



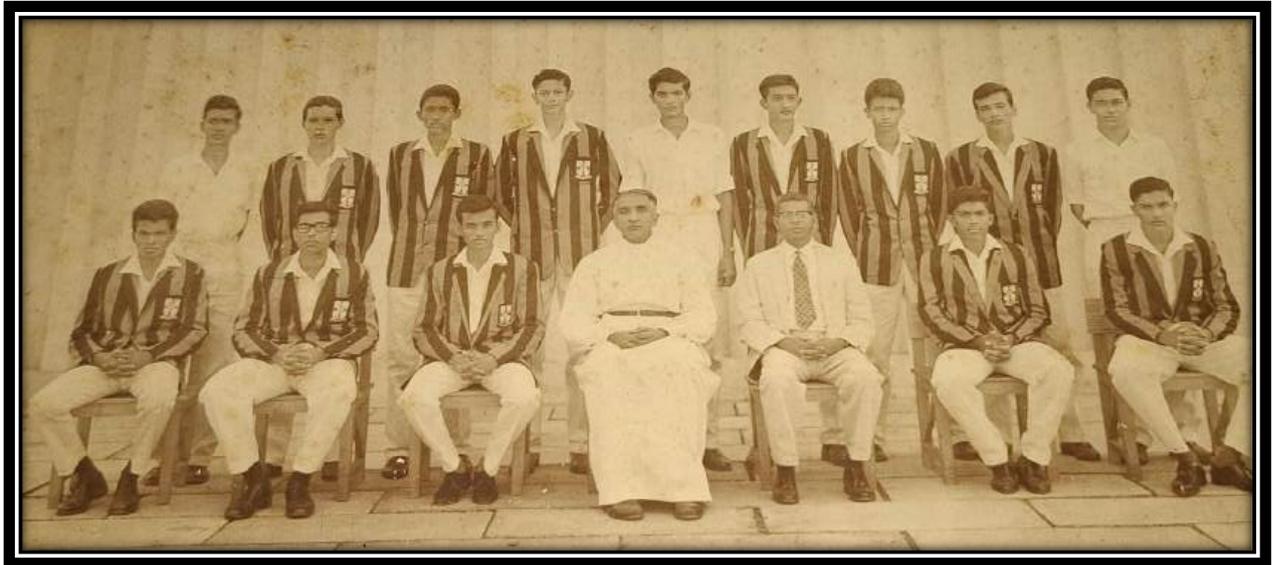
## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1966 STC Cricket Season



**The Two Architects of STC's Remarkable Campaign  
Skipper Anura Tennekoon & Deputy, Sriantha Rajapakse**

(compiled by Ravi Rudra)

## WINNERS OF THE 'LIFE BUOY SHIELD' FOR THE BEST SCHOOLBOY TEAM



**Standing (L-R):** N.M. Wijesooriya, A.T. Baines, P.L.D. Kariyawasam, A.M. Perera, J.H. Reid, M.D.C.W. Jayasekera, S.S. Condegama, D.R. Chanmugam, V.L. Weerakoon (Scorer).

**Seated (L-R):** R.F. Mendis, T.M. de Silva, A.P.B. Tennekoon (Capt.), Warden (Rev. A.J.C. Selvaratnam), Mr. O.A. Abeynaike (Coach & Master-in-Charge), S.J. Rajapakse (Vice-captain), J.D. Bandaranayake.

**Absent:** D.A. Ponniah, P. Schoorman.

Master-in-Charge:        Mr. O.A. Abeynaike

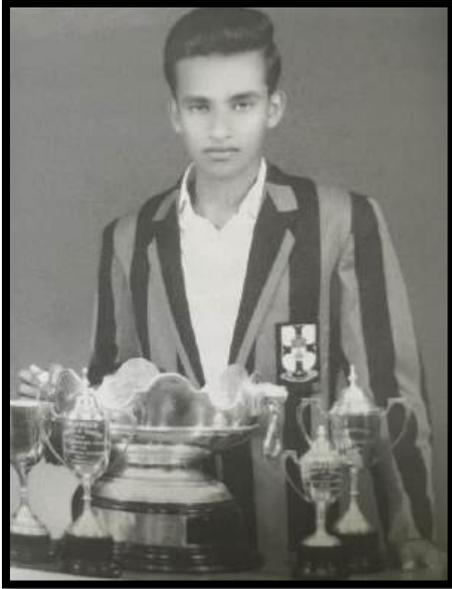
Captain:                    A.P.B. Tennekoon

Vice-Captain:            S.J. Rajapakse

“Considering the fact that our team this season had only two Coloursmen from the previous year, we did exceptionally well to win Ten of the games played, the other Four matches being left drawn.

In the Times of Ceylon Competition, we were given Four awards – Anura Tennekoon was selected as the Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year (1966) and Best Batsman; Sriantha Rajapakse was selected Best Fielder and the Thomian XI was voted Best Team and awarded the ‘Life Buoy Shield’.

This is the second successive year that STC has won Four awards.



\* [In 1965, Barney Reid was voted Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year & Best Bowler; Sarath Seneviratne - Best Fielder; and STC – The Best School Team. Anura Tennekoon also won the Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award & Best Batsman awards in 1964, most likely the first schoolboy to achieve this unique accomplishments twice – RR].

Earlier in the season, **Sriantha Rajapakse** was appointed Captain of the Ceylon Schools' Cricket Eleven (Under 19) which met the London Schools' XI and an Australian Schools' XI. Tilak ('TM') de Silva too found a place in the Ceylon Schools side.

**Anura Tennekoon** was appointed Captain of the Combined Schools XI for the Cricket Pentangular Tournament; he was also included in the C.C.A. President's XI for the Gopalan Trophy match, and in the All-Ceylon Team for the match against the MCC team in November 1965.

Sriantha Rajapakse too played for the Combined Schools, and was 12<sup>th</sup> Man of the C.C.A. President's XI.

The following represented Colombo South in the Zonal Tournament:-

#### UNDER 20

A.P.B. Tennekoon

S.J. Rajapakse

M.D.C.W. Jayasekera

J.D. Bandaranayake

#### UNDER 18

P.L.D. Kariyawasam

D.R. Chanmugam

D.A. Ponniah

At the end of the season, Colours were re-awarded to A.P.B. Tennekoon and S.J. Rajapakse; the new Coloursmen were T.M. de Silva, J.D. Bandaranayake, R.F. Mendis, M.D.C.W. Jayasekera, D.R. Chanmugam, P.L.D. Kariyawasam, A.M. Perera, A.T. Baines and S.S. Condegama.

The Senior Inter-House tournament was conducted on a similar lines to the 'Observer Cup Tourney' as this system proved a success last year. This year, bonus points too were introduced and Miller-Chapman emerged Winners."

- Tilak De Silva (Secretary)

## Results of the Season Matches

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Term 1965 Fixtures

#### 1. Vs. Zahira

**STC: 174** (A. Tennekoon 48, P. Kariyawasam 24) & **83** for 2 dec. (A.M. Perera 23\*, A. Tennekoon 38).

**Zahira: 80** (J.H. Reid 2 for 3, A. Tennekoon 3 for 11) & **88** (D.R. Chanmugam 3 for 6, J.D. Bandaranayake 4 for 13).

**STC won by 89 runs**

#### 2. Vs. St. Sebastian's

**STC: 239** for 5 dec. (A. Tennekoon 82, T.M. de Silva 42\*, P. Kariyawasam 38\*, S.J. Rajapakse 28, A.T. Baines 25).

**St. Sebastian's: 59** (D.R. Chanmugam 4 for 23, T.M. de Silva 3 for 13) & **78** (A. Tennekoon 5 for 7).

**STC won by an Innings and 102 runs**

#### 3. Vs. Prince of Wales

**Prince of Wales: 133** (A. Tennekoon 5 for 32, J.D. Bandaranayake 2 for 21) & **129** (S.J. Rajapakse 3 for 28, J.D. Bandaranayake 3 for 10).

**STC: 137** (M. Jayasekera 27, A.T. Baines 24, A. Tennekoon 22, D.A. Ponniah 18) & **127** for 4 dec. (A. Tennekoon 66\*).

**STC won by 06 wickets**



THOMIAN Captain Anura Tennekoon swivelled that ball with pestering accuracy. Dizzy by the spin, Prince of Wales stumbled along crazily, striving to show decency on the scoreboard. But Tennekoon's spinners, with five wickets, left them in destruction that seemed beyond repair. The scoreboard read 67 for 8. And when tiny, 14-year-old fresher, RAY FERNANDO made his entry, he did not look the exact man for the job. But he proved wrong.

The "little one" battled on for 90 long minutes to keep his end intact. Stroking the ball with assurance, he had the Thomian attack fidgeting impatiently, waiting for that breakthrough.

#### *Heroic role*

While Ray Fernando blunted the edge of the Thomian attack with his prim and proper stroke play, at the other end another FERNANDO (P.R.) fanned a happy willow. Stealthily, the Prince of Wales total ballooned from 67 for 8 to a tidy 133. Such a total, built from ruins, was satisfying indeed before P.R. Fernando's willow went to extreme exuberance. He waltzed out of the crease to drive, but failed to get hold of the ball from leg-spinner JD Bandaranayake, and gave a catch to Chanmugam at cover point. He scored 41 valuable runs, that had four fours and took him 93 minutes.

Ray Fernando continued to play with responsibility, but ran out of partners. He remained unbeaten with 19 runs, playing a heroic role. The two Fernandos were associated in 66-run partnership that lasted 90 minutes for the ninth wicket – a feat that helped Prince of Wales share the honours on the first day with S. Thomas' at Mt. Lavinia.

Prince of Wales lost their first two wickets for just 6 runs, till opener Srinath Silva waded into the bowling with gusto and lashed a brisk 27. He was bowled by Tennekoon. And once Srinath was out the collapse occurred and eight wickets were down for 67 with Tennekoon's left arm spinners causing the rot.

Tennekoon was unlucky to miss his hat-trick and finished with five for 32.

Mohan Jayasekera (27) and David Ponniah (18) gave the Thomians a fine start by putting on 41 for the first wicket.

**An Old Thomian travelled 72 miles to see Anura Tennekoon**, the Thomian skipper, in action. Although Tennekoon didn't strike a good patch, his 22 runs were enough for this old boy. He enthused over the stroke play and a wide smile stretched across his face every time Tennekoon stroked the ball and contributed to tot his runs on elegance alone. His brief, but bright innings, included three classic boundaries. However, he fell when he walked up to drive, failed to gauge the pitch of the ball – and spooned a catch back to the bowler.



However, it was not “all-Tennekoon’ in this Thomian innings. Watch out for that **BAINES** boy! Powerfully built, he strokes the ball with surety and power. Technically sound, **Trevor Baines** (left) plays his stroke in front of the wicket, thus eliminating the risks that comes off hooks and cuts. It took him almost three full overs to scamper off the mark, and when he did, he produced stroke play of rich variety. He scored 24, of which 20 were boundaries, mostly off sparkling cover drives.

Baines, who had showed good temperament, played one fault stroke and that proved to be his undoing. He attempted to play across the line of a ball that came shin-high, missed, and was ruled out leg before. Tennakoon and Baines put on 35 runs for the fourth wicket in 30 minutes.

#### *No patience*

S. Thomas’ had to fight hard to get their runs in reply and at close they were 129 for 8 with all the best batsmen back in the dressing room.

It was leg spinner, Lloyd Patternot, that contributed to the Thomian torment too and they were trailing 4 runs behind with just two wickets intact at stumps. Patternot bowled with nagging persistency, dead on the stumps and tampered with the Thomian batmen’s patience. Four batsmen lost their patience and their wickets to Patternot who had claimed 4 for 23 at the close and should be the Thomians’ ‘bug-bear’ when the match continues today at 12 noon. Skipper H.L. de Silva had taken 2 for 60.

4. Vs. Dharmarajah

STC: 226 for 6 dec. (A. Tennekoon 69, M. Jayasekera 44, S.J. Rajapakse 38\*).

Dharmarajah: 103 (S.J. Rajapakse 5 for 25) & 51 (S.J. Rajapakse 4 for 13).

**STC won by an Innings and 72 runs**

5. Vs. Dharmapala

STC: 227 for 4 dec. (A. Tennekoon 42, D.A. Ponniah 41, P.L.D. Kariyawasam 48\*, S.J. Rajapakse 40\*).

Dharmapala: 115 (K.G. Perera 5 for 30) & 98 (A. Tennekoon 3 for 11, P. Kariyawasam 2 for 6).

**STC won by an Innings and 14 runs**

1<sup>st</sup> Term 1966 Fixtures

6. Vs. Mahinda (Jan 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> at Mt. Lavinia)

STC: 262 (A. Tennekoon 88, D.A. Ponniah 39, T.M. de Silva 38, P. Kariyawasam 28, M. Jayasekera 24).

Mahinda: 63 (T.M. de Silva 3 for 19, A. Tennekoon 3 for 10, S.J. Rajapakse 2 for 4) & 20 (A. Tennekoon 6 for 5, T.M. de Silva 2 for 8).

**STC won by an Innings and 179 runs**

7. Vs. Nalanda (Jan 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> at Mt. Lavinia)

Nalanda: 139 (S.J. Rajapakse 5 for 31, J.D. Bandaranayake 3 for 21) & 102 (J.H. Reid 2 for 06, A. Tennekoon 2 for 16, P. Kariyawasam 2 for 24).

STC: 187 for 7 dec. (R.F. Mendis 64\*, A.M. Perera 24, A. Tennekoon 19, P. Kariyawasam 16, J.D. Bandaranayake 16\*) & 58 for 7 (M. Jayasekera 33).

**STC won by 03 wickets**

**8. Vs. Ananda (Jan 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> at Vihara Maha Devi Park)**

**Ananda: 81** (S.J. Rajapakse 3 for 10, D.R. Chanmugam 3 for 14) & **198 for 9** (A. Tennekoon 3 for 46, P. Kariyawasam 3 for 53).

**STC: 228 for 7 dec.** (S.J. Rajapakse 102\*, A. Tennekoon 27, T.M. de Silva 19, J.D. Bandaranayake 19\*, R.F. Mendis 16).

**Drawn**

“Ananda had a powerful side that had Sunil Wettimuny, Lalith Gunaratne, AG Perera among a host of other good players in their team. They normally played their matches at Nalanda grounds on the mat. The ground was not available and therefore they played at the Nomads grounds. College missed winning that game, after routing them for a low score in their first innings, which would have made it the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive win for the season. That is how good Anura's team was.” – Ajit Jayasekera

**9. Vs. Wesley (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Feb at Campbell Park)**

**Wesley: 81** (A. Tennekoon 4 for 02, P.L.D. Kariyawasam 3 for 17, D.R. Chanmugam 2 for 9) & **156** (P.L.D. Kariyawasam 4 for 16, J.D. Bandaranayake 2 for 24, A. Tennekoon 2 for 28, D.R. Chanmugam 2 for 29).

**STC: 267 for 5 dec.** (A. Tennekoon 110, A.M. Perera 35, M. Jayasekera 30, R.F. Mendis 21, P.L.D. Kariyawasam 21).

**STC won by an Innings and 30 runs**

**10. Vs. St. Joseph's (Feb 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> at Mt. Lavinia)**

**STC: 212** (A. Tennekoon 58, R.F. Mendis 49, D.R. Chanmugam 38, J.D. Bandaranayake 31\*, P. Kariyawasam 15; P. Wijesekera 3 for 51, L. Rodrigo 3 for 28, P. Samarasinghe 2 for 36) & **56 for 2 dec.** (A. Tennekoon 27\*, M. Jayasekera 20).

**St. Joseph's: 106** (P. Wijesekera 43, N. de Alwis 16, L. de S. Wijeratne 14, L. Rodrigo 12\*, A. Tennekoon 3 for 17, S.J. Rajapakse 5 for 17) & **159** (P. Wijesekera 26, K. Johnpillai 12, S. Wanigasekera 60, L. de S. Wijeratne 37, A. Tennekoon 3 for 29, S.J. Rajapakse 4 for 34, S.S. Condegama 2 for 33).

**STC won by 08 wickets**

## *Thomians in sound position*

S. THOMAS' COLLEGE, MT. LAVINIA were in a very sound position at the close of first day's play in their inter-school cricket match against St. Joseph's on their turf wicket. After scoring 212 in the first innings they had captured seven Josephine wickets for 75 runs.

Both teams suffered sensational batting collapses; S. Thomas' batting first, lost half the side for just 32 runs. And St. Joseph's after having 60 for NO loss at the beginning of their innings, lost five wickets in the sixties for 9 runs and the score slumped to 69 for 5.

### *Captain's innings*

Tennekoon again played a captain's innings for s. Thomas' and what is more, when St. Joseph's batted, and the runs came very fast off the pace bowlers, he brought on Sriantha Rajapakse at the scoreboard end to capture two wickets in the first over while he bowled at the pavilion end with similar effect. They have captured three wickets each.

The Josephians were unfortunate that opener Polycarp Wijesekera had to retire with cramp when his score was 43, and the total 60. The Josephians 50 came in only 34 minutes. They now face the grim ordeal of collecting 35 runs to avert the follow on.

The start of play was sensational. The first ball sent down by L. Rodrigo gave the show away. There was moisture in the wicket. And until it dried out the Josephian seamers made the most of it. Rodrigo, Wijesekera and Samarasinghe proving most difficult.

Tennekoon weathered this storm, using sound methods, and when the pitch eased up, he used some delightful strokes to score 58 in which he had nine boundaries. Rabin Mendis attacked for his 49 which included five fours and Dennis Chanmugam had four 4's in his aggressive innings of 38.

The Thomians were all out at 4.25 p.m., and from the first ball Wijesekera treated the Thomian attack with scant respect. He hit five fours in his 43 not out. The fielding from both teams was not as good as it is normally.

## STC BY EIGHT WICKETS

(Sunday Mirror)

S. Thomas's beat St. Joseph's by eight wickets in their inter-school encounter which ended at Mt. Lavinia. The Thomians owe their victory to skipper Anura Tennekoon and vice-captain Sriantha Rajapakse. Tennekoon followed up his fine first innings knock of 58 to remain unbeaten with 27 when victory was achieved. In addition to his success with the bat, he bowled well to collect a match bag of six wickets for 46 runs. Rajapakse was virtually unplayable and had a match bag of nine wickets for 51 runs.

The Josephians were saved from an innings defeat by a fighting seventh wicket stand of 78 runs in 60 minutes by S. Wanigasekera and L. de S. Wijeratne. Coming together with the Josephians total at 66 runs for 6 wickets in their follow-on, both Wanigasekera and Wijeratne played the bowling with confidence and helped to save St. Joseph's from an innings defeat.

Wijeratne was the first to go at 144 when he failed to get over a drive, and was bowled by Rajapakse for 37. He had two fours in his knock. Wanigasekera followed a few runs later, when he failed to connect with an intended pull to leg and was out lbw off Tennekoon. The Josephians finally folded up for 159 leaving the Thomians to get 54 for victory. The Thomians lost two wickets in their bid to victory. **This was their fourth outright win in five games played so far this season.**

Earlier the Josephians failed to avert the follow-on, being dismissed for 106 runs in the first innings, after resuming at 77 runs for seven wickets. Opener P. Wijesekera, who had retired the previous day after a breezy 43, came in at the fall of the ninth wicket at 106, but soon fell - caught by R. Mendis off Rajapakse without adding to his tally.

### 11. Vs. St. Benedict's (Feb 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> at Kotahena)

**STC: 223 for 6 dec. (A. Tennekoon 63, M. Jayasekera 47, A.M. Perera 38, A.T. Baines 37\*, T.M. de Silva 14\*).**

**St. Benedict's: 89 (A. Tennekoon 2 for 02, D.R. Chanmugam 2 for 14, S.J. Rajapakse 2 for 15, S.S. Condegama 2 for 16) & 78 (S.J. Rajapakse 4 for 22, P. Kariyawasam 3 for 3, J.D. Bandaranayake 2 for 12).**

**STC won by an Innings and 56 runs**

## Unruly scenes after play at Kotahena

A RUN-OUT decision by the bowler's end umpire, D.W. Tissaarachchy in which he ruled Benedictine skipper Felix Dias run out, before he could score a run, sparked off ugly scenes at the end of the first day's play between S. Thomas' and St. Benedict's at Kotahena.

Immediately the day's play was over and while the umpires were strolling back to the pavilion a few unruly elements from the crowd stoned the umpire and one miscreant added comic relief by bolting away with umpire Tissaarachchy's hat. Both umpires were hurt in the head by stones thrown from a distance. Umpire Tissaarachchy told that he has umpired for the last eight years and it is the first time he was involved in an incident of this nature. "As far as I am concerned Felix Dias was out! His bat was in the air while the wicket was broken." The umpire had to be escorted out of the grounds.

### *Sparkling innings*

A sparkling innings of 63 by Thomian captain Anura Tennekoon was the main bright spot when S. Thomas' declared their innings with the score at 223 for six and consolidated their position by capturing two good Benedictine wickets for 26 at stumps. Tennekoon, who had a close call when he was four at leg slip, showed his delightful touch as he went on to stroke nine boundaries in his 63. He deftly flicked the first ball he faced to the mid-wicket fence and thereafter began to settle down to business.

S. Thomas' received a fine start of 61 runs for the first wicket by Mohan Jayasekera (47) and A. Mohan Perera (38). Jayasekera was the more aggressive of the two. Then A.M. Perera and Tennekoon added 79 runs for the second wicket before Perera's painstaking innings was wrecked by Brian Pereira.

### *Best figures*

Fresher A.T. Baines, who came in to bat when Sriantha Rajapakse was run out without scoring, was all nerves at the outset but got a steady 37 not out. His best strokes were two drives off A. Withanachi to the ropes – both past the bowler. Brian Pereira two for 42 and Tony Appadurai, who bowled his leg-breaks effectively, with two for 48 had the best figures. Withanachi toiled hard right through the day without luck.

The Bens fielding was shoddy. St. Benedict's with Kumar Ramanthan bowled by Condegama for 8 and Felix Dias run out for 0, are 26 for the loss of two wickets at stumps on day one, Appadurai being 12 not out.

## Thomians Win By An Innings

### *Umpires fail to turn up!*

SRIYANTHA RAJAPAKSE, the eighteen-year old Thomian off-spinner, spun 5.



Thomas' to a convincing innings and 56 runs triumph over the hitherto unbeaten Benedictines on the Kotahena turf with 15 minutes to spare.



The Thomian keeper Mohan Jaysekera appeals for a catch behind off Benedictine batsman Brian Perera, but the appeal was disallowed. An incident in the Benedictine-Thomian clash which ended in an innings victory for the Thomians.

After the first day's incidents in which the umpires D.W. Tissaarachchy and G.J. Hamer were injured by stones hurled at them by unruly mob, they refused to stand yesterday. The gaps were filled by R. Bertie Wijesinha and Orville Abeynaike, the coaches of the two teams, and the match proceeded without any of the first day's eruptions.

The Benedictines nose-dived to paltry totals of 89 and 78 and found Rajapakse's heady bowling a problem to cope with. Rajapakse finished up with a match bag of six wickets for 41 runs – two for 19 in the first innings after sending down 20 overs, 11 of which were maidens. In the second innings he bagged four for 22 in 15.3 overs.

The Benedictines first innings lasted 182 minutes and the second just 146 minutes. Continuing their first innings from 26 for two they were bundled out for 89.

Tony Appadurai top scored with 25 while fresher Wickremasinghe remained unbeaten with 13. Bowling honours were shared by Dennis Cghanmugam two for 14, S.J. Rajapakse two for 19, Anura Tennekoon two for two and S.S. Condegama two for 36.

### Top Scored

With Appadurai's stumps being disturbed by a beauty from paceman Dennis Chanmugam for 0 and the total at 4, the Benedictines began their follow-on in dismal fashion. The only modicum of resistance came from Kumar Ramanathan. He scored 30 and added 30 runs for the third wicket with B. Pereira. The third wicket fell at 50 and the next seven wickets for just 28 runs!

Rajapakse flighted his off spin well and varied his pace to tie down the Benedictine batsman while Prabodha Kariyawasam, the young off-spinner, helped in with three for three in ten overs with seven maidens and leg-spinner J.D. Bandaranayake captured two for 12 off his ten overs.

**The Thomians were on their toes right through the day. It was team spirit and team work, superbly led by skipper Tennekoon, that really pulled them on to this splendid win and that too with nine freshers in the side.**

*"It was a wonderful season and our victory by an innings against St Benedict's was the highlight as everyone in our team contributed to our win against a strong Benedictine team captained by Felix Dias and had Tony Appadurai and Kumar Ramanathan, as well as two very good opening bowlers who had already played for Ceylon Schools by then. This was an outstanding performance by this whole Thomian team."* – Mohan Jayasekera.

*"College played a powerful St Benedicts team led by Felix Dias at Kotahena. Late on the first day, their star bat Felix Dias was given out and the crowd rioted. They refused to stand on the following day. So, the solution was for the two team coaches to stand as Umpires - Orville Abeynaike (STC coach) and Bertie Wijesinha (SBC coach). Both Thomians as you know. They did a great job. We won by innings. No, Not because of the Umpires!!"* – Ajit Jayasekera

## **12.Vs. Trinity (Feb 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> at Mt Lavinia)**

**Trinity: 198 (A. Tennekoon 4 for 27, P. Kariyawasam 3 for 35, S.J. Rajapakse 2 for 54) & 153 for 2 dec.**

**STC: 134 (A. Tennekoon 39, T.M. de Silva 16, R.F. Mendis 11) & 112 for 7 (M. Jayasekera 22, S.J. Rajapakse 24, P. Kariyawasam 21\*).**

**Drawn**

### **13.Vs. St. Peter's (March 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> at Mt. Lavinia)**

STC: 250 for 8 dec. (A. Tennekoon 66, S.J. Rajapakse 99, P. Kariyawasam 24\*).

St. Peter's: 108 (S.S. Condegama 4 for 16, T.M. de Silva 3 for 14, A. Tennekoon 2 for 14) & 267 (S.S. Condegama 2 for 50, S.J. Rajapakse 4 for 53).

\* Peter de Niese, an hard-hitting left hand batsman, counter-attacked brilliantly to score a classy century for SPC in the second innings to thwart any chances the Thomians may have had of securing another victory - RR

Drawn

## **THOMIANS STAGE 'DRESS REHEARSAL'**

IN what was actually a 'Past-vs-Present' affair S. Thomas' nosed to a 26-run win over the SSC in a 'friendly' played at Maitland Place on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 1966. Though the result was immaterial, the match being envisaged as a final outing for the Thomians before the 'Big Match', valuable experience accrued from the encounter.

S. Thomas's taking first lease of the wicket had a shock start when both openers were sent back with only 4 on the board. Anura Tennekoon coming in one down could not play the usual role of redeemer. He was well fixed by erstwhile teammate H.S.M. Pieris who sent him a well-pitched delivery on his leg stump, which Anura obligingly scooped up to Welgama at leg-slip for no score. Total 12 for 3 wickets.

A stout-hearted partnership between middle-order batsmen Trevor Baines, Sriantha Rajapakse and Prabodha Kariyawasam stemmed a total collapse. Baines top scored with 63. He produced a variety of elegant strokes all around the wicket and collected 8 fours in the process.

Tail-ender Dennis Chanmugam did his bit by adding 30 into the kitty to make up a total collection for the schoolboys of 187 runs. (*\*coincidentally 187 would be the exact total STC would make, four days later, in their first innings against Royal after winning the toss and batting - RR*).

Thomians had their fill of a pace attack from N. Welgama, P.I. Pieris and H.S.M. Pieris. R.B. 'Bertie' Wijesinghe provided the variety, while Ceylon off-spinner Neil Chanmugam bowled best with figures of 4 for 40.



The Thomians fought back gallantly and had driven the wedge fairly in when they had nabbed four SSC wickets for 49.

But, Bertie Wijesinha (left) and Ian (PI) Pieris in an unbroken stand of 101 runs gave the boys the best pre-match coaching they could get with an immaculate exhibition of copy book batting. These two Alumni sportingly retired when in their sixties, and made it possible for the youngsters to steal a narrow win!

**STC: 187** – A.T. Baines 63, S.J. Rajapakse 23, P.L.D. Kariyawasam 30, J.R.D. Bandaranayake 14, D.R. Chanmugam 30; N. Welgama 01 for 20; H.S.M. Pieris 2 for 45; N. Chanmugam 4 for 40, P.I. Pieris 2 for 20, P. Schoorman 01 for 11.

**S.S.C: 161** - R.B. Wijesinha 60 (\*retired), P.I. Pieris 64 (\*retired), R.P. Samarasinghe 16 (run out); S.S. Condegama 3 for 40, D.R. Chanmugam 01 for 19, J.R.D. Bandaranayake 3 for 20 (\*In the 'Battle of the Brothers' - Neil Chanmugam b Dennis Chanmugam 03).

### 1966 RT Souvenir – Thomian 1st XI Team Photo



**Standing** (L-R): N.M. Wijesooriya, A.T. Baines, S.S. Condegama, A.M. Perera, J.H. Reid, P.L.D. Kariyawasam, V.L. Weerakoon. (scorer).

**Seated** (L-R): M.D.C.W. Jayasekera, J.D. Bandaranayake, S.J. Rajapakse, A.P.B. Tennekoon (Capt.), T.M. de Silva, R.F. Mendis, D.R. Chanmugam.

**Absent:** D.A. Ponniah, P. Schoorman.

## 1966 Thomian Souvenir

## FOR BETTER, FOR VERSE

The 'seed' from the hill, but what a mighty one,  
 Skipper Anura will charm, and he'll thrill ev-  
 When he walks to the wicket, his willow to w,  
 The bowlers they say, start running off the field.

The 'parrot' from the Flats is second-in-command  
 With the sweet young ones he is much in demand.  
 Though small in size, his deeds astonish,  
 Whatever they send down, he sure will punish.

Portly, spectacled, hardhitting T. M.  
 If he gets going, the bowlers-pity'em  
 A plate of rice is his real best friend,  
 But to field a ball, he hates to bend.

Tall, lanky, Mohan, the stylish keeper,  
 With his disarming smile—but his talents go deeper.  
 Facing the new ball he takes in his stride,  
 But leave your crease, that's the last you've tried.

He is a Mendis (special) and a Thomian true,  
 He is Midnight Black and Robin Blue.  
 A batsman of merit and an actor of repute;  
 And his talents as a singer nobody can refute.

Jayampathy Banda with leg-spin and flight,  
 Can run through a side, with hardly any fight.  
 With a bat in his hand he is equally at ease,  
 Graceful and stylish and charming he is.

"Dennis the Menace" short, fair and handsome,  
 Knocks back the wickets, with a smile that is winsome.  
 An all-Ceylon Cap is his ultimate aim,  
 And with bat or with ball, he lives up to his name.

"Height without breadth," what a ghost you will say,  
 Tall dark and handsome(?), that is P. L. D. K.  
 He can send down his off spin with plenty of flight,  
 And put him in a tight spot, he'll show you how to fight.

Trevor Baines, is a determined young fighter,  
 If he gets set, they'll never shift the blighter,  
 Fielding the ball is not his favourite pastime,  
 And his motto we hear, is "Be ready for Mealtime."

“China Tony” of Badminton fame,  
Smiles his way through the entire game,  
The Chinese girls are the best, he says,  
And to go back there he is counting the days.

The latest star in the Thomian sky.  
Is Condegama—so quiet and so shy,  
With film star looks, many hearts he will shatter,  
With inswing bowling, their wickets he will scatter.

THE GAME HAS BEGUN AND TRUE THOMIANS ALL,  
YOU’VE COME TO THE OVAL, NOW CHEER EVERY BALL  
WE’LL TROUNCE THE GOLD, AND THEN FOR A REST,  
TILL NEXT YEAR COMES, HERE’S WISHING YOU THE  
BEST

## FOR THE RECORD

We record with much pleasure the achievement of Anura Tennekoon, this year's Thomian Captain, on having been selected to play for All-Ceylon against the M. C. C. team in Nov. 1965, whilst yet a Schoolboy. Incidentally this is the second occasion when a Thomian has been bestowed with this honour—the first being Donald Fairweather, the Thomian Captain of 1934. Sriyantha Rajapakse our V. Capt. too brought credit to the School by being appointed Captain of the Combined Colleges team which played against both the English Schoolboys Team and the Australian Schoolboys Team recently. Our congratulations to both Anura and Sriyantha.

This year's Big Match marks the 25th anniversary of two records set up in the Royal-Thomian Series. The record for the highest score by a Thomian side was made in 1941 when the Thomian team led by Raja Proctor scored 390 runs for 8 wickets declared.

In the same innings N. T. Wijesuriya (81) and A. F. Molamure (113) established a new second wicket record partnership of 161 runs. Incidentally it was in this match that the present coach of the Thomian Team, Orville Abeynayake, skittled the Royalists by taking 7 wickets for 60 runs in the Royal first innings.

Another point of interest is the fact that, after a period of 21 years, the son of a member of the College Staff is playing in the Big Match. Robin Mendis is the son of Mr. R. F. A. Mendis, a member of the Tutorial Staff. In 1945 Michael de Saram played when his father, Canon R. S. de Saram, was Warden. Two sons of the late Mr. O. P. Gooneratne—L. R. (1928) and M. O. (1933-35) played when their father was Head Master.

—THE SCRIBE—

TICKLE ME PLEASE !!



“Mike Smith called me to go to Australia” said Ataya after playing in the M.C.C Match . Is very popular among the junior boys.



A Flat case. Every evening he's seen walking on the beach—everyday with a different companion.



T.M is an ardent Connie Francis fan, his favourite song being, 'Where the Boys are.'



This boy Banda is a staunch Bishops Fan. Is a champion at playing leg glances.



Robin our 'Beatnik' swears that he killed a Bear at Yala with a "pop gun".



Give him Roses and he will do the trick. Mohan is good at dancing and we hear he is as stylish on the floor as behind the wickets.



Kari, our baby of the team, was seen at a famous beauty salon last week trying to make himself fair.



When he is on the field, all eyes of the fair sex are on him - at least he thinks so - quite a menace on the field and off, that's Dennis.



On the boarding house diet Trevor seemed to thrive. Running and catching are not his favourite pastimes.



"Chinese girls are blind" Tony says—No wonder he became a hero among them.



Is supposed to look like George Chakiris. His harmless looks can hide his deadly inswing. We feel he might be the hero of the match.

## HOW'S THAT ?

Many caps will be seen on the Oval today, when the game starts at 11 a.m. The players, no doubt, will look smart with their caps on, but I must warn them not to use their caps to stop or catch a ball, because not only will the catch be disallowed, but in addition five runs will be given as a penalty to the opposing side. Law 44 says, 'The fieldsman may stop the ball with any part of his person, but if he wilfully stops it otherwise, 5 runs shall be added to the run or runs already made'.

A catch is deemed taken if the ball, from a stroke of the bat or hand holding the bat, but not the wrist, is held by a fieldsman, before it touches the ground. It sounds simple, but there are some intriguing by-laws to this rule, which the players should know. If the ball is hit back to the bowler who just touches it before it breaks the wicket at his end, with the non-striker out of his ground, if nothing further happens, on appeal what would your decision be if you are the umpire? The non-striker is out 'Run-out', but if the ball is caught by a fieldsman beyond the broken wicket, without it having touched the ground at any time after being struck, the striker is out 'Caught'.

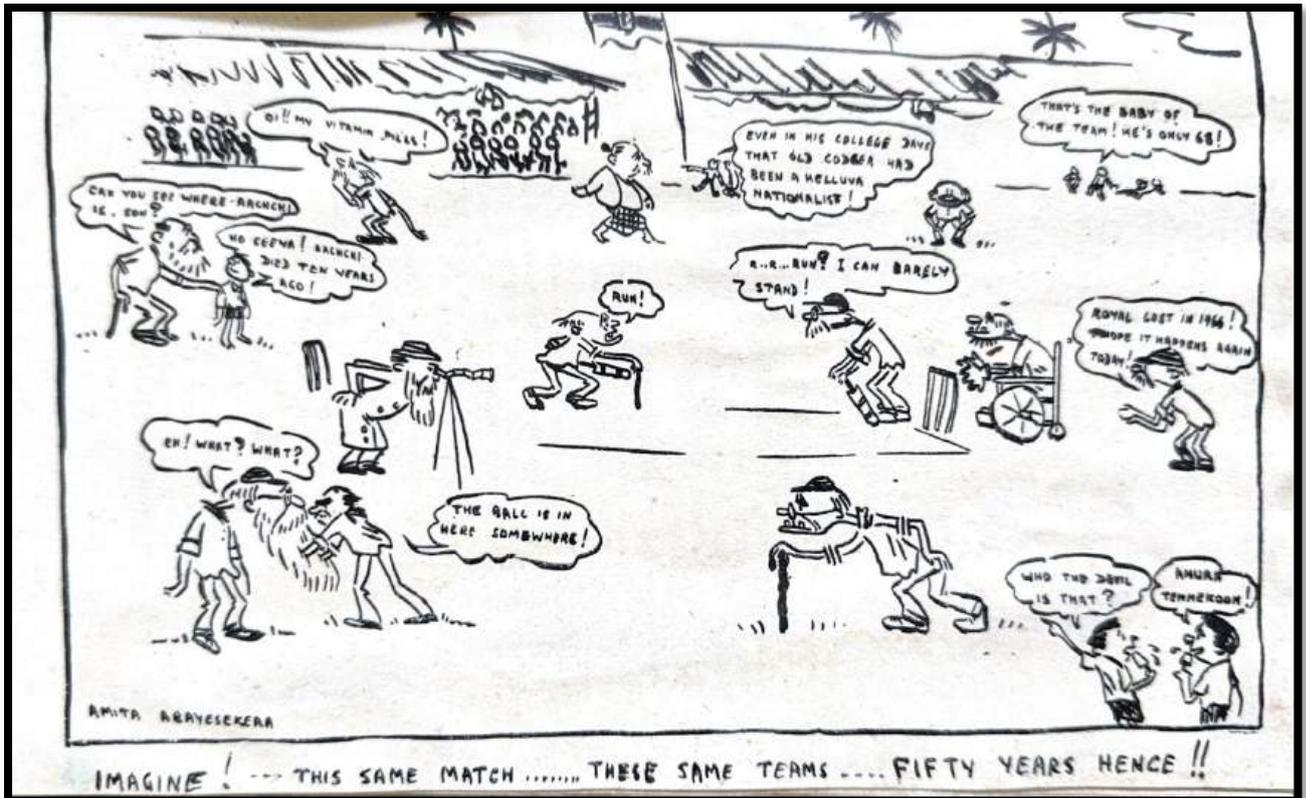
The Oval has no fence as the boundary line and so the question of a fieldsman leaning against the fence and taking a catch will not arise. But, a possible incident that may happen is where the fieldsman takes the catch inside the boundary and then runs outside. What we have to consider in this instance, is whether the fielder held the ball cleanly before going over the boundary line. Additional comments on the law state that a catch is regarded as 'made' at the instant the fieldsman has complete control over the further disposal of the ball. 'The juggling of a catch ending in the ball being dropped may last a second or two, whereas the effective holding of a hot return may be instantaneous.'

'Hitting the ball twice' is one of those odd ways that a batsman can be given 'out'. There are certain factors which must be looked into before an appeal under this law can be upheld.

A batsman is at liberty to strike the ball a second time, solely for the purpose of guarding his wicket, which he may do with his bat or any part of his person, other than his hands. But, if a fielder or the wicket-keeper is obstructed from taking a catch by the batsman striking the ball a second time, on appeal the batsman will be declared 'Obstructing the field'. An official note on the law on 'Hitting the ball twice' says, 'A batsman may not attempt to hit the ball twice, if in so doing he baulks the wicketkeeper or any fieldsman attempting to make a catch'.

The other day a friend of mine asked me an interesting question:—  
The batsman tries to hit a ball and misses it. The wicket-keeper fumbles with the ball and it drops in front of the striker, who strikes it again. The fieldsman then makes an appeal. What is the correct decision? The batsman is not out. The rule says that the striker is out, 'Hit the ball twice'—if the ball be struck or be stopped by any part of his person, and he wilfully strikes it again. The wording of the rule is 'struck', but in this case the batsman has missed the ball completely.

A. C. DE SILVA



## OUR SPORTING PREMIER



Producing Prime-Ministers seems to be an illuminant, if not an inevitable tenet, of Thomian tradition.

Lanka first held out her diadem of leadership to one who was nurtured in the sacrosanct 'cradle' of S.T.C. The late D. S. Senanayake, 'father of the nation', was a "Mutwal" product of the *fin de siècle* era. Since then three more names have left their indelible imprint of blue & black in the annals of Premiership.

Today, the noble son of a mighty father—with many common ideals between them,—leads us, as he did lead his gallant company of School Prefects more than three decades ago.

Mr. Dudley Senanayake—as his contemporaries recall—had a magnificent aura of personality and the driving spirit of leadership, which later ripened and matured, to bear the onus of national leadership.

Amidst the froth and bubble of this chequered encounter, we remember Mr. Senanayake today—through the eyes of his colleagues—nearly thirty five years ago, wielding the willow for

a cause identical with that of the moment. His first Royal-Thomian match in 1927, played on the S.S.C grounds, was a six wicket win for S.T.C. In the first innings, a close relation of mine—one N.A. de S.—recalls the tall, elegant figure of 'Dudley' in spotless cream flannels and cream shirt, walking into bat—a while after Roy Hermon had whisked up a racy 54—, to castigate the Royal attack with 48 unbeaten runs. In the second innings he was not called to the crease—for with the 4th wicket the match was won and over.

For two more years—which incidentally embrace the Jubilee Match—Mr. Senanayake took his stand for S. Thomas'. And in the 3rd Term of 1929 he captained the College XI which went up to St. Anthony's College, Katugastota. After the match the Antho-nian coach—his name we remember not—was heard speaking of the Thomian team to Mr. Percy Cooke thus—"A band of wonderful gentlemen, led by a gentleman". Mr. Ben Abeywardene who was in that team, would bear testimony to the veracity of that remark.

It was however not cricket alone which ennobled the sporting disposition of Mr. Senanayake. While at College he adorned his blazer with a quintuple of colours for football, boxing, athletics, tennis and of course the prince of Thomian Sport—Cricket.

In the year 1929 Mr. Senanayake culminated his collegial career by winning the dual crown for sports and learning—the coveted Victoria Jubilee Gold Medal for the best all round student.

From S. Thomas' he sailed across to England—to that hallowed citadel of learning—Cambridge University—to further his frontiers of knowledge. At Cambridge, in Corpus Christie College, he often took leave of his scholastic pursuits, to relax at a game of cricket or soccer and at times even donned the gloves of pugilism. Later he was awarded College colours for Cricket & Soccer and was a regular member of the College Boxing team.

Even today despite the onerous callings of state, Mr. Senanayake would find the time to sport his flannels and boot the green as he did a few months back against the Mayor's XI, and a few years back on our own turf, he turned up for the Old Boys side.

A truly dedicated sportsman, Mr. Senanayake still carries in his heart the unquelled fire of Nimrod, which has no doubt imbued, fashioned and influenced his very way of life.

As Thomians we proudly felicitate Mr. Senanayake—the seventh holder of the National Title.

NALIN WIJESKERA

## SEEN AT THE MATCH—1965

It is now a widely accepted thing that the Royal-Thomian is no longer a "Men Only" affair. Since the female of the species seem to be making their presence felt more and more prominently each year, we do not wish to leave them out completely from the pages of this Souvenir. We therefore give you below descriptions of four specimens we saw last year at the Big Match. Since they happen to be well known to us, we have stated, from our own knowledge, what we know about them. We feel confident that after reading this you will agree that the fair sex has definitely earned a place in the Cricket world.



### MISS VICKETTE N' BAILLES

A dumb blonde if ever you saw one—Clueless about Cricket, she merely stood and stared at everybody around her—On hearing somebody saying that Holman Peiris was bowling with three slips and a gully, was heard asking her neighbour how on earth anybody could wear three slips in this hot weather.

### MISS ELBO THROWER

Known to her friends by the pet name of "Chucker"—A dangerous specimen to encounter especially at the Big Match. Was seen last year, dressed to kill, sending down bodylines and bumpers on the least provocation. Has a distinctly suspect action, and tries to push her way to prominence with the help of a bent elbow. Went all out to bowl over a handsome young gentleman in the Thomian Tent but was unfortunately "called" by the gentleman's girl friend.



### MISS ELBIE DOUBLEW

Can face any kind of bowling but tends to be rather reckless—has a tendency to get out on leg spin. Carries very little on her head except of course her dainty coiffure. Was seen batting on a perfect wicket (in the pavilion) last year. She thinks batting is mostly a question of leg glances. Walks with a terrific inswing and outswing.





**MISS SILLIE  
MIDOFFE**

A close in fielder at all times—on the alert for any catches—but had no luck last year as she grassed most of the ones she got. Was seen craning her neck to find out which Thomian fielder had a short leg, and asked someone whether they needed an extra-cover to keep the wicket covered in case of rain.

MUSIC IN THE THOMIAN  
TENT COMES TO YOU

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF

**THE FILM SOCIETY**

S. THOMAS' COLLEGE

MT. LAVINIA

### FATHERS, SONS AND GRANDSONS WHO PLAYED FOR S.T.C.

- J. S. de Saram 1879 and sons George and Reggie 1911 to 1913 and 1915 to 1917 respectively, and grandson Michael 1945.
- E. A. Elapata 1886 to 1888, son Sam 1915 to 1917 and grandsons Sam (Jr.) 1941-45 and Upali Katugaha 1945 to 1946.
- W. B. de Saram 1881-1885 and son F. W. B. 1923 and grandson W. Jayatilleke 1934-1937.

### FATHERS AND SONS

- Dr. F. V. Foenander 1883-1885 and son Dr. F. J. T. 1916.
- D. S. Senanayake 1901-1902 and sons Dudley and Robert 1927 to 1929 and 1928 to 1932 respectively.
- W. Ludovici and son W. Ludovici in 1893 and 1924-1925 respectively.
- A Selvaratnam 1913 to 1914 and sons Renga and H. Selva 1942 to 1944 and 1944 respectively.
- P. Saravanamuttu 1910 to 1912 and sons C. Sara 1944 to 1945 and Baski 1941.
- A. H. G. Molamure 1907 and son A. F. 1940 to 1941.
- A. S. Eliyatamby 1903 and son A. Eliyatamby 1940.
- E. N. Abeykoon 1895-1896 and son Maurice 1925 to 1927.
- Donald Fairweather 1933 to 1936 and son Maurice 1960-1961.
- E. Wanduragala 1908 to 1913 and son Palitha 1960-1961.
- Hinton Seneviratne 1916-20 and son Sarath 1962-65.
- Ashmore Pieris 1923 and son Mevan 1964-65.
- C. E. L. de Silva 1920-22 and son Lakdasa 1965.



## 87<sup>th</sup> BATTLE OF THE BLUES SKIPPERS PROMISE FIGHTING CRICKET AT THE OVAL

By T.M. Hannan

**THE QUORUM BELL WILL RING INSISTENTLY, YET HOPELESSLY, IN FACT IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR THE PARIAMENT TO MEET AT THE OVAL TODAY.**

It is that bad penny farming up once again – the battle of the Blues – to bewitch citizens and statemen, young and old, with its gay and high adventure. The match, like the bad penny is autobiographical.

Not only what happens today but what happened yesteryear and years before is the fascinating story. It's funky how even those who do not belong go to see it and feel they are for this day its part. That is the essence of cricket and its spirit as the top two schools are billed to demonstrate today and tomorrow. One can speak of the two teams through their captains.

## IN NUMBERS

A.P.B. Tennekoon, of S. Thomas', is Anura Tennekoon to the thousands of fans and readers who will turn up in their numbers to see this much spoken of schoolboy cricketer of our time in action, when the 87<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Blues gets under way.

Tennekoon today enjoys a reputation seldom held by a school cricketer. He will lead the Thomians with two proud achievements before him. He became the first player to reach five hundred runs this season\* maintaining his consistency with a solid century.

(\*only from the first term matches, as Tennekoon scored over 900 runs for the 65/66 season including the 3<sup>rd</sup> term fixtures -RR),

Tennekoon's next distinction is that he is the only schoolboy cricketer this season to have represented Ceylon against a foreign team when he played in the MCC v Ceylon match. This season he has also shot into fame as an all-rounder. He is one of those heading the bowling averages.

Both skippers – Tennekoon (STC) and Thalayasingam (Royal) have promised bright cricket and to go for a decision rather than dig in to save a reputation. If this is so the fans are no doubt in for two days' rich cricket with some of the cream of schoolboy cricketers in action.

Another factor common to the two skippers is that their surnames begin with the letter "T". Both are capable of handling their teams to the satisfaction of their coaches and there will be little to choose as far as captaincy is concerned.

On paper the Thomians appear to be possessing an all-round side but the Royalists could boast of nearly an invincible batting line up which only a penetrating attack could pierce.

The Thomians will naturally depend a lot on their skipper and vice-captain, Sriantha Rajapakse who have been their main run-getters and wicket-takers this season.

Both teams are unbeaten this season.

## Fielding can be the decisive factor

As teams are evenly matched



**The Two Skippers – Lakshman Thalayasingam (Royal) & Anural Tennekoon (STC)**

The 87<sup>th</sup> Royal-Thomian match takes place at the Oval today and tomorrow (11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> March 1966), play commencing at 11.00 am each day. Of these Royal have won 28, S. Thomas' 29 and 29 have been drawn. L. Thalayasingham captains Royan and Ceylon 'Cap' A.P.B. Tennekoon leads S. Thomas's.

### Rich in tradition

This is the oldest inter-school cricket fixture in the Island, and the local version of the English classic – the annual cricket match between Eton vs. Harrow, first played in 1805 being the oldest sporting rivalry in the world.

The 'Battle of the Blue' series is steeped in tradition and both Royal and S. Thomas' have made tremendous contributions to the progress of the game in Ceylon.

Not so long ago, names like Gunasekera, de Krester, Saravanamuttu and de Saram were synonymous with all that was best in Ceylon cricket.

To Royalists and Thomians have fallen the major honours of the game, and the present Ceylon captain is an Old Thomian captain, Michael Tissera, while the Cricket Board of Control President is another Old Thomian captain, Robert Senanayake.

Both the Prime Minister, Mr. Dudley Senanayake and his deputy, Mr. J.R. Jayawardene played in the Royal-Thomian match, Mr. Senanayake for S. Thomas' and Jayawardene for Royal.

The coveted honour of winning a 'Blue' at Oxford or Cambridge has fallen to the lot of four Ceylon cricketers, two from Royal and two from S. Thomas'.

### First 'Blue'



**F.C. de Saram (left)** The first cricket 'Blue' from Ceylon was Royal's F.C. de Saram who represented Oxford. The other Oxford 'Blue' is Dan Piachaud of S. Thomas'.

The two Cambridge 'Blues' are Gamini Goonesena of Royal, who captained Cambridge and scored a double century against Oxford and P.I. Pieris of S. Thomas'. All four have the distinction of captaining their alma mater too,



(L-R): Gamini Goonesena, P.I. 'Ian' Pieris, J.D. 'Dan' Piachaud.

Last year's Royal-Thomian was drawn after S. Thomas' enforced the follow-on. This year, too, it looks as if the game will end in similar manner, unless the weather takes a hand a wicket helpful to the bowlers is the result.

### Major honours

It is true that the Thomian team is composed of nine freshman, only Tennekoon and Rajapakse having played last year or more. On the other hand, Royal's XI is just the opposite being made of nine Coloursman and two freshers.

But the results achieved this term shows nothing in Royal's favour on the score of experience. They have played nine matches this term and have won only one against Ananda, whereas the Thomians have won five - against Nalanda, Mahinda, Wesley, St. Joseph's, St. Benedict's, and have drawn their matches against Ananda, Trinity and St. Peter's. This is an impressive record, and one of which Tennekoon has every reason to be proud.

It is true that Royal did well against Trinity, the only team to almost beat S. Thomas' this season. But much of Royal's work this season has not looked of match-winning variety. This has been particularly noticeable with the bowling where it has not been unknown for Thalayasingham to use seven, eight or even nine bowlers without a result.

#### **Limited resources**

On the contrary, Tennekoon with very limited resources has achieved splendid results. He has confined the main bowling to himself, S.J. Rajapakse and P.L.D. Kariyawasam. Tennekoon has 36 wickets, Rajapakse 34 and Kariyawasam 22. (\*1<sup>st</sup> term stats). The other bowlers in the Thomian team are S.S. Condegama and D.R. Chanmugam, pace, and T.M. de Silva and J.D. Bandaranayake, spin.

Perhaps Thalayasingham's injury and his inability to bowl flat out in any match to date has upset the team's bowling. If he is completely recovered and able to bowl at full speed, he could trouble the Thomians including Tennekoon himself.

Royal's most dangerous bowler in the event of Thalayasingham being able to operate only at half-pace, will be Nissanka Wadugodapitiya, one of the finest left-armers in the schools. In support there are Samarajeewa and Liyanage for pace, Wimaladharma, Sirisena and Skandakumar, the spinners.

#### **The batting**

The batting is about even, with the balance being tilted by Tennekoon's success or failure. If he succeeds the Thomians are capable of more runs, if he fails the Royalists should make more. In support the Thomians have Rajapakse, M. Jayasekera, A.M. Perera, A.T. Baines, Kariyawasam, R.F. Mendis, T.M. de Silva and Bandaranayake. And the Royalists, in addition to Wadugodapitiya, have Skandakumar, L.A.D. Sirisena, S. J. De Silva, J. Kudahetty, and R.P. Liyanage, as well as R. Wijetilleke, A.R. Gunasekera, A. Samarajeewa and L. Thalayasingham, who can all bat.

The fielding of both teams should be good and might well prove to be the decisive factor. In this respect, the more experienced Royalists should have an advantage as the majority of them have played in this match before and should not suffer from nerves.

## INTRODUCING THE TEAMS



### ROYAL



1.Lakshman T. Thalayasingham (Captain), 2.Asoka. M. Samarajeewa (Vice-captain), 3.Rohan P. Liyanage, 4.Nissanka Wadugodapitiya, 5.L.A.D. Sirisena, 6.S. Skandakumar, 7.S. J. de Silva, 8.R.L. Wijetilleke, 9.W.A.J. Wimaladharm, 10.A. Ranjit Gunasekera, 11.Jayantha Kudahetty, 12. J. Wickremasooriya (12<sup>th</sup> man), 13.Brian Lieversz (reserve).

## S. THOMAS



1. Anura Tennekoon (Captain), 2.Sriantha Rajapakse, 3.Tilak M. de Silva, 4.Rabin Mendis, 5. Jayampathi D. Bandaranayake, 6.Dennis R. Chanmugam, 7.A. Trevor Baines, 8.A.M. 'Tony' Perera, 9.S. Senarath Condegama, 10.N.Manilka Wijesooriya (12<sup>th</sup> man), 11.Johann H. Reid (reserve), 12.Mohan D.C.W. Jayasekera, 13. Prabodha L.D. Kariyawasam.

## WHO'S WHO AT ROYAL (9 Coloursman & 2 Freshers)

(\*figures include only 1966, 1<sup>st</sup> term fixtures - RR)



**Lakshman Thalayasingham** is the skipper of the Royal side. He will bat at No. 10 and is one of the fastest bowlers in school cricket today. He was unfortunate to have missed bowling in the earlier games due to an injury to his shoulder.

At last year's Royal-Thomian he bowled his heart out to take 4 for 51 and as a third-year Coloursman will spearhead the bowling attack once more at this year's 'Big Match'.



**Asoka Samarajeewa** is a capable middle order batsman. He will be Royal's first change bowler and is a very safe field with 12 catches for the season so far.

He had a big share in the Royalist recovery in their first innings against the Peterites with a stubborn knock of 28 runs.



**Rohan Liyanage** is another stalwart in the side. Burly Liyanage is a hard hitting right-hand batsman who has contributed several useful scores and his best effort has been 51 against the Wesley. He bowls right-arm medium pace and will share the new ball with the skipper.



**Nissanka Wadugodapitiya** is one of the best all-rounders in the school today. He is a very useful batsman who has rescued Royal many a time. With the shine on, he bowls left arm seamers and reverts to leg spin with the older ball.

His highest score was 78 not out against Ananda. He has captured the most number of wickets for Royal with 30 wickets at an average of 13.10 with a best of 5 wkts for 10 against the Peterites.

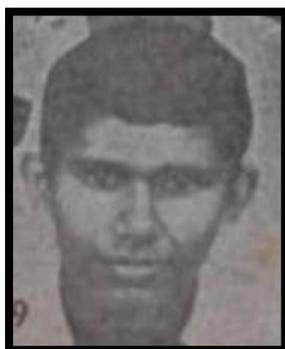


**L.A.D. Sirisena** is an aggressive opening batsman and is the chief off spinner of the side.

Sirisena has a top score of 76 against St. Anthony's Kandy. He is also a brilliant slip field.



**S.J. de Silva** will open batting for Royal with Sirisena with whom he has combined well and is expected to give Royal a good start. Has yet to make a good contribution with the bat, his highest being 31 against Wesley.



**R.L. Wijetilleke** is the wicket-keeper of the side who has been doing his job smartly behind the stump with 12 catches and 14 stumpings.

He is a fair batsman. Scored 58 against the Peterites and helped the Royalists to recover from an awkward spot.



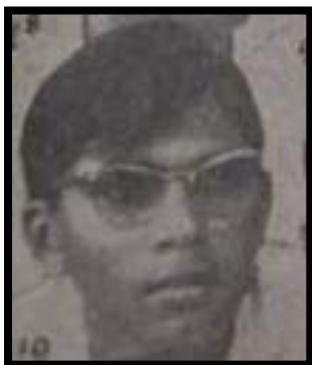
**S. Skandakumar** is the most stylish batsman of the side. He will bat at the fall of the first wicket. He supports the spin attack and has performed well as an able all-rounder.

He has scored 361 runs for the season at an average of 24 with two fifties - 65 (vs. Nalanda) and 55 (vs. St. Benedict's). Skandakumar has taken the second most number of wickets (25) for Royal at a good average of 13 runs per wicket. Also a safe fielder who has held 11 catches for the season.



**W. A. Wimaladharma** is the other spinner in the side. The bespectacled off-spinner has a best of 6 for 40 against St. Joseph's.

Apart from his bowling talents he is a good fielder at gully. He made a handy 36 vs. St. Joseph's.



**A.R. Gunasekera** is a fresher of great promise who has been in the runs this season.

He bats right-handed and made 43 against Ananda, 41 vs. Wesley and was also involved in a 88-run partnership with Sirisena for the 3<sup>rd</sup> wicket against St. Anthony's.



**J. Kudahetty** is the second fresher who has performed quite well and will bat at number 4.

He is an elegant right-handed batsman who has scored 274 runs for the season so far with an average of 27.40 – highest being an unbeaten 66 against St. Benedict's.

He is also a useful change bowler with his handy off breaks.

## WHO'S WHO AT S. THOMAS' (2 Coloursman & 9 Freshers)

(\*all figures include 1965, 3<sup>rd</sup> term fixtures as well as 1966, 1<sup>st</sup> term - RR)



**Anura Tennekoon** captains the Thomian team as their leading all-rounder and fifth-year Coloursman. As the most elegant and best batsman in school cricket, he scored 110 against Wesley and has surpassed 900 runs this season at an average of 56.3, including seven fifties.

With his left-arm seamers he leads the bowling figures with 58 wickets at 7.26 each—his best, 6 wickets for 05 runs in the second innings versus Mahinda against whom he had a match-bag of 9 for 15. He is also a top class slip fielder.

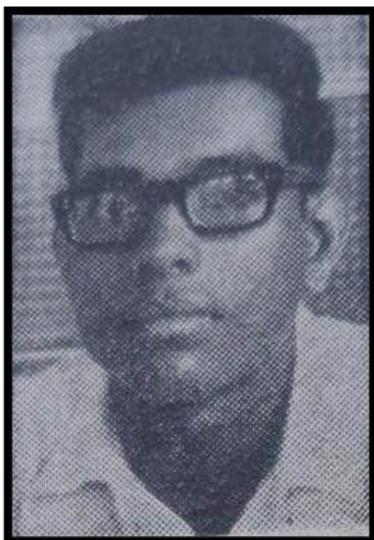
As skipper, Tennekoon has led his inexperienced team, containing just two Coloursmen, exceptionally well. The team remains undefeated after 13 matches, securing 10 outright wins. Notably, he earned his Ceylon 'Cap' while still in school and going into the crucial 'Big Match' carries huge responsibilities on his shoulders.



**Sriantha J. Rajapakse** is a third year Coloursman and the trusted vice-captain of the side, He is a fine all-rounder who has performed superbly in all three departments of the game. He has valiantly shared with his captain the burden of an inexperienced side.

He is an attacking left-hand batsman who hit an unbeaten hundred against Ananda, and narrowly missed another with a superb 99 against St. Peter's while building a crucial third-wicket century partnership with Tennekoon.

Rajapakse is also the chief off-spinner of the side with 47 wickets at 9.51 for the season. He had match figures of 9 wickets for 51 in their convincing win against St. Joseph's. Brilliant close in fielder, especially on the leg-side. He captained the C.S.C.A. team against the London School Boys' Team.



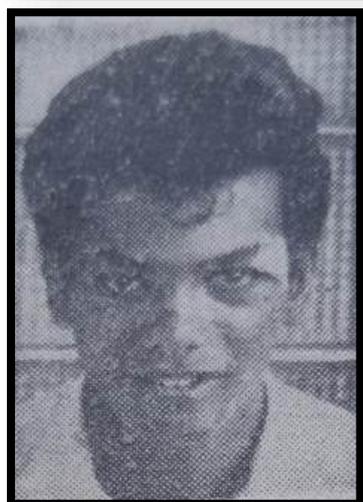
**T.M. de Silva** is an attacking left-hand batsman who played for the Ceylon Schools against the London Schools. Has not been very much in the picture this season though he is capable with both bat and ball. He is just the type of batsman for quick runs and is a useful change right-arm medium pace bowler. His best score for the season is an unbeaten 42 vs St Sebastian's.



**J.D. Bandaranayake** is a handy left-hand batsman, cover-point specialist and the leg spinner of the side.

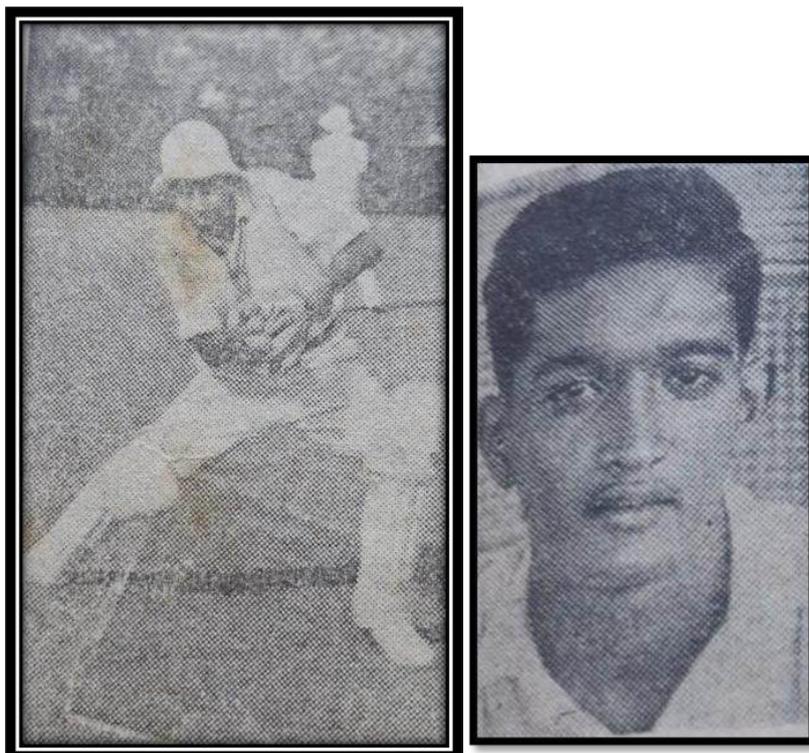
Has a top score of 31 not out against St. Joseph's and chipped in with some useful wickets during the season, including a best of 4 for 12 against Zahira.

He often breaks partnerships and is expected to trouble the Royalists on the Oval turf.



**R.F. Mendis** a fresher who shows tremendous promise. He is a dependable right-hand batsman and saved the Thomians with a crucial 64\* in the first innings against Nalanda.

Mendis also contributed a handy 49 in their win over St. Joseph's and excels in the deep, thanks to his athleticism.



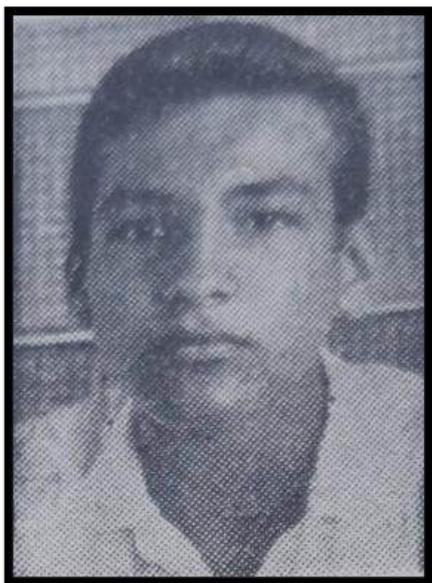
**Mohan Jayasekera** is the wicket-keeper opening batsman of the side with a few good scores this season. He scored a fine 47 against a good Benedictine bowling attack, 44 against Dharmarajah and made a match-winning 37 (in a total of 58 for 7) in their successful run chase against Nalanda. His keeping has been smart with several stumpings to go with his catches and the Thomians expect a good performance from him in this key game.



**A.M. 'Tony' Perera** is the other opening batsman who shows a lot of patience.

He has made some useful contributions without converting them to bigger scores.

Perera was involved in two good partnerships against St. Benedict's – 61 for the first wicket with Mohan Jayasekera and 79 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> wicket with his skipper, Anura Tennekoon. Perera's best so far has been 38 vs St. Benedict's and 35 vs Wesley.



**D.R. Chanmugam** – Dennis is better known as All-Ceylon cricketer, Neil's brother. He is a right-arm pace bowler who opens the attack. He has taken 22 wickets at 15.50 with a best of 4 for 23 against St. Sebastain's. As a hard-hitting right-hand batsman Chanmugam can score quick runs as he showed against the Josephians with his aggressive 38 runs batting at number 10 while associated in a vital 9<sup>th</sup> wicket stand of 53 runs with Bandaranayke. He is also a very good fielder.



**A.T. 'Trevor' Baines** is a hard-hitting right-hand batsman who has yet to fulfil his talents, glimpses of which he showed in his bright, but brief innings, against Prince of Wales. He is has contributed some useful runs without carrying on.

Baines has a top score of 37 not out against the Benedictines. In their last practice game before the 'Big Match, against S.S.C., he top scored with an elegant 63 to stem a top order collapse. Baines is also a reliable slip fielder.



**P.L.D. Kariyawasam** is a talented all-rounder and the most promising fresher in the side. He is a sound left-hand batsman, intelligent off-spinner and a safe fielder. At just '15' Prabodha is the 'baby' of the team and his contributions with both bat and ball has been of great value to the Thomians. He has a best of 48 not out against Dharmapala and an impressive match-bag of 7 for 33 vs Wesley. With such talent, Kariyawasam appears to have a very bright future ahead.



**S.S. Condegama** is the chief new ball bowler who specialises in inswingers. He made a late entry into the team when he made his debut against St. Benedict's and in his last game against the Peterites, captured 4 for 16 runs in the first innings.

\*The 12<sup>th</sup> man of the side is N.M. Wijesooriya. He shows promise as a capable batsman. The other reserve is J.H. Reid is a left-arm medium pacer who should make an impression next year. He is the younger brother of Claud, Ronnie, Buddy and Barney, who all played for S. Thomas' previously.

### **87<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Blues - by Sam Thevathasan**

“Spectators are bound to enjoy the cricket at the Oval where the 87<sup>th</sup> encounter between the two premier institutions in Ceylon will be fought out.

The first match in this series was played in 1880, and since then the Thomians have been victorious on 29 occasions and the Royalists have emerged winners 28 times. It will be interesting to see whether the Royalists will get on par with the Thomians, after this game. Last year the game ended in a tense draw, but this year entertaining cricket is assured.

A remarkable feature is that both teams are unbeaten so far. Yet it may be argued that the Thomians have had the better season. The Thomians have secured five victories – inclusive of three innings victories whereas the Royalists started on a very bright note scoring an innings victory over Ananda and thereafter have failed to enforce a single victory. In seven successive matches Royal have had drawn games. However, they did very well in their last match against the unbeaten Trinity side.

Royal has the better team in that they have nine experienced players. They have ample resources to serve them both in batting and bowling. Royal has batting talent right down to the last man. They have made good scores even on occasions when the top line batsmen have failed. In Sirisena and S.J. de Silva they have a good opening batting pair. With a good opening stand from these two, Skandakumar, Kudahetty, Wadugodapitiya and Gunasekera should continue to pile on the runs. Thalayasingham and Samarajeewa are also capable of quick runs.

For their bowling they have four fast bowlers who would give the Thomians an anxious time. Thalayasingham should be the menacing bowler and he will do well to handle his bowlers judiciously. Skandakumar, Wadugodapitiya and Kudahetty will support the pacemen.

The Thomians will fervently hope for a good start from Mohan Jayasekera and Tony Perera. However, they will heavily rely on their skipper Anura Tennekoon and his deputy Sriantha Rajapakse who have been the most successful batsmen. If the Royalists get quick wickets the Thomians will soon be in trouble.

The Thomians must be feeling happy that paceman Condegama had a good spell against St Peter’s. He took 4/16 in their first innings, but much will depend on the success of their spinners Rajapakse, Kariyawasam and Tennekoon. Both teams have had lapses in their fielding. The team that can hold the chances offered will have the best chance of forcing a victory. The twenty-two youngsters will do their utmost for their respective sides, and there should be good cricket and plenty of fun.”

## *HOW THEY FARED*

### S. THOMAS'

#### ANURA LEADS S. THOMAS'

Unbeaten after 8 matches with 5 victories (first term only)



Beat Mahinda by an Innings.  
 Beat Nalanda by 3 wickets.  
 Drew with Ananda.  
 Beat Wesley by an Innings.  
 Beat St. Joseph's by 8 wickets.  
 Beat St. Benedict's by an Innings.  
 Drew with Trinity.  
 Drew with St. Peter's.

#### Best Performances for STC (\*includes 3<sup>rd</sup> Term Fixtures)

##### Batting

**A.P.B. Tennekoon (8)** – 82 (v St. Sebastian's), 66\* (v Prince of Wales), 69 (v Dharmarajah), 88 (v Mahinda), 110 (v Wesley), 58 (v St Joseph's), 63 (v St. Benedict's) & 66 (v St Peter's).

**S.J. Rajapakse (3)** – 102\* (v Ananda); 99 (v St. Peter's); 101 (v Royal).

**R.F. Mendis** – 64\* (v Nalanda).

##### Bowling

**A.P.B. Tennekoon** – 5 for 7 (v St. Sebastian's); 5 for 32 (v Prince of Wales); 6 for 5 (v Mahinda); 4 for 02 (v Wesley); 4 for 27 (v Trinity).

**S.J. Rajapakse** – 5 for 25 & 4 for 13 (v Dharmarajah); 5 for 31 (v Nalanda); 5 for 17 & 4 for 34 (v St. Joseph's); 4 for 22 (v St. Benedict's); 4 for 53 (St. Peter's).

**J.D. Bandaranayake** – 4 for 13 (v Zahira).

**D.R. Chanmugam** – 4 for 23 (v St. Sebastian's).

**K.G. Perera** – 5 for 30 (v Dharmapala).

**P.L.D. Kariyawasam** – 4 for 16 (v Wesley).

**S.S. Condegama** – 4 for 16 (v St. Peter's).

#### STC - Partnership Over 75

109 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> wicket – A.P.B. Tennekoon (86) & P.L.D. Kariyawasam (28) vs. Mahinda.

79 for 2<sup>nd</sup> wicket - A.P.B. Tennekoon (63) & A.M. Perera (38) vs. St. Benedict's.

111 for 3<sup>rd</sup> wicket - A.P.B. Tennekoon (66) & S.J. Rajapakse (99) vs. St. Peter's.

## RECORD BOOK

### THOMIAN CENTURIES

103 R.T. Jansz	1917
105 N.A. de S. Wijesekera	1931
115* W.A. Wijesinha	1934
107 M.O. Gooneratne	1936
151* N. Siebel	1936
110* W.A. Jayatileke	1937
113 A.F. Molamure	1941
123 P.I. Pieris	1953
158* R.J. Reid	1956

### ROYAL CENTURIES

113 N.S. Joseph	1925
133 N.S. Joseph	1926
148 D.B. Gunasekera (jnr.)	1930
140 F.C. de Saram	1931
112 S.G. Salgado	1942
121 T. Jothilingam	1956
121 M. Willie	1957
112* V.P. Malalasekera	1963

### BEST PARTNERSHIPS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wicket: 134\* - W. Jayatileke 72\* & N. Scheffer 54\* (1936), STC.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Wicket: 161 - A.F. Molamure 113 & N.T. Wijesooriya 81 (1941), STC.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Wicket: 126 - W.A. Wijesinha 115\* & D. Fairweather 69 (1934), STC.  
 4<sup>th</sup> Wicket: 96 - C.I. Gunasekera 59 & R.L. de Krester 44 (1939), Royal.  
 5<sup>th</sup> Wicket: 186 - P.I. Pieris 123 & G.L.W. Wijesinghe 64 (1953), STC.  
 6<sup>th</sup> Wicket: 111 - N.A. de S. Wijesekera 105 & F. Amarasinghe 70 (1931), STC.  
 7<sup>th</sup> Wicket: 187 - D.B. Gunasekera 148 & R. Jeganathan 92 (1930), Royal.  
 8<sup>th</sup> Wicket: 84 - S. Thabrew 67 & C. Cotelingam 52\* (1935), STC.  
 9<sup>th</sup> Wicket: 80 - S.P.F. Senaratne 69\* & L. Hewavitarne 44 (1950), Royal.  
 10<sup>th</sup> Wicket: 114 - K.L.M. Perera 98\* & S. Ellapata 44 (1943), STC.

### MOST DECISIVE WINS

Royal (captain, P.C.D. McCarthy): Won by an Innings and 89 runs in 1938.  
 STC (captain, P.I. Pieris): Won by Innings and 34 runs in 1953.

### HIGHEST TOTALS

Royal (captain, S.S. Jayawickrama): 346 for 8 dec, in 1930.  
 STC (captain, R. Proctor): 360 for 8 dec, in 1941.

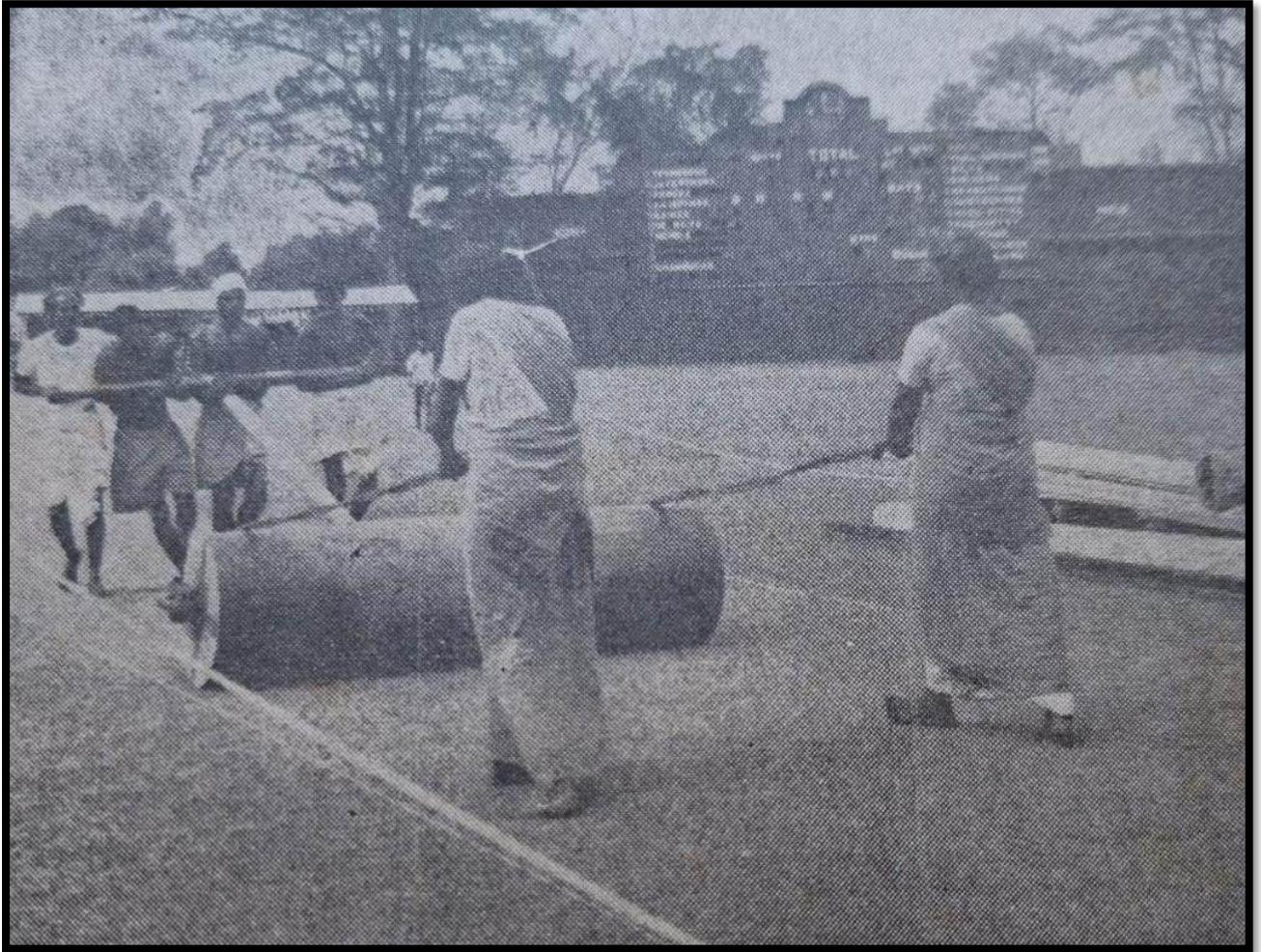
### LOWEST TOTALS

Royal: dismissed for 9 runs (10.2 overs) in 1885.  
 STC: dismissed for 18 runs (13.2 overs) in 1888.

### MATCH OVER IN ONE DAY

1906: STC won by 10 wickets - Royal 71 & 34; STC 100 & 6 for no loss.  
 1919: Royal won by an Innings & 32 runs - Royal 150; STC 46 & 72.

## Women prepare pitch for the 87<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Blues

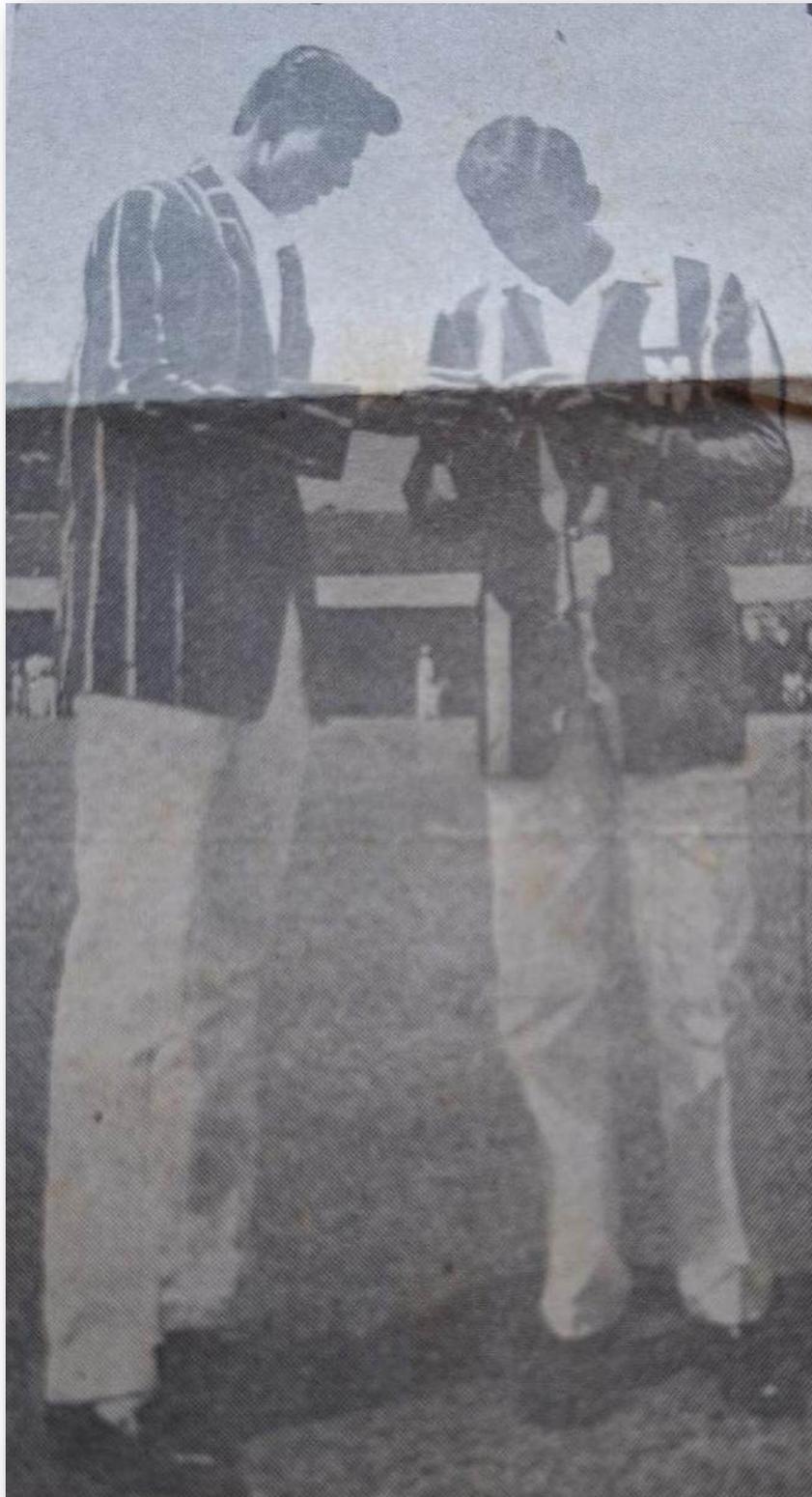


The world's first grounds-woman, Mariamma (left) and her daughter give the Colombo Oval pitch the final rolling for the annual 'Battle of the Blues' encounter between Royal and S, Thomas' which began at 11 a.m.

### **POLICE WARNING**

The Police will take stern action against mischief makers during and after the match. The Police have advised the schools to see that their students leave the grounds peacefully.

## First Day's Play



The Rival Captains, Lakshman Thalayasingham (left) and Anura Tennekoon take a close look at the coin before the toss.



Tennekoon calls correctly and has no hesitation in batting first.

### *Thomians Recover After Early Shock*

AFTER a disastrous start, when two wickets fell for 16 runs, the Thomians did well to collect 72 for 3 wickets at lunch in the Big Match with Royal at the Oval today. The biggest blow for the Thomians was when their star batsman and captain, Anura Tennekoon was out leg before to Royal's "Mr. Reliable", Nissanka Wadugodapitiya for only 2 runs.

## *Rajapakse Hits A Glorious 101*

*- Makes good after Tennekoon's failure*



FORTUNE favours the brave, they say. The brave one in the first day's play of the 87<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Blues between Royal and S. Thomas's at the Oval was Thomian all-rounder, SRIANTHA RAJAPKSE. He played the type of cricket the innings shrieked for. His courageously fashioned innings took the standstill batting by the scruff of its neck to wring out the coveted century for him and help S. Thomas' to total 184 in four hours.

The sun shone with the prospect of full day's cricket, yet you would have believed you were watching the dying hours of a drawn match, rather than a 'big match' in the crucible, that's till Rajapakse's inspired and a trifle lucky post-lunch batting display. However, after reaching his 50 in 110 minutes Rajapakse sped to the nineties with some dynamic batting – three towering sixes and 12 boundaries flowing from his broad blade.

What a day it was for cricket when Tennekoon won the toss and elected to bat. The sun scattering the largesse of its glory every minute. The cricket at the start was serious by the openers Mohan Jayasekera and A.M. 'Tony' Perera. But the big match air was there, with a wide assortment of make-up and hats tilted at tipsy angles. A crowd unabashed and determined to make the most of the time they spent there.



The first scoring stroke – a single by Tony Perera off Rohan Liyanage.

### *Plumb wicket*

On a plum wicket the Thomian openers facing Royal skipper L. Thalayasingham and R.P. Liyanage made no effort to force the pace. The first run came off a no ball by Liyanage, and Perera made the first scoring with the bat with a single to square leg. Jayasekera opened his account with a four past cover point off a full toss by Liyanage. Two more off drives by the Thomian keeper off Liyanage brought the ten on the board after 15 minutes of batting with Jayasekera on 8 and Perera 1.

After Liyanage had sent down two overs a change in the bowling saw Wadugodapitiya come on to bowl left arm round the wicket to Perera. Wadugodapitiya conceded two runs in his opening over, one to each batsman.

Another bowling change brought Samarajeewa in place of skipper Thalayasingham. This proved fruitful. With the score at 13, Jayasekera played forward to Samarajeewa's fourth ball in his first over and tickled it to give keeper Wijetilleke a simple catch. Score read 13 for 1 and Jayasekera out for 9 runs.

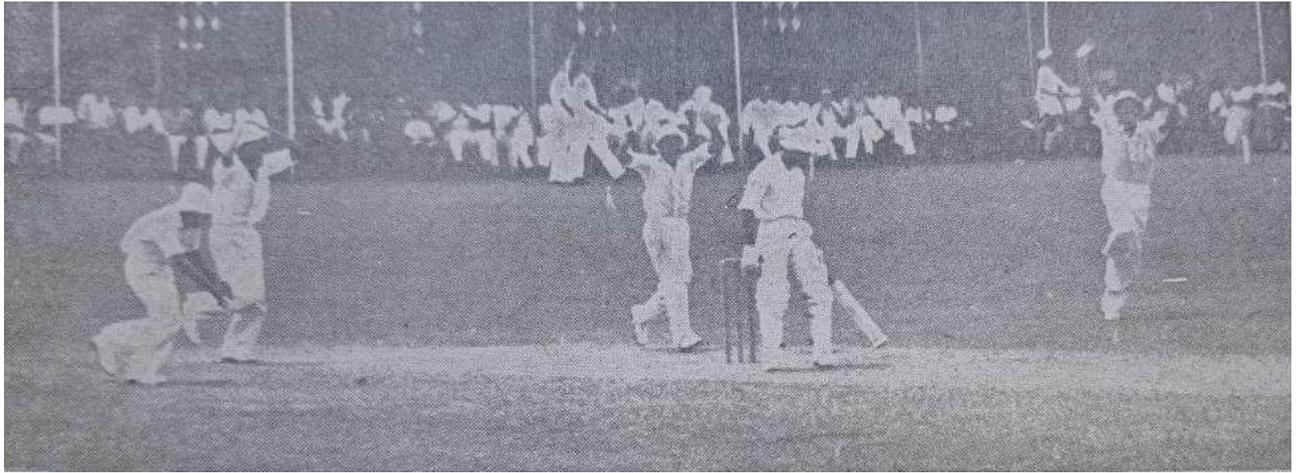


**Royal keeper Wijetilleke rolls on the ground but holds on to the catch after Thomian opener Mohan Jayasekera got a touch off Asoka Samarajeewa.**

### **Thomians in shock!**

Anura Tennekoon's arrival was greeted with a roar of approval. He played the first ball defensively and was soon off the mark when he swept the next delivery from Samarajeewa high over the close in fielders to mid-wicket for two runs.

Then Wadugodapitiya struck! He gave the Royalists the all important wicket of Tennekoon when he had the Thomian skipper trapped lbw for 2. The Thomian second wicket fell at 16, after 42 minutes of batting. Tennekoon had faced just six balls.



**VITAL WICKET! The Royalists are jubilant as Thomian Captain, Anura Tennekoon is trapped LBW to Nissanka Wadugodapitiya for only 2 runs.**

#### **Stems rot**

Perera and Sriantha Rajapakse then staged a dour battle to rescue S. Thomas' from the dumps of 16 runs for two. Rajapakse, coming in at number 4, swept Wadugodapitiya to the square leg fence to open his account. The Thomians were 20 for 2.



**Thomian left-hander Rajapakse slams Wadugodapitiya to the square-leg fence.**

Tony Perera finally opened out his shoulders to Samarajeewa with a fine drive that brought him 3 runs. Perera then took 8 runs off Thalayasingham's sixth over when he took over from Samarajeewa from the tennis court end. He first pulled Thalayasingham to mid-wicket for four – all run, and then cut Thalayasingham to the fence and the Thomians moved to 32 for 2 after an hour's play, in which time only 16 overs were bowled.

Rajapakse slammed Wadugodapitiya to the square leg fence and took a single off the last ball of that over and STC were 37 for 2.

The bowling changes came quickly as a step towards forcing the breakthrough. Thalayasingham gave over to Samarajeewa again and Rajapakse took 6 runs off him, including his favourite sweep to the square leg fence.

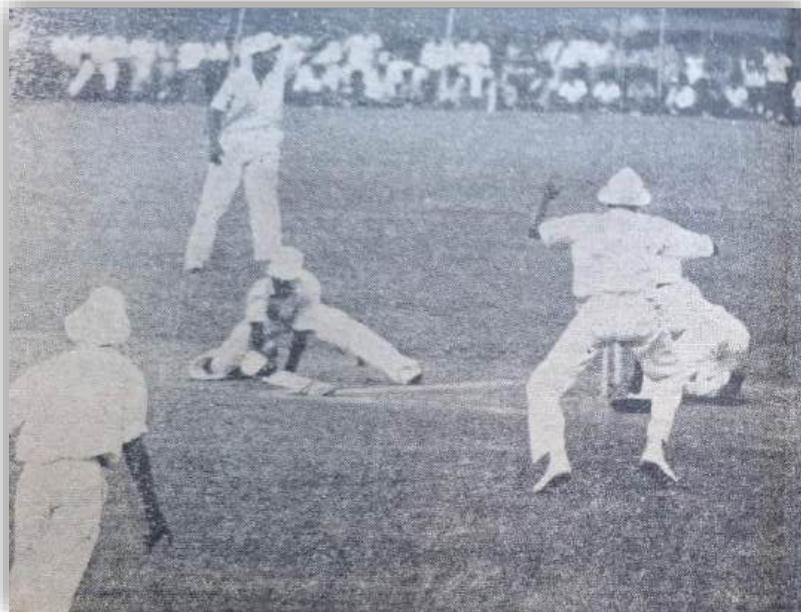
Wadugodapitiya after a fine spell of 1 for 11 in 8 overs was rested and off-spinner Sirisena brought into the attack. Rajapakse had a 'life' when he was 15 as he attempted to cut a ball off Samarajeewa, but got a fine edge and the ball flew between the keeper and first slip. Both fieldsmen dived for the ball but could not get their hands to it. Rajapakse took 3 runs off that streaky shot. The 50 came up in 80 minutes play with both batsmen on 18.

### Third blow

Wimaladharmas was brought into the attack and Perera took four off him. But with Perera on 22 and the score 55 off-spinner L.A.D. Sirisena struck the third blow. He lured Perera out of the crease for Wijetilleke to whip the bails off – STC 55 for 3. Perera had been at the crease for 93 minutes.

Trevor Baines then joined Rajapakse at the crease, but an all-spin attack of off-spinners Sirisena and Wimaladharmas, both bowling very much on the spot, kept the batsmen subdued most of the time. Rajapakse finally moved into the twenties, after 65 minutes batting, when he pulled Sirisena to the mid-wicket boundary for 4.

Then, Wadugodapitiya coming back into the attack beat Baines and almost bowled him, the ball just missing the off stump. Rajapakse twice nicked Wadugodapitiya over the slips for two and four. Both were streaky shots and Rajapakse appeared to be living dangerously at a crucial stage, with a couple of minutes to go for lunch.



**Rajapakse gets back into the crease before Wijetilleke could stump him.**

However, Rajapakse and Baines stayed together and they took the score to 72 for 3 at lunch. Rajapakse was unbeaten with 32 runs as he and Baines put on 17 runs for the fourth wicket – Baines' share being only 3 runs. Earlier, Rajapakse and Tony Perera had stemmed a collapse with a valuable stand of 39 runs.

### *Sparkling batting*

Rajapakse and Baines continued the good work after lunch. Taking no risks the batsmen kept pushing the score along at an even rate. Baines hoisted the Thomians 90 in 140 minutes with a grand on-drive off Sirisena for four.

After completion of this over Sirisena developed cramp and had to be helped off the field and Brian Lieversz came in as substitute. Jayantha Kudahetty came into the attack in place of the injured Sirisena to bowl to Baines who now appeared to be batting more confidently. The off-spinner conceded four runs in that over - three to Baines and a single to Rajapakse.

Then Rajapakse of course took the lead-role and captivated the merry crowd with his sparkling batting. Rajapakse swung Wadugodapitiya to square leg for four to move into the forties and take the Thomian total to 99, and later hoisted the 100 up in 150 minutes with a single off Kudahetty. Another boundary to Rajapakse off Kudahetty saw the Thomian vice-captain reach a fighting fifty made in 112 minutes.

Thalayasingham came into the attack for the first time after lunch to bowl to Rajapakse from the Tennis court end. But the left hander now in rather aggressive mood swung the Royal captain to leg for four and then took two more runs off him with a lofted shot to mid-wicket.

Baines was extremely cautious while Rajapakse was gradually getting warm to his task. Rajapakse was soon on 60 with another boundary off Thalayasingham. Clouds were now gathering over the grounds and there was a likelihood of rain later in the afternoon. The Thomian scoring rate after lunch was a vast improvement on the pre-lunch period with 45 runs being added in the first 45 minutes.

Then, Baines attempting to turn Liyanage, who had replaced Thalayasingham, around the corner was caught by Skandakumar at leg-slip. Baines had batted 85 minutes for his dogged 17 runs in the Thomian score of 119 for 4 and the fourth wicket partnership between him and Rajapakse had realised 64 runs.



Trevor Baines well caught at leg-slip by Skandakumar off Liyanage for 17.

*Blistering attack*



Rajapakse sweeps a ball to the leg-side fence in his blistering innings of 101.

Rajapakse's blistering attack began after new batsman Kariyawasam joined him. He greeted Kariyawasam by thumping Samarajeewa for a huge six over the long-off boundary. It was a well-timed shot that carried into the Mustang Tent which upset their siesta! He followed this up with another massive clout for six off the same bowler, this time into the Royal Boys Tent. Rajapakse had now reached 80 and the Thomian score 133 for 4.

Rajapakse was now in full-cry and going after the Royal bowling with a relish despite approaching the century mark. From 50 till the nervous nineties his runs were carved out with searing sword slashes of shots. He belted Skandakumar over the mid-wicket ropes for his third six and to take his personal tally to 93. This stroke also hoisted the Thomians 150.

### *Nervous nineties*

The atmosphere was tense and Wadugodapitiya was brought on to check the spirited fighter hitting anything and everything. Wadugodapitiya bowling from the tennis court end made one veer into Rajapakse and he cocked the ball up but Wadugodapitiya just failed to reach the ball in time. When he was 95 and five short of his century Rajapakse was given a 'life'. He square cut Skandakumar to cover-point where substitute Brian Lieversz, normally a very safe fielder, juggled with the ball and unfortunately grassed it.

### *Century & Leg before*

This made the left-hander rather cautious and he reached 99 with six singles. The Thomian vice-captain finally reached his much deserved century when he swept Skandakumar to deep fine leg for another single. He had been at the crease for 160 minutes in making his 100.



**THE FANS RUSH IN** – The prefects tried their best, but you just can't keep the fans away from congratulating a hero, can you? Here Thomians young and old are mobbing Sriantha Rajapakse of S. Thomas' after he scored a century at the 'Big Match' at the Colombo Oval.

At least one pat on the back was enough to warm the hearts of the fans.

### **'Fortune favours the Brave'**

Now with all the cares away from his mind, Rajapakse tried to turn Wimaladharmasena and was trapped leg-before for 101.

*'Fortune favours the Brave'* and he certainly had luck with him, but, never strayed from putting his side on the road to recovery. Seeing the ball very quickly, Rajapakse always seemed to have plenty of time for his strokes, and got his runs by a cunning and wristy encouragement of the ball in the way in which it was going.

When Rajapakse departed with the Thomian score at 165 for five he had contributed two-thirds to its tally, having scored 101 of the 149 runs added. He had twelve fours and three sixes in his fighting innings that lasted 162 minutes.

New batsman Rabin Mendis came in to quickly get off the mark with a single off Wimaladharmasena. The scoring rate dropped quite a bit though both Kariyawasam and Mendis did not seem to be unduly troubled by the Royal bowlers.

Then at 178 the Thomians lost both Kariyawasam and Mendis – Both were run out! The score was 178 for 7 when J.D. Bandaranayake joined T.M. de Silva at the crease with about 12 minutes to go to tea. But before either batsman could face a ball, rain forced the players off the field at 3.35 p.m. and held up play till 5.25 p.m.

Within 15 minutes of resumption, the next three Thomian wickets fell to Wadugodapitiya's wily stuff and S. Thomas' were all out for 187. Nissanka Wadugodapitiya ended up with the best bowling figures for Royal: 24.2-07-38-04.

### **Second Day's Play**

## **Skandakumar.... a picture of elegance**

### **ROYAL: CALCULATED ATTACK**

**BY T.M.K. Samat**

**It was Big Match Blues at the Oval yesterday. That the Royal-Thomian should end in a draw was written on the wall, and hope for cricket that was worth watching was the compensation left.**

Such cricket prevailed promising an interesting climax, when, at 3.25 p.m. clouds burst and robbed us from further cricket.

That moment players and umpires scurried away to the pavilion, was the last we saw of them. Not even the sight of players scrambling for stumps as souvenirs – the Last Act – was for us to see. It was no surprise that the humanity that squished through the Wanathamulla sludge and slime all looked blue and frustrated.

### Optimistic

As long as the game lasted, it was worth watching, with Royal contributing everything to make it wholesome entertainment. None was more optimistic about a decision as Royal skipper Thalayasingham himself. Long before play started yesterday, he told me: “Whatever the wicket may be, we are going for a decision.” And the way Royal set about in their first innings, nothing was more apparent than their determination to go for a decision.



**Skandakumar (above) driving confidently off the front foot.**

It was a cool, calculated assault on the Thomian attack as Royal, sans savagery, breezed through 100 in 115 minutes. Show case for Royal’s cool, neat innings was **Skandakumar’s knock**. He walked right into his form opening his account with two successive boundaries, pulled elegantly to the leg.

He was not enticed into rashness after that early success but settled down to give a 102-minute interlude of sheer refined stroke-play. His front foot drives were a picture of elegance and he used them effectively, often to reap in the singles. His fifty, that was compiled in 91 minutes had 23 singles and just three boundaries – facts that show it was a performance so disciplined yet effective.

But Skandakumar's discipline was only in his stroke-play, not in the way he ran between the wickets. He ran after singles recklessly and was destined to meet his end, stranded in the middle. It came when he was 62. Wadugodapitiya pushed the first ball he faced to mid-off, and scarcely had he completed his stroke, when he saw Skandakumar darting down the pitch. Wadugodapitiya responded but it was Skandakumar that left despondent....run out when a century seemed his for the waiting.

### No challenge

Royal's 122 for 3 at lunch, compiled in 131 minutes was an adequate total, enough to help them in their cause for a decision. So, it was no small wonder that we saw Royal barter wickets for runs. By 2.20 p.m. they had prospered to 160, and the three wickets that fell did not matter. Liyanage was run out, Wadugodapitiya and Samarajeewa both high to mid-on and were caught by A.M. Perera.

Royal declared at 2:20 p.m., and both Thomian openers M. Jayasekera and A.M. Perera were both dismissed with the score on 28. This brought Thomian 'Stars', Anura Tennekoon and Sriantha Rajapakse, to the middle.

Rajapakse gave a glimpse of 'what might have been' when he off took from where he left us on Friday, clobbering three boundaries in a row off paceman Samarajeewa - all directed to leg, and just as we watched with joy hoping to see cracker jack batting, in came the rains.

- T.M.K. Samat

"Anura was our biggest challenge and yet some very heady bowling by left arm spinner Nissanka Wadugodapitiya whose well concealed faster ball had AT plumb in front - LBW for two led to much jubilation. Sadly some poor catching and stumping behind the sticks gave way to Sriantha Rajapakse who stroked an aggressive hundred on day one....Yes I made a chanceless 62 batting at no 3 the following day before being run out by a fine throw from cover by Rabin Mendis just before lunch when many thought I had a hundred for the asking. Rain took away many valuable hours and it was a tame draw."

- Skandakumar

### Brief Scorecard

#### 14. Vs. Royal (11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> March 1966, Colombo Oval)

STC: 184 (S.J. Rajapakse 101, A.M. Perera 22, A.T. Baines 17. P. Kariyawasam 12, S.N.L. Wadugodapitiya 4 for 38) & 43 for 2 (M. Jayasekera 13, A. Tennekoon 12\*, S.J. Rajapakse 13\*)

Royal: 160 for 6 dec. (S. Skandakumar 62, J. Kudahetty 36, R.L. Wijetilleke 14\*, S.J. de Silva 11 (retired hurt), L.A.D. de Sirisena 11, R.P. Liyanage 11, S.S. Condegama 2 for 34).

Drawn

## “12th Man’s Reflections on the 1965/66 Season”

By Manilka Wijesooriya (12th Man, 1966 RT & Coloursman 1967).

“Anura, after a wait of Five years, was appointed skipper, for the 65/66 season. Sriantha Rajapakse, the only other Coloursman, was playing in his third year. Both had contributed mightily, to the winning team, led by Premalal Goonesekere, in 1964.

These two, carried the team throughout the season. If one failed, the other filled the gap. Sriantha fearlessly, sans contemporary protective gear, stood close at forward short leg, as Anura, at home, breeze aided, ployed his bowling talents, trapping, probably one half of his seasons 20 plus victims caught by Sriantha. Anura made several calculated declarations to get the team into a winning position. It was only Trinity that won on the first innings and had us under significant pressure with a bold declaration.

After winning Ten matches outright, and the other three, on the first innings, all attention, turned to the P. Sara Oval for the Big Match. But Nissanka Wadugodapitiya, quelled the Thomian anticipation, when Anura playing, forward was judged LBW. No replays, no ball tracking, just a nod, no gestures of discontent, and Anura was back in the pavilion. The silence in the STC camp was deafening, and in contrast, emphasized by the deafening rejoicing in the RC camp.

*(\* “I don’t contest umpiring decisions as a rule and do say that I was out in the 66 RT. I put myself under pressure by thinking that the whole college batting depended on me which froze me during the delivery from Wadu to which I was out to. Such is the game of Cricket which brings you down to earth when you think that you are indispensable. I hope my explanation puts this issue at rest.” - Anura T)*

Sriantha walked in and calmly took guard, in the midst of this turmoil, and settled into playing the innings of his lifetime. I had the 12<sup>th</sup> man’s task of carrying water into Sriantha as he smote the ball to all corners of the Oval. No risks were taken mainly cuts and sweeps (no reverse ones, then) and he reached the dream of a century in the Big Match. Coveted by many, accomplished by a very select few, especially during the years when we played 2 days - a maximum of 120 overs (six hours a day, at a rate of 20 overs an hour).

Sriantha’s century was the meat in the sandwich, as STC were dismissed for 187. The next highest score was 22, with two middle order bats being run out. Debutant Kari was one of them, after getting a good 12 run start. He would go on to play into a 5<sup>th</sup> year as did Anura. This is in sharp contrast to JDB (Bandaranayke) who skippered as a second year Coloursman in 1967. Such is life. Our innings lasted 76 overs - possibly, less than 4 hours. A very slow run rate - under 2.5 runs an over.

Royal scored quicker than we did, and declared at 166, batting for 51 overs. Skandakumar who scored an elegant 62, was unfortunate to be run out by a brilliant piece of fielding by Rabin Mendis. Skanda was well supported by Jayantha Kudahetty

who scored 32. Over three hours of play were lost due to several showers and the game ended in a very tame draw.



One lasting memory I carry is that of **Senarath Condegama** (left) who came out of nowhere, and made the team, mid-first term. He could bend the ball like Beckham. He ran track as I did. He left school at the end of the season, and departed this world the following year, his untimely death was caused by drowning.

We won the Lifebuoy Trophy awarded to the best team, and Anura, was adjudged the School Boy Cricketer of the year.

From our 1966 team, Anura, Sriantha, and Dennis were selected for national level representation. From RC, I believe, that Skanda, Kuda, and Thalayasingham, did likewise. The roads travelled by each have of course, been vastly different. However, the bonds created on the playing fields, live on.

Only two centuries leading to the 1966 RT - one by Anura and the other by Sriantha. Just one half century by Rabin, outside of the lead two players mentioned. Few 5-ers with no outstanding spearhead bowler, especially in the first term. Just good all round performances. Possibly, the opposing teams were weak that year.

I note that eight bowled for Royal at the 66 RT, but not Ranjit Gunasekera. Wonder how he emerged as a bowler to take 6 wkts (including a stunning 5 for 30 in the first innings) at the 1967 RT. Cannot quite recollect, but believe he captured the victims before they had each faced an over. Dijen (de Saram), JDB (Bandaranayake), Kari (Kariyawasam), and Dennis (Chanmugam), each faced 3-5 balls. All fell to RG - was it he who felled both Ajit and David\* - what a mesmerizing spell!"

- Manilka Wijesooriya

\* Ajit Jayasekera was the first victim of Ranjit Gunasekera after a blistering opening stand of 56 in 30 minutes with David Ponniah who got out to C.R.L. Chitty, as STC crumbled spectacularly from 56/1 to 57/6 in the first innings of the 1967 RT - RR

“Senarath Condegama and I had a special friendship as I discovered his bowling prowess (he could swing the new ball a mile!) and he was playing 2nd XI with my brother who first told me about him. And then I managed to arrange a friendly against a group of 2nd XI guys and was really impressed by Conde. Our 1st XI team had not settled on the opening bowlers and I spoke with Anura about Conde, and he was invited for 1st XI practice. The rest is history!” – Rabin Mendis

## 1966 - STC BATTING AND BOWLING AVERAGES

(\*includes 1965 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Term Fixtures)

	<u>Batting</u>				
	In	N.O.	Runs	H.S.	Avg.
A.P.B. Tennekoon	20	3	916	110	53.88
S.J. