



Dallas County Cricket Club 1st X1

For the first time in NTCA history, DCC did not win the prestigious league Championships in the NTCA last year. This would be enough reason for the DCC camp to come all guns blazing to reclaim their lost title as the NTCA's best team in the 2004 season. For years DCC have dominated cricket in North Texas and would no doubt love the fact that the league has become more competitive and this could act as a motivating factor for their star studded line up to perform better and more consistently this year.

During the off season, the DCC scouts were busy and the teams batting has been boosted by 3 talented batsmen, namely top scorer for Div A last year Piyush Patel, Alpesh Patel who represented Kenya B team and the return of Arun P, The Destroyer. The batting surely is the strength of this team which apart from these three have USA player, Rahul Kukreti, extremely talented Denis Vengala, veteran Dipak Patel and the gigantic Carl Thompson. This batting line up could easily withstand any bowling attack thrown against them and opposition might really have to hope for a miracle if they expect to get this team out cheaply.

The DCC fielding is as good as any team out there with Piyush, Sachin and Denis leading the way for the rest of the team. If one were to look for a flaw in this team, one would have to say their bowling is the weakest link. However it must be noted that the DCC bowling is not weak by any means, it's just that it isn't AS strong as their batting or fielding. Anyone who has faced Carl T could only describe him as menacing and Sudharshan Chavva keeps getting wickets with his excellent control. Piyush Patel's wily off/leg cutters have done many a batsmen in and Tahir Mehmood's offies are very effective as well. The one bowler who doesn't get as much attention but is the workhorse of this bowling attack is Sachin, who usually goes unnoticed but if you look at the stats, he has always returned with respectable figures.

It would be a tough ask for any team bowl out the DCC run machine and playing a longer 45 over game would be very advantageous to this team. We can expect DCC to score over 250 runs every game. Another very important aspect of the DCC game is to get into the minds of the opposition. They are a very tough side mentally and at the same time find weaknesses in the opposition very quickly and are equally fast in exploiting these deficiencies.

The only thing that can possibly stop DCC from reclaiming the championship is probably the consistency of their competitors for the title. It will also be interesting to see how the

team performs under new captain Rahul who has earned his right to lead the side with very consistent performances in the last few years.

We predict that DCC will win the Premier League Championship in 2004 barring a miracle.