Frederick, got an edge to it and H. I. K. Fernando brought off his fourth catch behind one wicket — as a chest-high chance. Three wickets had fallen for 20 runs this morning at this

stage — a fine performance by Ceylon.

Lieversz got his sixth wicket when Kumar hit him high and Lieversz got under the ball and caught him off his own bowling at the second attempt.

At 138 Ramesh drove forcefully back at Lieversz who dropped a hard catch. Both Ramesh and Thomas hit rashly but effectively to send the 150 up. But a shrewd bowling change saw Polonowita getting past Thomas' defence in his first ball.

Madras were all out for 150 leaving Ceylon 181 to win in 290 minutes. Darrell Lieversz finished with the amazing figure of 6 for 29.

EDWARD OUT

EDWARD and Ponniah opened confidently against Patel and Thomas and put the 10 up without difficulty. Edward reached double figures with a hit to the fence.

PONNIAH made a hard drive to mid-off and Edward who was backing up could not reach his crease in time as the ball well fielded was sent to his end. He was run out — at 16.

A bye boundary sent the 20

up. Kumar, bowling his leg-spinners pegged on the leg stump, with only one slip. Only one run came off his first over.

THREE leg-bye boundaries boosted the score as Ponniah and Reid held out. Ponniah reached double figures with a sturdy hit to the fence. At lunch Ceylon were 40 for 1 — 141 runs behind.

Visitors' fielding one of worst in the series

CEYLON RETAIN TROPHY

Lieversz and Ponniah architects of victory

By Wrong 'Un

Ceylon Cricket Association retained the Gopalan Trophy, when with one and a half hours to spare, they defeated Madras Cricket Association by six wickets at the Colombo Oval yesterday.

The chief architects of Ceylon's victory were pace bowler, Darrell Lieversz and Charlie Ponniah. The former skittled out Madras in the second innings for a paltry 150 runs, his own individual bag being six for 29.

With 182 to make for victory Charlie Ponniah, the University of Ceylon opener, put paid to Madras' chances of a breakthrough with a patient chanceless knock of 60 not out.

Madras contributed to their own downfall giving one of the poorest exhibitions of fielding in the series. They were lethargic on the field and grassed several catches at crucial moments.

Madras CA who continued with their overnight batsmen S. V. S. Mani and Kripal Singh with the score at 115 for 5, had their first shock when they lost Mani in the first over of the day.

Lieversz beat Mani's defence with a well-pitched in-swing. Skipper Kripal Singh reached his fifty with a superb square-cut to the fence but one run later was caught behind the stumps by wicket-keeper H. I. K. Fernando off Lieversz who kept an immaculate length.

Norton Fredrick operating from the other end struck another blow when he made Rajendram (Madras' No. 8) get the outside edge to a ball that was swinging out and H. I. K. Fernando took another good catch behind the stumps.

The scoreboard read 132 for 7.

There was a minor flutter when Madras' last pair held out for some time, putting on 17 runs.

Ceylon going in to bat an hour before the lunch-break started confidently. T. C. T. Edwards and Ponniah were shaping well when Edwards, who backed up for a run, failed to return to the crease on being ordered back and was run out through a smart bit of work by Murari who was fielding at extra-cover position.

Reid who had top-scored with 46 for Ceylon in the first innings joined Ponniah and together they carried the score to 40 for 1 at lunch.

Reid and Ponniah who broke the back of the visitor's bowling in a second wicket stand associated themselves in a 74-run partnership which was scored in 210 minutes. Reid, who gave another stubborn display was ruled out leg-before.

In attempting to hook leg-spinner, Kumar, Tissera paid the penalty being hit wicket. Then Gunasekera whose timing of the ball had deserted on the previous day, came into the crease and gave a delightful exhibition of hitting. Gunasekera's breezy 34 included four boundaries.

Attempting to force the pace and win with a handsome margin, Gunasekera stepped forward to pull Patel out of the ground, but the tricky Madrasist had other ideas, when he disturbed his stumps with a snappy leg-break.

H. I. K. Fernando, together with Ponniah saw Ceylon perform a six wickets win when with three more for victory he square-cut Rajendram for a beautiful boundary.

Madras 1st Innings 212.

