

HISTORY MAN

Ismail Dawood by Zak Data

Ismail Dawood is a popular figure among cricket fans in Yorkshire. He was the first Yorkshire-born Asian to play first-class cricket for the White Rose County.



Dawood started his career as a junior at Hanging Heaton. He was playing in the Bradford League in 2004 when the disappointing form of the Yorkshire wicketkeeper became an opportunity for Dawood to step in. After impressing for the second XI, he made his first-team debut in the Twenty20 Cup match against Derbyshire.

Dawood was born in Dewsbury, Yorkshire; he also played for England Under-19s against India in 1994, West Indies in 1994-95 and South Africa in 1995. While with

Glamorgan, Dawood showed that he was also a useful lower-order batsman, and in 1999 he recorded a maiden first-class hundred by making 102 against Gloucestershire at Cardiff after being promoted to open the batting after injuries to other players. Later in the season, he also created a new county record by not conceding a bye as Lancashire totalled 556 for 6 dec at Blackpool. Dawood left the county staff at the end of the 1999 season. After a spell out of cricket, he returned for Yorkshire in 2003. He has recently returned to Hanging Heaton and is enjoying playing cricket once again.

Ismail first realised he was going to be a professional cricketer when he was about 15 years old. He enjoyed the game and the fact he was good at the sport made him realise it was a blessing. He is a very humble and down-to-earth person. He is very grateful to have been able to play cricket and earn a living from the game.

Aside from cricket, Ismail loves to relax and spend time with his family. He enjoys nothing better than to take his younger cousins to Tropical World in Roundhay Park and have lunch with his mum. He is also a big fan of stand-up comedy and spends a lot of his free time attending various comedy clubs in the area.

Something which fans of Ismail may not know is that he enjoys reading; studying and horse racing are other interests. He also has the luxury of travelling to new places and learning about new cultures and customs. He has a keen interest in Egyptology which is the study of ancient civilization of Egypt.

Ismail remains confident Hanging Heaton will have a hugely successful season as long as they play plenty of quality cricket. On a personal level he would like to contribute to the team through good performances.

Finally, with the Ashes series approaching, Ismail believes that if England are mentally and physically prepared they will have a great chance of defeating Australia this summer.