

Superb Shrewsbury crush the Cavaliers

Scorecard

WEST INDIES CAVALIERS

Thomas run out.....	80
A Afzaal c Cox b Green.....	31
U Afzaal c Bishop b R Foster.....	16
Al st Bishop b Green.....	3
Khan b Blofield.....	21
Williamson st Bishop b Green.....	1
Tudor b Blofield.....	17
Atkinson not out.....	2
Mushtaq lbw Blofield.....	2
Faisal b Blofield.....	0
Mukome run out.....	0
Extras.....	18
Total (all out off 43.2 overs).....	191
Fall of wickets - 113, 135, 140, 148, 151, 185, 190, 190, 191	
Bowling - M Barnard 7-1-16-0, J Leach 5-0-27-0, E Barnard 7-2-0-42-0, S Barnard 3-0-19-0, Green 9-0-40-3, R Foster 9-0-35-1, Blofield 3-0-10-4	

SHREWSBURY

E Foster c Williamson b Tudor.....	12
Bishop not out.....	85
S Leach c Thomas b MUshtaq.....	53
J Leach not out.....	24
Extras.....	19
Total (for 2 wks, off 38 overs).....	193
Bowling - Tudor 5-0-25-1, Mukome 1-0-13-0, Faisal 9-0-58-0, U Afzaal 9-0-39-0, Mushtaq 8-0-24-1, A Afzaal 4-0-14-0, Atkinson 2-0-14-0	

Shrewsbury beat West Indies Cavaliers by eight wickets

By JAMES GARRISON

"It's the best display from a club side I have ever seen."

And the assessment of Shropshire-based former First Class cricketer Brian Shantry – after Shrewsbury's stunning National Knockout semi-final over the stars of the West Indies Cavaliers – was no hyperbole.

It was merely a recognition of a simply magnificent display from a side who fired at the peak of their powers when it mattered most

With former Test stars Usman Afzaal, Alex Tudor and Saqlain Mushtaq, the Cavaliers may have boasted the more impressive CVs on a day when a crowd in excess of 600 generated a carnival atmosphere at London Road.

Superior

But, on the pitch, there was no doubting that Shrewsbury were full value for what proved a comfortable cruise to an eight wicket victory with seven overs to spare.

In every department - and most notably fielding where the hosts must have saved in excess of 50 runs - Shrewsbury were far superior. And two years after suffering a heartbreaking defeat to Chester-Le-Street at the same stage, Shrewsbury – whose captain Ed Foster is the side's elder statesman at just 26 – highlighted their ever-growing stature.

The Nottinghamshire-based Cavaliers were in contention at the first drinks break which saw them reach the midway point of their 45 overs innings on 110-0.

But the arrival of the spinners signalled the start of Shrewsbury's domination as Cavaliers were dismissed for 191.

Rob Foster had the honour of accounting for ex-England star Afzaal when he was caught behind by Ryan Bishop for 16, while a brilliant throw from Steve Barnard ran out dangerous opener Aaron Thomass.

Outstanding

And, after leg break bowler Elliot Green had taken 3-40 off his nine overs, off spinner Alex Blofield mopped up the tail by taking 4-10 in three overs as the last five wickets fell for just six runs.

That fightback gave Shrewsbury the momentum to carry into their chase - and they never looked likely to relinquish it.

Despite Ed Foster edging a Tudor delivery to slip for 12, the hosts made a flying start with the outstanding Ryan Bishop and Steve Leach reaching 125-1 off 25 overs, ensuring Shrewsbury were forced to take no chances.

Stephen Leach finally fell for 53. But Bishop finished unbeaten on 85 to steer to a famous triumph amid memorable scenes.



Steve Barnard sends down a delivery



Aaron Thomas goes for the boundary



Shrewsbury's Ed Barnard tries to hold on to a catch against the Cavaliers



Shrewsbury bowler Rob Foster who claimed the wicket of former England Test star Usman Afzaal