

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Slaithwaite's Overseas Professionals by Mark Edmonds

They come, they see, they conquer...then they return to their homeland. But who were our overseas players, where did they come from, and what have they done since? We did a bit of delving around and here's what we came up with.

Steve Mace

Arriving in 1989 from Australian state side New South Wales, the all-rounder was an instant hit with everyone at the club, scoring over 1,000 runs and taking 31 wickets in his first season. "Macey", as he was affectionately known, stayed for a further four years as the club's overseas professional with the high point being his score of 75 which helped win the 1991 Sykes Cup final.

Such were the quality of his performances that Macey was regarded as an honorary "Slawiter" as he finished with a batting average of 42.43. Since returning to Oz, Mace has been representing the Charlestown District Cricket Club, where he is captain of the first team. The picture below shows Steve (in a knee brace unfortunately!) at an Australian club game in 2006 with another former overseas player in Simon Moore.



Pragyan Ojha

The Indian spinner was one of those "what if" stories as he was called up to the Indian Test squad during his country's tour of England last summer. A tricky left-armer, Ojha then went and toured Zimbabwe and Kenya with the

India 'A' side with great success. This led to him being retained in the squad as the side hosted the South Africa 'A' team in a series of unofficial Tests. Ojha showed his potential by claiming match figures of 8-97 in the first game of the series.

Even more exciting for the young bowler is the chance to play alongside some of the world's greatest cricketers for Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League. Those with Setanta will be able to follow Ojha's progress as he teams up with the likes of V.V.S. Laxman, Herschelle Gibbs, Adam Gilchrist, Shahid Afridi, Scott Styris, Andrew Symonds and Chaminda Vaas.

Who knows, SCC may soon be able to lay claim to fielding a full Indian international as he battles for a place along with the likes of Harbhajan Singh.

Cameron Cross

Cameron was Slaithwaite's overseas player for the 2006 season, providing many runs at the top of the order. He was the only player to top 1,000 runs for the season, coming at a superb average of 70.47, while also proving to be a very useful bowler, taking 34 wickets that year.

Since then, Cameron has carried his batting form into Wellington's Hazlett Trophy in his native New Zealand homeland where he has been among the top scorers. The batsman continues to represent Nae Nae Old Boys Cricket Club back home and has also recently tied the knot.