

Limerick had a disappointing weekend, losing to Lismore in the Munster Junior Cup and to County Kerry in the Munster Senior League Division 3 on Sunday.

Saturday's match was a cliff-hanger, with the result in doubt until Limerick lost their last wicket when they required 8 to win with 10 deliveries left. Limerick won the toss and chose to field first. They had early successes when Suman Sesham removed both openers with only 56 runs on the board. Gay Lawlor dismissed Sunnil Mongin to reduce the home team to 24 for 3, before Martin Finn (32) and Mubbin Ashraf (33) shared a valuable fourth wicket stand of 65. Following their dismissals by Niranjana Srinivasan, Garth Littlejohn (54) and Brian Power (40 not out) added 83 for the sixth wicket as Lismore finished with a creditable 203 for 6 from their 45 overs.

Limerick's opening bowlers, Gay Lawlor (1 wicket for 12 runs off 9 overs) and Suman Sesham (2 for 22 off 8) gave Limerick early control, but only Kevin Hennessy (1 for 30 from 9 overs) managed to staunch the flow of runs thereafter. The concession of 34 extras, including 5 no-balls and 20 wides, did not help the visitors cause and was instrumental in their ultimate defeat.

Limerick's response was dominated by a magnificent innings by skipper Luke Kirwan. He hit a six and 13 fours in 88 runs and had Limerick in the driving seat until his dismissal made the score 181 for 7. Suman Sesham was the only batsman to provide significant support, making 45, including 4 fours, as he and Kirwan made 74 for the fourth wicket. Bandan Suryam and Niranjana Srinivasan were the only other batsmen to reach double figures, each making 11. Garth Littlejohn completed a fine all round performance for Lismore, taking 3 wickets for 19 runs. David Ind and Mubbin Ashraf each took two wickets as Limerick lost their last wicket on 196.

Sunday's match at Tralee was a more one-sided affair. Limerick again chose to field, and restricted the scoring rate to 2 an over for quite some time, but crucially could not take early wickets as Eddie Garzinski (25) and Dave Ramsey (10) put on 46 for the first wicket before falling in quick succession to Sreedhar and Kevin Hennessy respectively. Alam Measheed (23) and Gideon De Swartz (27) each hit a six and 3 fours to accelerate the run rate. Asim Zubair (18) and Mohan Krishnapai (36 not out, including 2 sixes and 4 fours) continued the good work for County Kerry, who finished on 177 for 6 wickets from their 40 overs. Niranjana Srinivasan took 2 wickets for 30 from four overs, while Kevin Hennessy (1 for 22), Sreedhar Mangavelly (1 for 25) and Suman Sesham (1 for 35) all bowled economical 8 over spells. Barath Senthivayagam conceded only 12 runs from his five overs.

Limerick's batsmen never looked like reaching the target set. Wickets fell regularly, with only Suman Sesham, who made a defiant 35, including 6 fours, and Satish Ganakanapalli (12,

with 1 six and 1 four) offering any serious threat. Ron Kimber took 3 wickets for 7 runs, but Eddie Garzinski (2 for 12) and Sean Rutland (2 for 8), both off six overs destroyed the early part of Limerick's innings. Veteran Dave Ramsay applied the coup-de grace, taking the last two wickets in his eighth over as Limerick were all out for 96.