

# WILLY WATSON

Right from his early years as a schoolboy at Paddock, Willie Watson seemed destined to play first-class cricket. He scored runs freely for the club as a teenager before making his Yorkshire 2<sup>nd</sup> XI debut as a 17-year-old. By 1939 he was making his 1<sup>st</sup> XI debut at the age of 19.



## **Willie Watson in the 1937 Byrom Shield- and Sykes Cup-winning team**

Watson made 13,953 runs for Yorkshire before moving on to Leicestershire in 1958. By the time he retired in 1964, his tally of first-class runs had reached 25,670 at an average of 39.86. He also played in 23 Test matches for England, between 1951 and 1959, scoring two centuries and three half-centuries.

Willie Watson is also remembered as one of a select band of 'dual' football and cricket internationals. He played four times for England at football and was released by Yorkshire to travel to Brazil with the World Cup squad in 1950.