Ceylon 1st Innings 182.

Madras 2nd Innings 115 for 5

overnight continued by:
Kripal Singh b Lieversz 23;
Fernando b Lieversz 51; N. Rajendram c Fernando b Fredrick 2; R. Ramesh not out 8; V. V. Kumar c and b Lieversz 2; G. Thomas b Polonowita 8; Extras 8.

Total 150.
FALL: 13, 20, 35, 38, 115, 132, 132, 137, 150.

BOWLING: N. Fredrick 14-2-36-2; D. W. L. Lieversz 21-11-29-5; B. G. Reid 7-4-14-0; A. Polonowita 12-1-7-13-2; Abu Fuzard 8-2-22-0; C. I. Gunasekera 2-0-11-0; N. Channugam 2-0-15-0; M. Tissera 1-0-2-0.

Ceylon 2nd Innings.

T. C. T. Edwards run out 12; C. E. M. Ponniah not out 60; B. G. Reid lbw b Patel 22; M. Tissera hit wicket b Kumar 12; C. I. Gunasekera b Patel 31; H. I. K. Fernando not out 29; Extras 18.

Total for 4 wicket 182.

FALL: 16, 90, 103, 142.

BOWLING: G. Thomas 3-1-8-0; J. C. Patel 29-7-56-2; V. V. Kumar 22-7-46-1; Kripal Singh 20-4-43-0; S. V. S. Mani 1-0-4-0; Milka Singh 1-0-5-0; N. Rajendram 1-0-4-0.

DARRELL LIEVERSZ LEADS THE TEAM IN TO THE PAVILION



CCA ALL-ROUND SUPERIORITY CLINCHES ISSUE

Madras relied on two players

THE GOPALAN TROPHY HAS BEEN RETAINED. THE CEYLON XI BEAT MADRAS BY SIX WICKETS WITH OVER AN HOUR TO SPARE.

But that is not the important thing. What is more encouraging is the fact that the CCA XI from a position of disadvantage fought back and took command, and ultimately coasted along to a win that actually assumed more impressive proportions than actual figures indicated.

To chase nearly two hundred runs in the fourth innings on a wicket already suspect, and in a series such as this takes some considerable skill, courage and character.

And that the Ceylonese batsmen, Edwards, Ponniah, Reid, Tissera, Gunasekera and Fernando did so quite convincingly—particularly those of them who have not been so tested before is an achievement fit to be saluted.

Theoretical

To temper such elation there is the point that Madras are but a State side, not quite representative in nature. Too true. But do they not in Madras enjoy greater benefits from tours such as the MCC, West Indies and Australia make.

Is there not a wider, more elaborate established pattern of cricket administration in which South India is included: organised nets, individual coaching, expert advice, and most important of all—the greater opportunity to watch at first hand the greater players of the world in action.

So that the advantages on paper mostly are negated. I feel. But that is theoretical. The more practical thought is

that Ceylon's XI showed superiority all round and as a team.

Where Madras relied on but two players to give them runs in either innings Ceylon found batsmen and bowlers for the occasion, the man for the job at the precise moment he was so required.

Best show

First, there was the bowling, or a wicket that never prompted pace as such Darrell Lieversz. I think, turned in the finest performance in the match. No great swing (or pace) were his trade mark. Accuracy, first and last was his stock in trade.

Used for long spells, he gave of his best—and that in these circumstances was considerable. He made the batsmen play at his bowling practically all the time. Not giving any easy helpings in the way of runs, he compelled batsmen to look for them with risks attendant. He reaped rich rewards—in either innings. Six for 29 in 20 overs proves the point. This was his first appearance

in a representative game. If he could but maintain such sterling character in his bowling in games to come, he should serve his country well.

The fielding generally was adequate, neat and competent. The bowling generally, apart from a few spells, not quite accurate enough for international requirements.

There was one exception—the man behind the wickets, H. I. K. Fernando has ere this built up a reputation for sound wicket-keeping. During this match and at the end of it he has emerged with reputation enhanced. Two catches in particular set the seal on his quality—the catches, coincidentally which got rid of the Singh brothers—Kripal in the first and Milka in the second innings.

