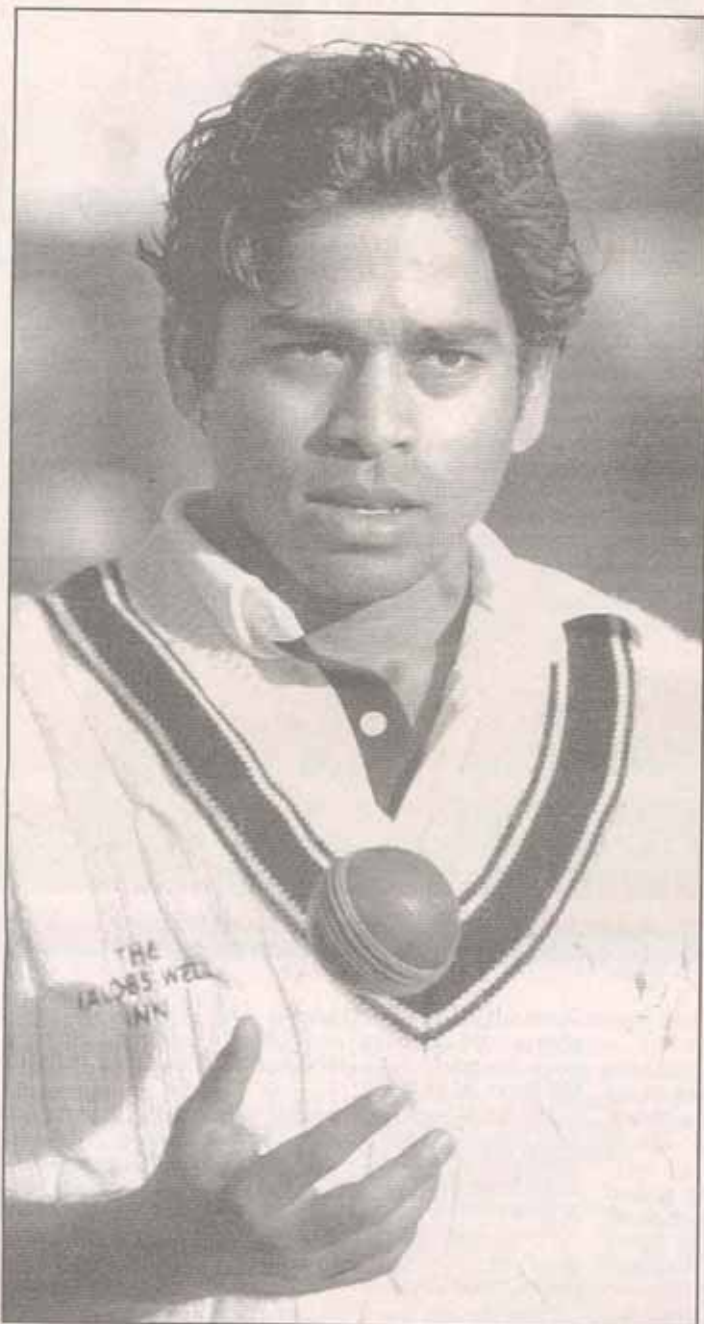


is already signed up for Premiership

# Honley get title



■ **INDIAN MASTER:** Rajesh Pawar helped spin Honley to the League title and Sykes Cup double, and will be back again next season aiming to repeat his magic

## Rain-off fails to dampen spirits after top double

**IT was unfortunate that rain on the final day brought anticlimax to the season's finale — but it did nothing to dampen Honley's spirits!**



By **DAVID LOCKWOOD**  
Sports Reporter

Exactly 111 years since they first joined the Huddersfield League, the homely Holme Valley club finally clinched the Byrom Shield to sit proudly alongside the Romida Sykes Cup, which they captured in August for a unique Honley double.

The last club to achieve the double were Meltham, in their hey days of 1997.

Honley's success was built on brilliant teamwork and a super overseas star in Rajesh Pawar who was the League's highest wicket-taker over the summer with 82 League and Sykes Cup victims.

And the great news for Honley supporters (and worry for opposing batsmen) is that the club have re-signed the trick Indian spinner again for next season.

"It really has been a fantastic season for us," said skipper Robert Moore, who becomes only the 10th captain in the history of the Huddersfield League to lift both the Sykes Cup and Byrom Shield in the same season.

"It was Honley's 125th anniversary this summer, so it was quite fitting that we should capture the Championship for the first time.

"To be honest, I don't think

what we have achieved has really sunk in yet.

"Everybody connected with the club are over the moon about it, but as well as the players being thrilled at their success, they are also really pleased for the club's long-time servants like Peter Green, which goes some way to rewarding their fantastic efforts over the years.

"At the start of a season you always set out hoping to be successful, but this summer we've exceeded all our expectations.

"Like Scholes with Wasim Jaffer, it was a huge blow for us to lose Rajesh for the last three games, but then Steve Crook rang up to say he would also miss the run-in after signing for Northamptonshire who wanted him for the first team.

"I think he's the first county player to be transferred mid-season, but he wasn't getting any first team chances at Lancashire.

"Steve's still signed on with us, but we're not expecting him to be available for us next season. But we do wish him all the best with Northants, with whom he made a good start with an unbeaten 91 batting at No8."