

## Umar Adeel's Blazing 97 Leads Multan Sultans to Sohni Dharti PCL-12

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By Ghulam Farid

The recently concluded Sohni Dharti Pakistan Cricket League (PCL) Season

12 ended on a thrilling note as Multan Sultans lifted the coveted title after

defeating Islamabad United by a comprehensive 76-run margin in a high scoring final.

The three-month-long tournament featured six well-balanced teams, Multan

Sultans, Islamabad United, Lahore Qalandars, Karachi Kings, Peshawar Zalmi and Quetta Gladiators. The teams were led by Imtiaz Hussain, Amir

Khan, Rao Ali Gohar, Zeeshan Akhter, Asghar Nadeem and Rana Atif respectively.

A total of 120 players participated in the event, with 34 matches played

throughout the tournament. The competition was conducted under the supervision of a four-member Technical Committee comprising Syed Nasooh

Akhter, Taimoor Abbas, Chaudhry Aqeel Rasheed and Ghulam Farid, while

Taimoor Abbas also served as the brand ambassador of the tournament.

After an exciting league phase, Multan Sultans, Lahore Qalandars, Islamabad

United and Quetta Gladiators qualified for the playoffs. Multan Sultans and Islamabad United emerged victorious in their knockout encounters to set up a highly anticipated final. Winning the toss in the final, Islamabad United opted to field first. Multan Sultans' top order laid a solid foundation, allowing the middle and lower order to accelerate and post a formidable 249/8 in the allotted 20 overs. The highlight of the innings was a breathtaking knock from explosive opener Umar Adeel, who remained unbeaten on 97 off just 37 balls. His dazzling innings included 11 towering sixes and five boundaries, as he dismantled the Islamabad United bowling attack with fearless stroke play. Muhammad Nadeem also contributed a quick 30 off 15 balls to push the total further. For Islamabad United, captain Amir Khan and Zeeshan Saleem claimed two wickets each, while Syed Raza Anees bowled an economical spell and picked up one wicket. Chasing a daunting target of 250, Islamabad United suffered an early setback with the loss of their key batter Asif Balouch. Multan Sultans' bowlers maintained a tight line and length, complemented by sharp fielding and excellent catching, steadily increasing the required run rate and putting the opposition under immense pressure. Despite fighting knocks from Muhammad Qasim (41) and Nadeem Aslam (35), Islamabad United could not keep pace with the required rate and were eventually bowled out for 173, handing Multan Sultans a convincing 76-run

victory.

Among the bowlers, Ramiz Waseem led the charge with three wickets, while

Shahid Nadeem, Shehzad Ali and Mirza Danish chipped in with two wickets

each.

The grand final attracted a large crowd of spectators, who thoroughly enjoyed

the contest played in excellent spirit under the supervision of neutral umpires.

Throughout the tournament, Multan Sultans impressed with a balanced side

and a strong bowling unit, while Islamabad United showcased a powerful

batting lineup, making the final a fascinating battle between bat and ball.

Both captains Imtiaz Hussain and Amir Khan were praised for their outstanding leadership during the tournament.

For his sensational innings and brilliant running catch in the outfield, Umar

Adeel was declared Player of the Match. Classification: Internal

In the individual awards, Muhammad Qasim was named Best Bowler with 19

wickets, Amir Khan won the Best Batter Award with 356 runs, the highest in

the tournament, while Muhammad Khalid was declared the Top Performer of

the Tournament.

Speaking at the post-match presentation ceremony, Anwar Ali Rana thanked

Zafar Chandio, Sports Secretary Sohni Dharti, all participating teams, captains, members of the technical committee, and volunteers particularly

Zeeshan Akhter, Imran Dilawar and his three sons for their dedicated support

in scoring and managing logistical arrangements throughout the tournament.

Sports Secretary Zafar Chandio also expressed gratitude to everyone involved

in making the tournament a grand success. Participants and spectators alike

appreciated his untiring efforts in organizing the event, which featured high

quality kits for teams, excellent cricket equipment, neutral match officials,

proper ground maintenance ensuring player safety and impressive trophies

for individual awards, Dedicated Player Awards, Man of the Match winners,

as well as champion and runner-up teams.

The Technical Committee also announced the Team of the Tournament,

comprising standout performers across all departments. The squad featured

five players from Multan Sultans, three from Islamabad United, three from

Lahore Qalandars, and one each from Quetta Gladiators and Karachi Kings.

Team of the Tournament (PCL-12):

Amir Mehmood, Umar Adeel, Muhammad Khalid (W.K), Ahsan Rajput, Imtiaz Hussain, Amir Khan, Junaid Khan, Muhammad Qasim, Shehzad Ali,

Gulshan Ali, Ghulam Farid, Shahid Nadeem and Ahmad Hassan.

The successful completion of Sohni Dharti PCL Season 12 once again highlighted the passion for cricket within the community and provided an

excellent platform for talented players to showcase their skills.

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