

# The First Graders

## Nicholas Stapleton



### Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 79

Full Name: **Nicholas Laurence Stapleton**

Date and Place of Birth: **21 June 1992, Darlinghurst**

Secondary School: **Waverley College**

Occupation: **Student**

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

BATTING									
Season	Mtch	Inns	N.O.	Best	Runs	Ave.	100	50	Ct.
2011-12	17	13	6	50*	219	40.80		1	5
2012-13	19	23	1	103	420	19.09	1	1	2
T20	2	2	0	6	10	5.00			0
2013-14	16	19	2	86*	377	22.18		3	5
T20	5	4	0	18	29	7.25			2
2014-15	14	14	2	88	234	19.50		1	4
T20	6	4	1	34*	56	18.67			0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>20.07</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>
BOWLING									
Season	Overs	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Ave.	Best	5w	10w	
2011-12	42.4	2	11	253	23.00	3-24			
2012-13	60.1	6	11	245	22.27	4-30			
T20	3.1	0	0	34	-	0-16			
2013-14	168.2	41	28	527	18.82	4-39			
T20	16.4	1	6	100	16.67	2-21			
2014-15	142.3	20	17	502	29.53	4-38			
T20	21.3	1	4	138	34.50	2-14			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>23.36</b>	<b>4-30</b>			



After dominating the 4th Grade batting in 2010-11 which won him the club's Most Promising Player award, Nick found himself making his 1st Grade debut in round three of the 2011-12 season against North Sydney at Coogee Oval. While he scored only six runs batting at number nine it was in the Twenty20 match against Sydney University in the middle of that two day round where young Nicholas made his first mark in the top grade. With the Uni. Score 1-55 Nick was thrown the ball and bowled star batsman Ian Moran who had starred for the Sydney Sixers in the Big Bash competition.

In his fifth match in 1st Grade Nick joined Adam Semple in a valuable 90 runs partnership for the 7th wicket against Sydney at Drummoyne Oval before finishing 50 not out. And while he went on to record a season total of 219 1st Grade runs at the impressive average of 40.80 it was his bowling in the Grand Final of the Limited Overs competition which highlighted his season.

Brought on to bowl when a troublesome partnership by a couple of late-order Fairfield-Liverpool batsmen threatened to put his side under pressure, the 19 years old brought huge roars from the army of club supporters in attendance when he took a hat-trick! It was only the club's second hat-trick in 1st Grade and certainly the first in a Grand Final.

Nick played the full 2012-13 season in 1st Grade finishing with 420 runs to be second only to Simon Katich in the season's aggregate. The feature of his season was in the match against Mosman at Coogee Oval when he brought up his maiden 1st Grade century with 103 off 197 balls which included 11 fours and a six. He also scored 56 not out against Campbelltown-Camden while with his handy medium-pacers he took 4-30 against North Sydney and 3-20 versus Hawkesbury.

Nick Stapleton had a subdued start to the 2013-14 season with just three scores in the 20s in the first seven games. However, in round 8 against Bankstown at Bankstown Oval the record books were re-written with a 10 wickets victory in a limited-overs match. Chasing 164 Stapleton (75\*) and Rory Burns (80\*) ran down the total without loss. Nick brought up his 50 with a six and hit another when only five runs were required for an amazing win.

Stapleton carried his form into the next match being run out on the last ball for 80 in a limited overs match against Penrith at Coogee. He continued along similar lines in the following game against Campbelltown at Coogee where he scored 86 not out off 105 balls with nine fours and three sixes. He had scored 241 runs for once out in his three innings. However, in keeping with the

uncertainty of sport, he failed to pass a score of six in eight of his final nine innings. The exception being a solid 36 off 156 balls against St George and Test bowler Trent Copeland at Hurstville to help secure a fabulous win.

The big development in Nick Stapleton's game in 2013-14 was his bowling. He bowled more overs than anyone other than the two openers Jake Wilson and Daniel Sams, with great success. Able to move the ball around disconcertingly and "nippy" off the pitch, Nick returned figures of 4-39 against Blacktown; 4-49 v North Sydney; 3-17 v Mosman and 3-30 against Western Suburbs as part of a season tally of 28 wickets at just 18.82 apiece. With his 377 runs he can be truly classified as an all-rounder.

Season 2014-15 was not a happy one for Nick as he struggled to find his batting form. An opening bat he found himself by round 8 batting as low as eight or nine. In round 12 however, he teamed up with Soumil Chhibber at 7-295 to put on 117 for the eighth wicket with Nick hitting 88 off 136 balls with eight fours and four sixes. And while his 234 runs was not the season he would have expected, his 17 wickets with 4-38 his best confirmed his all-round importance to the team. Unfortunately for the club, Nick decided to move to St George from the 2015-16 season.

In 114 matches for Randwick Petersham Nick Stapleton scored 2,237 runs and took 89 wickets in all grades.