The break

When play began yesterday, it was imperative that Ceylon broke through in the first half-hour, the latest. They got their break-through in the first over. And Madras never really recovered. Five wickets fell for 35 in an hour, Lieversz bowling magnificently and unchanged all that time.

Kripal duly reached his half century and was out soon after a ball kicking viciously and tak-

ing the top of his handle. With Mani and Kripal gone, gone also was all other resistance.

So Ceylon's XI were left 181 to make to retain the trophy, that is—by winning the match outright. Time was of no consequence. There was an abundance of it.

Edwards and Ponniah began as if they were going to do it all by themselves. But then, unfortunately the former was run out. Ponniah and fellow medico Reid then built by solid and sensible methods the foundation of victory. Together they put on some sixty runs.

But more valuable than the runs they scored was the psychological advantage they gained for their side. They weathered a difficult period and then made the bowling appear innocuous, well as Patel, Kumar and Kripal bowled. These three bowled over after over of accurate stuff with spin to aid them. But so well did Reid and Ponniah play that the sharpness of their attack was blunted, the threat of danger removed and the task made more feasible for the latter batsmen.

C.I. excels

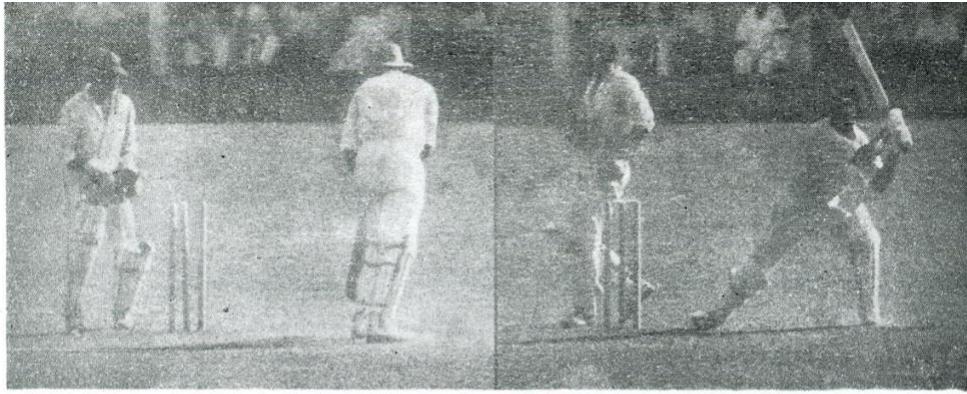
Tissera flattered, but did not succeed as he did in the first innings. He went back knocking his own wicket down, the result of some clever bowling by Kumar whom he attempted to back-out. He had successfully done it the over previous, but only just Kumar tested him out again and got him.

Then Gunasekera came in and put the lid on the whole thing. He fairly hammered the ball, practically every one he received. The field scattered to all parts, the stranglehold was loosened and bowlers lost that command of length and direction.

It was a bold innings and played with particular purpose, at the crucial point in the game. Those few hammer blows he made caused huge dents in the fielding side's morale, and though he went soon after tea, he had played his part full well.

Ponniah duly reached a half hundred and finally was unbeaten with 60. No batsman deserved runs and success more. He, too, had done his duty in a good cause. H. I. K. Fernando came in to polish things off, hitting himself into form.

A word about the wicket in these final hours. Promising spin and vicious bite over the first two days, it went completely easy after lunch yesterday. It made Ceylon's task a trifle less difficult.



TWO incidents in yesterday's Gopalan Trophy match between Madras and the CCA XI played on the Oval. (Left): C. I. Gunasekera is bowled by Patel for 31 and (right): H. I. K. Fernando punches Rajendran through the covers for the winning hit.

Lieversz & Ponniah help CCA triumph

THE CCA retained the Gopalan Challenge Trophy yesterday afternoon with a comfortable six wicket victory over Madras at the Oval. The Indian skipper Kripal Singh chose the unrecognised Rajendran as the bowler for the winning hit. H. I. K. Fernando smashed the first delivery to the fence and the match was won and lost.

But it took almost three days of fluctuating fortunes before the decision was gained. It looked as if Madras would just pull it off after the rescue bid by Mani and Kripal Singh on Sunday. They remained to resume their batting yesterday.

