

The First Graders

Michael Watson



Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 44

Full name: **Michael Watson**

Date and Place of Birth: **25 October 1983, Sydney**

Secondary School: **St Andrews Cathedral School, Sydney**

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

Occupation: **Construction Project Manager**

BATTING									
Season	Mtch	Inns	N.O.	Best	Runs	Ave.	100	50	Ct.
2005-06	6	6	0	34	59	9.83			1
2007-08	12	13	0	31	180	13.85			7
2008-09	10	10	0	25	81	8.10			2
T20	3	3	0	8	10	3.3			1
Totals	31	32	0	34	330	10.31			11
BOWLING									
Season	Overs	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Ave.	Best	5w	10w	
2005-06	13	0	1	61	61	1-20			
2007-08	26.4	7	4	88	22	2-7			
2008-09	41	2	8	236	29.50	4-44			
T20	11	0	4	84	21	2-20			
Totals	91.4	9	17	469	27.59	4-44			



Michael Watson made his 1st Grade debut on 24 September 2005 at Petersham Oval against North Sydney. While he scored only six runs that day it was a proud moment for Michael and an historic one for the club as he was a player who had progressed through every lower grade to achieve 1st Grade status. He started with the club in 7th Grade in its first year in 2001-02 and over the following four seasons scored 1,816 runs with three centuries as he progressed through the grades. The 21 year old played an important role in the 2nd Grade premiership winning team the previous season which culminated in him being presented with a 1st Grade baggy green cap prior to the start of the first match of the 2005-06 season.

In just his third game in 1's Michael hit a second-top score of 34 behind skipper Joseph Hill's 41 in a side which managed only 117 to be soundly beaten by Campbelltown-Camden at Petersham Oval. There were six ducks that day. However, runs were hard to come by after that match and Watson saw out the remainder of the season in 2nd Grade where he scored a majestic 82 against UTS Balmain at Ryde Oval.

Michael couldn't get a game in the top grade in 2006-07 but the following season, after starting with a classic 103 not out opening the batting in round one against St George at Petersham Oval, won a 1st Grade spot and went on to play 12 matches in that team during the season. And while he could only muster a top score of 31 he was fairly consistent batting in the middle order. His fielding however, was first class and in keeping with his reputation as one of the best if not the best cover fieldsman in the club. He had twice won the club's annual fielding award and his bullet-like throws with uncanny accuracy was almost legendary.

Season 2008-09 didn't bring Michael any real joy with the bat in the 10 games he played in Firsts but given the ball late in the season in a match against Northern District at Waitara Oval, he showed that he could be effective with his medium pacers by grabbing 4-44 to take the bowling honours. Watson also played nine games in 2nd Grade that season captaining the team in the second half of the summer and going on to take out both batting aggregate and average honours with 411 runs at 37.36. His 112 against North Sydney at North Sydney 2 was his third in 2nd Grade but sadly it was also his last as the 25 year old hung up his boots at the end of that summer to concentrate on his developing career in the construction industry.

In 139 matches for Randwick Petersham Michael Watson scored 3,497 runs, took 50 wickets and held 55 catches. In 2nd Grade where he played 72 games he scored 1,993 runs with three centuries and held 32 catches.