

Cameron is

By **DAVID LOCKWOOD**
Sports Reporter

CAMERON CROSS ran amok for Slaithwaite at Paddock in one of the best performances in the Drakes League Conference.

The 25-year-old New Zealander helped himself to nine sixes and 12 fours in an unbeaten 140 as Slaithwaite smashed the day's top score — and probably one of the highest of the season — making 336-3.

Slaithwaite's cricket chairman, Chris Payne, who watched Cross's knock from the sidelines after falling himself cheaply, said: "Cameron was delighted to have got off to such a positive start in his Drakes League career, and we were all very pleased for him.

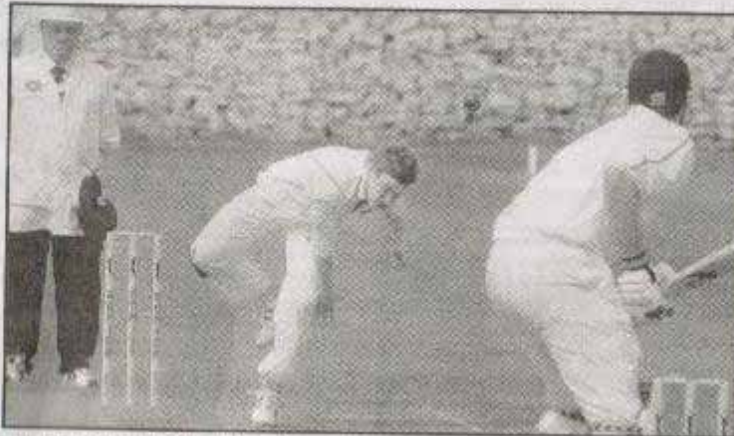
"But it was a knock very much out of character, because he is naturally a cautious batsman."

There was not much caution to his introduction into this match however, as his first four scoring strokes were all sixes!

"He hammered five sixes in his first 36 runs, and virtually all of his big boundaries came on the way to his century, as he helped himself to a lot of short pitched bowling which all ended up down the railway cutting."

Indeed at one time Paddock skipper Mark Turner said they

New Kiwi makes his mark as Slaithwaite scorch to victory



■ **LETTING FLY:** Elland paceman Danny Rhodes whips down a delivery during the top-flight clash against Meltham. (1695-15-06)

had used NINE balls throughout the duration of the match.

So many went over the top wall onto the railway lines that railway police apparently appeared on the scene to warn off the kids from retrieving them because of the danger from trains.

"It was Cameron's first proper innings, after last week's rain-affected run dash, and was a

great effort from him on his first season in the UK," added Payne.

Cross, is the younger brother of Steve Cross, who played at Kirkburton back in 1998, and comes from the Naenae club in Wellington.

He was not the only Slaithwaite batsman in the runs however, as skipper Dave Dove opened with 59, while Matt Garrety also

blasted six sixes in an unbeaten 80, putting on 173 with Cross in an unbroken fourth wicket stand.

Paddock did not help their own cause however, with no fewer than eight dropped catches.

Promising Slaithwaite pace bowler Chris Kilner then stepped in with five for 31 to knock the West View Rise men over for 84 in reply.

However, the biggest knock of the day — and the biggest since Brandon Nash blasted 235 two seasons back in the Sykes Cup — was Vikram Rathour's 234 for Linthwaite at Clayton West.

The former Indian Test player eclipsed his own previous best double double hundreds, made for Broad Oak in 2003, when he scored 217 and 202.

Taking advantage of a short Clayton boundary (and three dropped chances), Rathour belted an incredible 27 sixes, before he was dismissed in the 47th over.

His 234 equalled Atul Bedade's knock in 2002, but was some way behind the League record, which still stands to Shahid Nawaz who



■ WE'VE DONE IT: Slairwaite celebrate their Romida Sykes Cup quarter-final win over Colne Valley rivals Golcar. The 10-0-0-0-0-0 success, which earned a place in tomorrow's semi-final draw, was sealed last night.

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Slaithwaite stunner

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SLAITHWAITE dumped Drakes League high-flyers Golcar out of cricket's Romida Sykes Cup in a nail-biter at Hill Top.

While Lascelles Hall booked their semi-final slot by completing a far more comfortable 84-run win over Meltham last night, it was drama all the way at the Colne Valley derby.

With Conference club Slaithwaite resuming at 59.3 in response to Premiership team Golcar's 176, the tie was firmly in the balance.

And the home side suffered a setback before play even began, when not out batsman Richard Haslam was unable to continue his innings due to still being at work!

Matt Garrety found himself at the crease quicker than expected, and in joining Cameron Cross in a 96-run stand, seemed to have swung the game in Slaithwaite's favour.

Kiwi Cross batted superbly, putting away the bad balls and accelerating his innings as required, but after straight-driving Darren Robinson for his third six, he chipped straight to Liam Rothery at mid-on and was out for a fine 74.

Robinson bowled Wayne Beardsell and when Jeremy Brown had Ashley Scott caught by Dave Robinson, the momentum had shifted.

Garrety continued to bat sensibly, holding the lower order together, and he and Chris Kilner put on a crucial 23 before Darren Robinson got rid of Kilner when his dad Dave took his second straight catch behind the wicket with 11 still required.

MATT GARRETY:
Slaithwaite man was at the crease quicker than expected.



Adam Sylvester looked to have sealed it when he smashed a Rizwaan Haider delivery over mid-wicket for six, but then fell next ball, caught on the edge by Rothery trying to repeat the feat off the final ball of the 49th over with two needed.

That left wicketkeeper and last man Ian Holt to face the final over from Aussie quick Brown, who promptly served up a full toss which Holt gleefully put away for four.

At Meltham, the home side had virtually lost the game the previous day, slipping to 46-5 chasing the Hall's 214-8.

Alistair Farrell made 31 and there was a brave unbeaten 45 from second teamer John Armitage, but Australian duo Tim Cox (4-35), and Brett Chippendale (4-46) ensured there was no way back for Ian Swallow's men, who were sent back for 130.

No play was possible at Delph last night — the clash with Skelmanthorpe (who are 78-2 in reply to 275-8) will continue tonight (6.30) — while Shepley and Honley play on Sunday.

MELTHAM v LASCELLES HALL

LASCELLES HALL

Fraine c Farrell b Hinchliffe	83
Homer c Walker b Hinchliffe	16
Booth c Walker b Hussain (S)	8
Gardiner run out	16
Cox b Hussain (F)	8
Robshaw c and b Hinchliffe	9
Chippendale b Swallow (A)	31
Woodhams c and b Hinchliffe	2
Thackeray not out	7
Ingham not out	8
Extras	26

50 overs	Total (for 8)	214
Hinchliffe 13-1-60-4	Holroyd 6-1-21-0	
Hussain (S) 5-1-29-1	Hussain (F) 15-1-37-1	
Swallow (A) 10-1-49-1		

MELTHAM

Swallow (A) c Gardiner b Cox	0
Hussain (F) lbw b Chippendale	1
Swallow (I) c Woodhams b Chippendale	1
Farrell b Cox	31
Pasker lbw b Cox	11
Holroyd b Cox	20
Armitage not out	45
Hinchliffe c Woodhams b Chippendale	5
Walker c and b Keen	9
Extras	7

43.3 overs	Total (for 9)	190
Cox 15-6-35-4	Chippendale 14-2-46-4	
Hornar 12-4-41-0	Keen 2-3-1-3-1	

SLAITHWAITE v GOLCAR

GOLCAR

Whitwam lbw b Garrety	22
Crook c Holt b Garrety	7
Brown b Garrety	0
Robinson (Dar) c Sylvester b Haslam	49
Illingworth c Dove b Kilner	55
Fawcett lbw b Berry	2
Haider c Welsh b Berry	3
Crowther b Berry	16
Rothery not out	6
Law b Berry	1
Robinson (Dav) b Kilner	2
Extras	13

46 overs	Total	176
Garrety 11-4-37-3	Kilner 7-0-35-2	Haslam 8-0-29-1
Berry 12-1-29-4	Cross 6-1-36-0	

SLAITHWAITE

Berry c Fawcett b Brown	9
Dove c and b Brown	2
Welsh c Haider b Brown	7
Cross c Rothery b Robinson (Dar)	74
Haslam absent	12
Garrety not out	33
Beardsell b Robinson (Dar)	4
Scott c Robinson (Dav) b Brown	1
Kilner c Robinson (Dav) b Robinson (Dar)	11
Sylvester c Rothery b Haider	8
Holt not out	4
Extras	14

49.1 overs	Total (for 9)	179
Brown 14-1-4-50-4	Whitwam 15-7-27-0	
Haider 6-0-27-1	Crook 5-0-16-0	Robinson (Dar) 9-0-48-3