Early shock

Madras, however, received an early shock from which they did not recover. Darrell Lieversz the Coits' paceman, was in devastating form when play started and in his second over had the Madras century maker of the first innings clean bowled without any addition to the score. Mani was well beaten by a ball that zipped in and gave him no chance.

Darrell Lieversz did an exceptional job for his side and had a big share in Ceylon's victory. He swung the ball both ways to finish with the impressive analysis of 6 for 29.

While Darrell Lieversz led the Ceylon attack C. E. M. Ponniah of the University laid the foundation for Ceylon's victory with a typical pioneering innings. Hasty perhaps to get his first single and to avoid a 'bair' Ponniah's batting thereafter was an innings of patience that saw Ceylon through to victory. Ponniah's last minute selection proved correct although he failed in the first innings. He knew

Gopalan Trophy will remain in Ceylon

Ceylon had a bagful of time to get the 181 runs needed for victory and he stayed in his crease till it was achieved.

When play started yesterday morning much depended on the Mani-Kripal Singh partnership which brought Madras out of the woods on Sunday. A continuation of their rescue work was going to play an important part in the final decision of the match. But the pace of Lieversz discounted any hopes of Madras when he disturbed Mani's stumps with an excellent ball of length. With his departure half of Ceylon's battle was over.

There still remained the Indian test all-rounder and Madras skipper Kripal Singh to be reckoned with. He was taking stock of Ceylon's attack. He reached a fighting half century steering Lieversz through the slips but he was given out caught behind off the very next ball.

Madras batting had nothing left to buoy it up and the innings folded up for 150. Polonowita 2 for 13 and N. Frederick 2 for 36 shared the balance wickets.

Ample time

Madras were all out at 11.35 and Ceylon had ample time to get the 181 runs for victory.

Ceylon's batting lacked sparkle at the outset but there can be no doubt that the partnership of 74 runs between the University batsmen Ponniah and Reid was the foundation of their success. The cricket was dull but the pair was opposed to some very steady bowling by Patel Kripal Singh and Kumar. It was difficult to take liberties and the runs came in singles mainly till Patel got Reid lbw for 22.

Michael Tissera was unlucky to trod on his wicket and then came C. I. Gunasekera. He cer-

tainly brightened up the game hitting Kumar for successive boundaries through the covers and to long leg. Kripal Singh took over and C. I. swept him to the leg boundary. It was a bright spell in the Ceylon innings till he was bowled by Patel for 31.

First chance

C. I. left at 142 and there were still 40 more runs to get. Ponniah reached his individual 50 at this stage with 6 fours in it. With Gunasekera's departure Ponniah was joined by H. I. K. Fernando. At 153 Ponniah gave his first chance, a difficult one to Patel at mid-wicket off Kripal Singh. Thereafter the pair settled down to see Ceylon victorious without further loss.

Scoreboard

MADRAS—1st Innings 212

CCA 1st INNINGS 182

MADRAS 2nd INNINGS

115 for 5 (overnight)

S. V. S. Mani, b Lieversz 33; Kripal Singh c H. I. K. Fernando b Lieversz 51; N. Rajendran c H. I. K. Fernando b Frederick 2; R. Ramesh not out 8; V. V. Kumar c and b Lieversz 2; A. G. Thomas b Polonowita 8; Extras 8; Total 150.

Fall: 115, 132, 132, 137, 150. Bowling: Frederick 14-2-36-2; Lieversz 21-11-29-6; B. Reid 7-4-14-0; A. Polonowita 12.1-7-13-2; A. Fuard 8-3-22-0; C. I. Gunasekera 2-0-11-0; N. Channugam 2-0-15-0; M. Tissera 1-0-2-0.

CCA 2nd INNINGS
T. C. T. Edwards run out 12; C. E. M. Ponniah, not out 60; M. Tissera, hit wkt., b Kumar 12; B. G. Reid, lbw, b Patel 22; C. I. Gunasekera, b Patel 31; H. I. K. Fernando, not out 29; Extras 16; Total 182.
Fall: 16, 90, 103, 142.
Bowling: A. G. Thomas 3-1-8-0; J. C. Patel 29-7-56-2; V. V. Kumar 22-7-46-1; Kripal Singh 20-4-43-0; S. V. S. Mani 1-0-4-0; A. G. Milka 1-0-4-0; T. N. Rajendran 1-0-4-0.

Looking back on the Gopalan Trophy match

VICTORY WE OWE TO THEM
● Ceylon retained the Gopalan Trophy rather comfortably, for which they owe thanks to:—

* The plodding batting of the Varsity's Reid and Ponniah (did they open for St. Thomas's together?) which provided the backbone of each CCA innings.

* The fine bowling of Lieversz who routed Madras in the second innings and who with Fredrick and Fuard kept the Madras score within bounds in the first innings.

* The brilliant wicket-keeping of H. I. K. Fernando who in each innings brought off a remarkable catch to get rid of the most dangerous Madras batsmen — Kripal Singh in the first innings, brother Milkha in the second.

* And last but not least the hurricane innings played by skipper C. I. Gunasekera. Say what you will and be one of those who—for the first time as far as we've heard — booed him for not taking singles, but it was he who scattered the field, had Kumar taken off (though Kumar should have had him first ball if only the substitute fielder had obeyed instructions and moved back to the boundary), and made comfortable victory possible. Up until his 'assault' we were barely with the clock and the bowling was on top. After it we were ahead of the clock, and though the bowling had not wilted, it was not the same. As far as we are concerned, there still isn't another cricketer around to whom we can look for 15 to 20 runs an over if such is the need of the occasion.

MADRAS NOT TOP CLASS SIDE
● As we look back on the match, victory was not all that easily gained and it could have been anyone's match almost to the end. If only Patel had taken Ponniah (off Kripal) when Ceylon still needed 20 or 30 runs, in the light of the first innings debacle, we wonder how much harder Ceylon would have had to struggle for victory.

The many catches Madras fieldsmen dropped, completely nullified the first class effort by the Madras spinners who must be considered as being of the highest order. Coupled with this was the failure by all the Madras batsmen bar Mani (who on temperament alone should be scheduled for higher honours) and a mature Kripal. Even if a number of Madras batsmen looked anything like batsmen, there was enough batting talent to provide better totals. But didn't.

With their mediocre fielding and brittle batting Madras are by no means a top class side — and their Ranji Trophy record shows it. In the South Zone both Mysore and Hyderabad are better than them and zone champions Mysore have just been trounced by Bombay who should be strongly challenged by Delhi and Rajasthan.

In this light, the rather even game last week-end would point to a falling off in Ceylon cricket standards. Madras is a side (almost the same in fact) that we have trounced in the past. Now we have to struggle to beat them.

It would hardly seem therefore that we could give All-India a fight when that long postponed tour comes off towards the end of the year. Let us not sell India short. (and pavilion gripes of Indian umpiring are unworthy), for despite British criticisms of the recent Test series, the critics have been full of praise for individual players, both in batting and bowling. Certainly in India, the Indians are almost impossible to beat — and they now have a young side, blooded in the West Indies, which can go abroad and give a fair account of themselves.

WHO'LL PLAY FOR CEYLON?

● For the life of us we can't understand the pavilion critics who, despite the struggle Ceylon was having in a match which was for a trophy, kept talking of our team to meet the Australians.

In a one-day exhibition match (By the way, why don't we fly out the Aussies for a two- or three-day game? Surely the authorities won't be financially down. Is it that the Australians don't want a longer fixture?)

As far as we are concerned, the team for a trophy match should be our best. What matter exhibition games?

Nevertheless, the outlook of many being what it is — and since we play as Ceylon and



not the CCA in these one-day tamashas—the team for the match against the Australians assumes importance and, no doubt, will be picked, by and large, on the performances, against Madras.

With eight bowlers to hand (we include Tissera), skipper Gunasekera certainly has an embarrassment of talent. He could, however, do with more batting — especially of the stroke-making variety. Reid

The Gopalan trophy fixture was of great importance prior to Sri Lanka gaining test status. That all the information pertaining to a particular game has been pulled together and digitised contributes to the historical record of Sri Lankan cricket. Consequently, the history of the Colts is a lot more than mere club history. It impinges on aspects of national cricket in general at a particular period.