

The First Graders

Anthony Sams

Randwick Petersham 1st Grade cap number: 76

Full Name: **Anthony John Sams**

Date and Place of Birth: **20 September 1988, Bankstown**

Secondary School: **St Mary's Cathedral**

Occupation: **Gym Co-ordinator**

Playing role: **Wicket-keeper / right hand bat**



BATTING									
Season	Mtch	Inns	N.O.	Best	Runs	Ave.	100	50	6s
2010-11	19	18	2	64	326	20.38		2	
2011-12	28	24	5	45	473	24.90		0	
2012-13	15	16	0	80	291	17.11		2	
T20	2	2	0	27	42	21		0	
2013-14	17	15	3	65*	224	18.67		1	
T20	6	5	1	12*	31	7.75			
2014-15	15	14	2	114	504	42	2	1	
T20	6	4	1	16	23	7.67			
2015-16	14	14	1	127*	643	49.46	2	3	3
T20	7	7	0	32	140	20			3
2016-17	17	20	1	152	995	48.29	3	5	3
T20	4	4	0	22	67	16.75			
TOTALS	150	143	16	152	3,759	29.60	7	14	9
WICKETKEEP.									
Season	Caught	Stpd.	Total	Byes					
2010-11	39	4	43	11					
2011-12	47	8	55	20					
2012-13	27	1	28	19					
T20	1	0	1	0					
2013-14	36	2	38	20					
T20	4	0	4	6					
2014-15	28	2	30	29					
T20	3	0	3	2					
2015-16	26	2	28	13					
T20	2	3	5	2					
2016-17	27	0	27	13					
T20	4	2	6	1					
TOTALS	244	24	268	136					



Within two seasons of joining Randwick Petersham, Anthony Sams had set a new club record for wicket-keeping dismissals with a match total of nine. Five caught in the first innings and four in the second. The match was round 14 of the 2011-12 season against Campbelltown-Camden at Coogee Oval. Chasing a sizeable tally of 392 the Ghosts could only manage 76 in the first innings with Sams catching five of the first eight batsmen--three off Jake Wilson and two off Burt Cockley. In the second dig Anthony caught four of the first eight—all off the pace bowlers to give his side an outright win by an innings and 73 runs. He also did not concede a bye in either innings.

2010-11: Anthony transferred to the club in 2010-11 from Bankstown's lower grades following the decision by incumbent Randwick Petersham 'keeper Ash Doolan to pursue a first class career in Tasmania. Immediately selected in 1st Grade Sams' first match was against Sutherland at Glenn McGrath Oval where he scored 23 off 32 balls, took a catch behind the wicket and did not concede a bye in the team's two wicket win. The 22 year old that day gave every indication he was a wicket-keeper/batsman of some class which was emphasised next game when he smashed 64 off 62 balls with six fours and two sixes then caught three of the first four batsmen to ensure a good win for his team over Parramatta in a limited overs match at Coogee.

Sams completed a fine first season in 1st Grade with an impressive 43 dismissals which included five catches against St George in the semi-final while he twice snared bags of four against Mosman and Northern District. He had the amazing statistic of allowing only 11 byes in 21 innings in which he 'kept. His 326 runs with two half-centuries put him well into the genuine all-rounder class. Anthony also experienced the rare double of being part of a Club Championship club and playing in a 1st Grade Grand Final in his first year in the top grade.

2011-12: Season 2011-12 belonged to Anthony Sams in terms of 1st Grade wicket-keeping. Not only was his 55 dismissals second only to the club record 64 achieved by Daryl Parmenter in 2001-02, but his season tally was the best in the whole Sydney 1st Grade competition. In 28 games he held 47 catches and effected eight stumpings while he had innings hauls of five on two occasions. He was seven ahead of the next best in 1st Grade and again took out the club's annual Wicket-keeping Award.

Anthony's batting that season gathered greater consistency and while his best score was only 45, his season total of 473 confirmed his value as a middle-order bat. Interestingly he opened the batting on two occasions. One in the first match of the season scoring 24 and the other in the Grand Final where he made 10 in a disappointing loss to Sydney University.

2012-13: Sams then highest score for the club came in 2012-13 when he made 80 off 100 balls in a first wicket partnership of 145 with Jake Scicluna. Despite missing four matches after breaking a thumb in a NSW Second XI match, Anthony's 28 dismissals behind the stumps that season put him just 26 behind the 1st Grade record of 152 held by Daryl Parmenter.

