

After a disappointing loss against Western Province Youth squad on Thursday 15th, Devon Women's tour squad walked out onto the Stellenbosch pitch ready for our first tour victory. Once skipper Steph Hutchins won yet another toss, electing to bowl, we made our way out to what seemed like a promising square. Donovan opened the bowling with Milly Squire at the other end, again facing internationals Lara Goodall and Andre Steyn. A positive attack from Squire pressured the batswomen to score runs. A fantastic ball from Squire left Goodall quaking after a disappointing drop from the keeper. Soon after Ball came on ready to slow the strike rate down. No wickets were taken for three bowlers but they did stop the early big hitting of the two batswomen. Next on to bowl was the elder Squire sister, Anna, with Hutchins at the other end. Both bowlers gained the first two wickets of Goodall and Steyn. Steyn was the first to leave the square head bowed, she was bowled by Hutchins. Next was Goodall bowled by Anna Squire. Little action happened between the fifteenth and twenty-sixth over as the batters slowly worked their way to 112-2. It was only when Emily Martin a right arm over medium paced bowler took her first wicket of the tour. It came in the form of a catch carried out by Emma Seward. The stunning catch from Seward down my her feet meant Alexis le Breton left the pitch on 15. Donovan then came on again to take a wicket-maiden. Ending the innings was Rose Ball with the wicket of Tatum Le Roux. Despite early runs from the batswomen we did well to slow down their runs and even when they did pick up again the ring fielders kept the spirits high encouraging the bowlers and fielders to knock Western Province.

It was an immediate turn round as we waited for our lunch to be delivered so Hutchins and Seward opened the batting. An early wicket fell for Devon Girls as Seward left on a quick 3 in the second over. Seward was caught by Wilson off Lackay's bowling. The fall of Seward prompted Rebecca Halliday to enter the pitch as she held her spot long enough to see off the first change over. Unfortunately during this spell Hutchins lost her wicket to Tala Ross. Daisy Meadowcroft replaced Hutchins and fought off Ross and Brenton. However, as the wicket deteriorated so did the batting order with the falls of Hollifield and Meadowcroft. Nerves increased on the sidelines as chances of winning were getting smaller and remaining batsman became fewer and fewer. Kayla R was Devons down fall as she took two consecutive wickets in the 23rd over leaving us on a devastating 56-8. As Devons remaining batswomen of Holly Elsworth and Anna Squire kept up the efforts Gavin Vdw broke Squires defence as she was bowled clean down off.

The loss was a hard knock to us as we were optimistic following a tight loss in the t20. Unfortunately we weren't able to pull back after our lower order walked for 43 from 17. Perhaps it was the mix of heat and our first 40 over game of the season that impeded our chances of success. None the less we will not go into our next game with the loss hanging over our heads and will fight without fail to secure a win.