

# YOUN GUN TURNED OLD PRO!

## Profile of Paul Jarvis by Michael Ward



Paul Jarvis already had a claim to fame when he arrived at Mount Pleasant to begin a year with Batley County Cricket club in 1983. Two years earlier he had become Yorkshire's youngest ever player to appear in a County Championship match at just sixteen years old. The right-arm fast bowler from Redcar was widely predicted to have a great future in the game.

The move to Batley though was mutually beneficial for both parties as Jarvis gained much needed experience which, in turn, enabled him to take the wickets that helped Batley recover from relegation the previous year. Fresh from this positive spell he returned to Yorkshire, only to spend the next two years nursing various injuries. Some believe these injuries were the result of over bowling in his teens and they would constantly blight his career.

Undeterred, Jarvis marked his return to fitness with his first county cap, but it was the following year that was to be the best of his career. In 1987 Jarvis helped Yorkshire to win the Benson and Hedges Cup, producing a great display in the final, taking 4 wickets for 43 runs in the final versus Northants. Jarvis also took a career high number of wickets: 81.

His form led to his first England call-up for the winter tour of Pakistan, New Zealand and Australia. Jarvis made a positive debut at Christchurch against

New Zealand taking 4 wickets; however, he only took 2 wickets in the following game, which led to him being dropped for the last Test. He was recalled for the home series against the West Indies and was making a great case to keep his place, scoring 29 not out and taking 4-107 at Lord's. Unfortunately a back strain caused him not just to miss the rest of the series but a whole year of Test cricket.

Jarvis did fight his way back against Australia at Lord's but despite bowling well he failed to take a wicket and after repeating this again at Edgbaston he was dropped from the team. After that disappointment he took part in an England rebel tour of then Apartheid South Africa. This resulted in most players, including Jarvis, being banned from Test cricket for three years.

Following the early removal of the ban, Jarvis was picked for England's tour of India and Sri Lanka. In the first two Tests he took 4 wickets yet India thrashed England on both occasions. But yet again despite having appeared to do more than enough to keep his place in a poor side, he was dropped. Jarvis' last ever Test came in Colombo against Sri Lanka and he will probably remember the tour for his man-of-the-match performance in a One Day International against India.

At the beginning of the 1993 season Jarvis joined Sussex, having been released by Yorkshire. He made a bright start taking 51 wickets, which earned him his second county cap. Unfortunately he spent most of the next three seasons on the sidelines with injuries. Jarvis left Sussex for Somerset in 1998, yet he fared little better there and ended his career in county cricket in 2000. So despite appearing to have the world at his feet, bad luck with injuries cost Paul Jarvis the chance to show the full extent of his talent. Despite this he played 9 Tests and 16 ODIs for England and took over 650 wickets in a still successful career.

#### Sources

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