2013-14: In 2013-14, just his fourth season with the club, Anthony brought up 150 dismissals in 1st Grade with another outstanding display behind the stumps. He finished the summer with 38 dismissals, just one behind the competition leader and former Randwick Petersham 'keeper Ashley Doolan who recorded 39. Anthony's 36 catches however, was the most by a wicket-keeper in 1st Grade. He completed the season with a fantastic five catches in an innings in the Semi-Final against Sydney University at Coogee. By season's end Sams had achieved 164 dismissals, all of which have been achieved in 1st Grade. This is a new record for the club surpassing Daryl Parmenter's 152 set in 2004-05.

2014-15: While Anthony was always an outstanding wicket-keeper and a good batsman, he really came of age as a quality batsman / wicket-keeper in 2014-15. In round 2 against Hawkesbury at Coogee and batting at no. 9 he joined his brother Daniel with the score a shaky 6-127 (and Tom Jagot retired) chasing 252. The pair then put on a club record partnership for the seventh wicket of 183 in just 131 minutes to take the match easily. Anthony finished with 105* in 113 minutes with 10 fours and two sixes.

Six matches later Sams was promoted to open the batting and after just four games in that role, played a perfect opener's innings occupying the crease for 276 minutes in scoring 114 from 223 balls faced. He hit 18 fours. Five days later he opened the batting against World Cup hopefuls Ireland in a practice match at Coogee Oval scoring 80 off 84 balls to help Randwick Petersham win the match. Anthony was Man of the Match. He ended the season with 527 1st Grade runs. And with 32 dismissals behind the stumps throughout that summer, Anthony Sams became the first Randwick Petersham wicket-keeper to pass 200 finishing the season with 202.

2015-16: The club's annual fielding award in 2015-16 was won by Anthony Sams for the fourth time in the previous six seasons. That season he took his career tally to 235 dismissals after adding an impressive 33 with 28 caught and five stumped. Playing in the 1st Grade Belvidere Cup, Limited Overs and Twenty 20 Cup competitions, he conceded just 15 byes in effecting those 33 dismissals. His best effort was four catches in a 50 overs match against Penrith at Howell Oval while he nabbed three against Gordon, Fairfield-Liverpool and Mosman. He also completed two stumpings in a Twenty 20 match playing Sydney at Coogee.

And apart from being the most successful wicket-keeper in the club's history he was also fast becoming one of its great batsmen taking his tally to 2,697 runs after scoring 783 that season. Opening the batting in all matches other than T20 where he went in no. 3, he hit three 50s with 80 against Gordon, 66 playing Easts and 62 against Penrith. But his two highlights were centuries with 105 against Sutherland while playing Sydney he hit a career-best 127* off 139 balls with six fours and a six.

2016-17: Without doubt a champion wicket-keeper, Anthony Sams that season confirmed his promise as a champion batsman by scoring a mammoth 1,062 runs in the three 1st Grade competitions—the Belvidere Cup (821), the Limited Overs Cup (174) and the Twenty20 Cup (67). It was only the fourth time a player had scored 1,000 runs in a season for the club behind Usman Khawaja, Nathan Price and Richard Chee Quee.

Opening the batting in every game, Anthony hit three centuries and was unluckily dismissed lbw when on 95 in another. In the first match of the season he scored a career-best 152* off just 139 balls with 19 fours against Fairfield-Liverpool at Coogee. Three matches later he hit 121 against Blacktown which was part of a record opening partnership of 254 with Alex Kemp who made 122. That effort enabled the side to reel in a target of 9-373—a record for the club. Anthony scored 447 runs in four matches in the first 35 days of the season. Another four half-centuries were followed by his third century when he thrashed Hawkesbury at Coogee Oval for 104 off just 114 balls with seven boundaries and a six to bring up an even 1,000 for the season. He also took his club career record to 3,759.

At the start of the season Sams had 235 wicket-keeping dismissals to his credit. In round 7 against University of NSW at Coogee he passed the 250 milestone with three catches before completing the season with 268. His 33 dismissals this season was the third successive year he has finished with that number. His record is made up of 244 caught, 24 stumped with just 137 byes. His performances this season led to his selection in the NSW Second XI team and in the Kingsgrove Sports Merit XII-1st Grade Team of the Year. Anthony scored 961 points to be a decisive winner of the prestigious Player of the Season