

Limerick were convincing 8 wicket winners in their Division 2 Cup First Round match against Waterford District at Waterford Institute of Technology on Monday.

Having won the toss and elected to field, Limerick's bowlers built early pressure by not allowing scoring opportunities to the batsmen. The usually free scoring William Devine had only managed 1 run from 7 deliveries when he was dismissed caught at wide mid on while trying to put impetus into the innings. The catch was well taken by a back tracking Bharath. With Tom Jackman playing the anchor role it was up to those at the other end to score the runs. The fall of Devine's wicket brought Daryl Moyser to the crease. He too was unable to make a significant contribution to the total and was bowled by Satish Reddy for only 2 when he played down the wrong line. Brett Gough was next out, in Sreedhar Mangevely's first over as he came in to the attack to replace Suman Sesham. Gough managed to pull a loosener from Sreedhar to mid wicket where Asif took a comfortable catch.

With 6 overs being bowled and only 4 runs coming from the bat, Waterford had managed a total of 30; as wides were propping up their score. Sreedhar continued to torment the Waterford batsmen during his attacking spell of 7.2 overs 4 wickets for 17 runs. With Leigh Moyser replacing Gough at the crease, Sreedhar gave an impressive display of swing bowling which the left hander could not deal with and regularly played and missed. The usually aggressive Moyser could only manage a paltry 8 from 27 deliveries, before being dismissed attempting a big shot and only managing to sky a catch to Kevin Hennessy at mid on. Sreedhar was ably assisted by Bharath with a tight spell of 6 overs for 13 runs. Although the late order tried to increase the run rate, David Latimer gave Asif his second catch from the bowling of Satish for 6. John Tocknell, who had looked the most likely to press on, was bowled by Suman for 10. Suman, who had trouble controlling the ball in his first spell, had come back with a fine second spell. Suman's dismissal of Tocknell pitched on middle and straightened, leaving the batsmen no chance. His second wicket was Tom O'Regan for 8, consisting of two boundaries from 28 deliveries. With O'Regan only looking to score off his stumps and leaving those outside off there was no real scoring and he too could not reach double figures before falling lbw to Suman. The strength of Waterford's batting line up was evident as O'Regan, who batted at number 9, had opened the batting the previous season against Limerick in their Division 3 League match. Danny Pullman was Kevin Hennessy's sole wicket when a sharp reflex catch by Bandam at gully removed him for 15 from 36 deliveries. Tom Jackman was Sreedhar's penultimate wicket when he was finally bowled for 9 from 46. Ben Martin was last out lbw to an in swinging yorker from Sreedhar for 2 from 12 deliveries, leaving George Anderson unbeaten on 7 from 8 deliveries. Limerick's bowlers did very well to limit Waterford's batsmen to a top score of 15 and only two batsmen reached double figures. Waterford could only manage 6 boundaries in their innings. Disappointingly for Limerick, the bowling of 43 wides propped up the total of 122 which came from 35.2 overs.

With the bounce from the wicket being up and down it was imperative that Limerick could score regularly. Their reply started positively with Bandam hitting the first ball of the second over for a straight six off the bowling of John Tocknell. Bandam and Shane Burke looked comfortable against the opening bowlers. With David Latimer taking advantage of the inconsistent bounce Daryl Moyser was brought into short leg for the potential catch. Unfortunately, with Moyser not wearing a helmet, he was

seriously hurt when Burke smashed a ball straight into his nose. Moyser had to be taken to hospital and Limerick Cricket Club wish him a full and speedy recovery. With him missing, Waterford's bowling attack looked light. Although Burke went soon after for 4 from 14 deliveries, the Limerick batsmen always looked in control. Bharath was promoted to bat at 3 and he and Bandam looked comfortable. They brought Limerick close to victory before a delivery from Latimer kept low and bowled Bharath for 23 from 32 deliveries, including three boundaries. Bandam was joined at the crease by David Lynch and with the win inevitable Bandam never let up and progressed to his second fifty for Limerick scoring. Lynch played the support role with 14 not out from 16 deliveries including two boundaries. Bandam's very impressive 52 not out from 60 deliveries included five 4's and two 6's. That added to his fantastic earlier catch meant he shared the man of the match award with Sreedhar. Sreedhar's personal best performance for the club was made all the better as it was only his first match of the season.