

The First Graders

Usman Khawaja



Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 32

Full Name: **Usman Tariq Khawaja**

Date and Place of Birth: **18 December 1986, Islamabad, Pakistan,**

Secondary School: **Westfield Sports High School**

Occupation: **Professional Cricketer**

Playing role: **Left hand bat / right arm medium pace bowler**



BATTING									
Season	Mtch	Inns	N.O.	Best	Runs	Ave.	100	50	Ct.
2003-04	10	12	2	67	363	36.30		2	4
2004-05	17	19	2	120	486	28.59	1	2	5
2005-06	12	14	0	102	360	25.71	1	2	6
2006-07	21	24	1	115*	690	30.00	1	3	14
2007-08	19	21	2	138	1134	59.68	5	3	3
2008-09	12	12	1	102*	641	58.27	2	5	3
2009-10*	11	8	1	189	506	72.29	3		3
T20	2	2	0	38	68	34			1
2010-11	9	8	1	32*	121	17.29			8
2011-12	12	12	0	128	500	41.70	1	3	2
2013-14	1	1	0	2	2	2			0
2014-15	1	1	1	24	24	-			0
Totals	127	134	11	189	4,895	39.80	14	20	49
BOWLING									
Season	Overs	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Ave.	Best	5w	10w	
2003-04	13	1	1	59	59.00	1-12			
2004-05	51	1	7	298	42.57	3-32			
2005-06	35	5	3	166	55.33	3-33			
2006-07	59.3	3	12	304	25.33	4-26			
2007-08	13	0	0	71	0	0-8			
2008-09	43.5	5	1	190	190.00	1-39			
2009-10*	7	1	1	29	29	1-23			
2010-11	4	0	0	11	0	0-11			
2011-12	14	1	3	66	22.00	2-49			
Totals	240.2	17	28	1,194	42.64	4-26			



*captain

Usman Khawaja always had shown potential throughout his junior cricket days and looked to be a certain 1st Grade player of the future. The only question on the lips of good judges was just how far this stylish left-hand batsman would go. That query was answered on 3 January 2011 when he strode to the wicket to join Shane Watson in the 5th Ashes Test against England at the Sydney Cricket Ground. The baggy green cap of Australia had been well earned and earned well.

At 16 years and 325 days Usman Khawaja became the youngest player to make Randwick Petersham's 1st Grade team when he debuted against Wests at Coogee Oval on 8 November 2003 making eight runs. It was the start however, of what would lead Usman to be the club's highest scoring batsman in its first 10 years and its first home-grown Australian Test cricketer. He quickly turned a cautious start to his 1st Grade career into a flourish with scores of 63 in the Qualifying Final against the likes of Test fast bowler Nathan Bracken; 42 in the Semi-Final and top-score of 67 in the 1st Grade Grand Final which was disappointingly lost to Easts.

In just the third round of the following season Usman scored his maiden 1st Grade century with 120 against North Sydney at North Sydney Oval. He followed up with tons in each of the next two seasons but the summer of 2007-08 belonged to Usman Khawaja. His 1,134 runs with five centuries and three fifties set a new run-getting record for the club while his tally was the best in the whole of Sydney 1st Grade Cricket. He also shared a new third wicket partnership record with Simon Katich when the pair put on 188 in the Qualifying Final against eventual premiers St George at Hurstville Oval. His batting dominance won him a spot in the New South Wales team and he made his first class debut against Victoria at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 15 February 2008 being run out for 85. His performances also helped Randwick Petersham take out the coveted Club Championship.

In 2008-09 he hit two centuries and five fifties in a season total of 641 and followed that up with three more hundreds in 2009-10 when he was installed as 1st Grade captain. That season he re-wrote the club record books when he scored 189 against Fairfield-Liverpool at Coogee to break Simon Katich's highest score record of 177.

Despite first class cricket commitments restricting his Grade Cricket availability, Khawaja continued to perform at club level with his 128 against University of New South Wales in the 2011-12 Semi-Final at Village Green one of his best innings. Unfortunately that was the last season for Usman in New South Wales as he transferred to Queensland for the start of the 2012-13 season. The move proved successful as he was selected to tour India with the Australian team before making the Australian 2013 Ashes Test Team tour of England.

With the Big Bash League in full swing Usman got an opportunity to again turn out with Randwick Petersham in a match against Campbelltown at Coogee Oval in 2013-14. Unfortunately his return was short-lived being dismissed for just two runs.

In 12 seasons with Randwick Petersham Usman played 149 matches and scored 5,620 runs at an average of 40.72 with 15 centuries. He was the first player to score 5,000 club runs and at the end of 2013-14 remained the highest scoring 1st Grade batsman with 4,871 runs. No-one has scored more centuries for the club. He returned for one game in 2014-15 scoring 24 not out and taking his total runs to 4,895.

Apart from being Randwick Petersham's youngest 1st Grade player and first home-grown Australian Test player he is the club's first Australian under 19 player, its first Under 19 World Cup player, its first NSW under 19 player, its first Prime Minister's XI player and its first NSW Schoolboys representative. He was also the club's youngest 1st Grade captain when appointed to that role in 2008-09 aged 21.