

## My dream, My ambition was ended because of an illness

### “I was called Nasser Hussain”

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By Ednan Hussain

Cricket; what is cricket defined as; the definition for some is that cricket is a game, which can be played for either 5 days, or 50 overs. But what does cricket mean to me? Cricket is a part of me, since childhood I have had a dream of lifting the World Cup, being the best. It started at the playground in the primary school where we had P.E. and played cricket, I can remember the teacher getting frustrated at me for not getting me out. I can also remember in year 6 when in a PE lesson, we could bowl for the first time in PE, after just 6 balls the teacher banned me, because out of the six balls none were player able. My teacher afterwards recognised this and said “one day you will achieve your dream” I looked at him in bewilderment, I was only 11. When I went to the secondary school, again a catholic school there was only 2 Asian lads in my year and about 4 or 5 in all school. When we played cricket at school, at times I was getting frustrated

because whichever team I represented always won in cricket, At the PE lessons whoever was chosen captain, used to pick me straight away, winning to me was becoming second nature. In the later years at the school we organised a cricket match between ourselves and the school next door, which ironically was full of Asians.

Unsurprisingly the teacher selected me as a captain, and everyone at my school during cricket practises used to call me “Nasser Hussain”, who at the time was the England captain, Why? Because Nasser to the public was a leader, he had an Asian name, an Asian background and most sufficiently was the first Asian captain for England. But why did they call me Nasser: Ironically, at my school there was only a handful Asians, and none of the Asians ever represented the school, but history was made when I became the first Asian captain of my school! The other reason why they called me Nasser was because of my

surname Hussain. My PE teacher himself represented Yorkshire Cricket Club, as a reserve wicket keeper, and was a member of Yorkshire CC. he recommended me for trials at Yorkshire CC. I was excited, ecstatic when David Byas invited me for trials, but 3 weeks before the trials I ended up in hospital because of my asthma, as I was opening fast bowler, speed and accuracy was everything I had, but after my asthma attack, I lost some paces, and on the trials day I could not deliver to my potential. I was frustrated, angry, but there was nothing I could do. It was over, my dream was over, my life seemed over. A year later I decided to return to cricket, and give it one more shot, I trained with Hanging Heaton Cricket Club, but again after 2 solid months of training, my asthma kicked in and I was diagnosed with asthma, which literally ended any hope of a cricket player. However cricket will always be a part of me either if I am a spectator or a journalist, Cricket is in my blood!