

Anuj at the Indoor Cricket World Cup in Australia



Opening Ceremony at the World Indoor Cricket Cup

Anuj Dal, at the tender age of 13, represented England U16s at the 2009 Indoor Cricket World Cup in Australia. The following reports were sent by Anuj's father who was 'down under' supporting him during the competition.

"We had a good opening ceremony on Saturday hosted by Ian Healy. We were amazed that Anuj was selected to be the flag bearer for England! He therefore had the opportunity to go on stage and be amongst the other country representatives.



Wicket celebrations against Australia

The competition officially started on Sunday with a bang from the Aussies! They are awesome in all the categories. Anuj has now played 3 games (he was injured for 2nd game) and is doing brilliantly as an individual! His batting pair are scoring the highest skin scores in their team in all the matches so far. He is also opening the bowling and keeping the opposition batsmen in check and taking wickets. But for the team as a whole it's a big eye-opener. The Aussies are thrashing everyone. The Under 16s lost to them in the first game by 260/87 and in the second Aussie game yesterday, they lost 168/68.

Against the South Africans, who are also strong, our U16s lost 164/87 and in the second against them, we lost by a big margin again.

Anuj is batting very well against SA and Australia, facing 16 year-old bowlers first up as opening pair. In the 3 games he's only been out once. The opposition teams are all 15/16 year-olds bowling seriously quickly and it's proving to be a phenomenal experience for Anuj. Despite their losses, the team are fighting on and their morale is still high."

Final report

"We had an excellent tournament. The finals were today and guess what...the Aussies won everything!! Thrashing everyone! So that's five world cup trophies!

Anuj played all the games except one where he was injured and he has done fantastically well. He was probably close to the top performer from the England squad. He's been taking wickets and batting extremely well with his partner. In all the games, they had the highest skin score (batting pair score) and Anuj's on-field gamesmanship has won him plaudits from the Aussie and South African coaches - they were really surprised at his abilities given his age. He was of course the youngest member in the entire tournament.

As a team the England performance kept on improving every game and they have all thoroughly enjoyed the experience of participating in such a tournament.

We've got the closing ceremony tonight and we leave tomorrow afternoon, local time. I think we are all ready to come back home after a terrific week's tournament."