



ACE OF PACE: Blues quick Matthew Nicholson winds up during yesterday's ING Cup clash with Victoria at Bradman Oval.

Howzat! Blues blow Vics away at Bradman

JANE SEHLMIEIER

The heavens were ready to erupt but it was Speed Blitz Blues' batsman Simon Katich who created the thunder when he scored a lightning fast 136 not out at Bradman Oval against the Victorian Bushrangers yesterday.

More than 5000 cricket lovers filled the stands to see the Blues take on the Bushrangers in the first ING Cup match for the season.

Although cricket watchers missed out on seeing Mark Waugh score another century at Bradman Oval, as he did last time, Katich's blistering century and the appearance of Blues captain Steve Waugh

was enough to keep the punters happy.

Bradman Museum director Richard Mulvaney described the match as the perfect advertisement "for cricket, for Bradman and for the Southern Highlands," with the match broadcast live throughout Australia on Channel Nine and ABC Radio.

"It was just such an incredible success," Mr Mulvaney said.

"We were a little nervous because of all the rain we've had in the lead up to the match but we were able to get in a super sponge from Manuka Oval in Canberra and our groundsmen did a fantastic job.

"The biggest thanks goes to our volunteers who made this day happen."