

# The First Graders

## Burt Cockley



### **Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 57**

Full name: **Burt Thomas Cockley**

Date and Place of Birth: **3 April 1986, Newcastle**

Secondary School: **Callaghan College, Newcastle**

Playing role: **Right arm fast bowler / right hand batsman**

Occupation: **Professional Cricketer**

<b>BATTING</b>									
Season	Mtch	Inns	N.O.	Best	Runs	Ave.	100	50	Ct.
2007-08	19	8	6	13*	31	15.50			6
2008-09	6	5	2	23	29	9.67			2
2009-10	5	1	1	6*	6				
<b>T20</b>	1	0	0	0	0				0
2010-11	8	4	0	23	39	9.75			
2011-12	15	6	2	51	71	17.75			3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>13.54</b>			<b>11</b>
<b>BOWLING</b>									
Season	Overs	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Ave.	Best	5w	10w	
2007-08	200.4	30	36	723	20.08	5-48	1		
2008-09	71	15	9	200	22.22	4-22			
2009-10	12	0	2	44	22.00	2-29			
<b>T20</b>	3	0	0	19		0-19			
2010-11	57.3	15	9	203	22.56	3-33			
2011-12	145.4	25	21	539	25.70	3-34			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>489.5</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>22.44</b>	<b>5-48</b>	<b>1</b>		



Burt Cockley may well have been the fastest bowler to play for Randwick Petersham. While no official speed-gun recording was made there were some first class bowlers who regarded him second only to Shaun Tait who was clocked in the high 150 km's.

Cockley joined Randwick Petersham from the Waratah-Mayfield club in Newcastle at the start of the 2007-08 season taking 1-38 off seven overs in his first match against St George at Hurstville Oval which finished in a tie. He had played for NSW Country and NSW Country Colts the year before.

In round three he bowled with express pace to snare 4-51 against Sutherland at Petersham Oval and followed up with 3-42 against Wests at Pratten Park. By February 2008 the 21 year old had taken 27 wickets at just 21.11 which was good enough for the State selectors to call him up for the Sheffield Shield clash with Tasmania in Hobart where he took a wicket in each innings.

Back on the Grade scene he got his side off to a sensational start in the Qualifying Final against St George at Hurstville where he took a wicket first ball of the match before going on to finish with 5-58 and help snare his team a place in the Semi-Final.

The Semi that season was against Gordon at Chatswood Oval and Burt will long be remembered for the part he played in that match. Batting first, Randwick Petersham was struggling when the young quick joined his captain Nathan Hauritz. With the score a perilous 9-158 the pair set a new club 1st Grade partnership record for the tenth wicket with a stand of 62. Hauritz was able to post his first century for the club (122) while hitting four sixes with Burt at the other end. Not to be outdone, Cockley also launched into one hitting it out of the ground and into nearby Chatswood railway station.

And while he grabbed two quick wickets before stumps the following day he was forcibly removed from the attack mid-over after bowling the third of which the umpires considered to be "beamers". Unfortunately that did not help the side's chances and the match was lost. Burt's 36 wickets at 20.08 that season was however, good enough to take the 1st Grade bowling honours.

Unfortunately for Randwick Petersham Burt was in keen demand by New South Wales the following 2008-09 season, playing just a handful of games for the club. In one of his rare appearances at Coojee that summer he put the wind up Penrith knocking the first four over for just 22. His return for the Blues however, was the best in the side with his 27 wickets including two five wicket hauls costing just 22.18 each. Indian IPL scouts quickly recognised his raw pace and signed him for a season with Kings XI Punjab.

It was drama aplenty at the start of 2009-10 however, with Cockley suffering a stress fracture of the back after taking 4-39 for NSW in a man-of-the-match performance against Western Australia in the first game of the State limited overs competition. He watched the remainder of the season from the sidelines. The following season was little better with Burt breaking down after just a few matches taking nine wickets off only 57 overs and being confined once again to the grandstand.

In 2011-12 Burt was on the comeback trail mid-season and steadily built up his pace as the summer wore on. And while bowling no-where near his top he did enough to return some useful performances in taking 21 wickets at a reasonable average of 25.70. But he really fired on the big-stage producing a couple of premierships winning performances. In the Grand Final of the Twenty20 Cup he snared the bowling honours with 3-34 while in the Limited Overs Grand Final he broke the back of the Fairfield Liverpool batting taking 3-39 to annex another premiership for Randwick Petersham. Interestingly, in the Limited Overs semi-final against Uni of NSW he starred with the bat, hitting his first half-century for the club (51 off 48 balls) in a 96 run partnership with Anthony Sams.

Sadly that was the final season for Burt Cockley with Randwick Petersham. An offer to play in Western Australia was too good to refuse and by season's end he was spearheading the attack for his adopted state in the Sheffield Shield.

With a few lower grade matches thrown in when recovering from injury Burt Cockley took 91 wickets and scored 261 runs in 60 matches with the club. In 2011 he was named in Randwick Petersham's 1st Grade Team of the Decade.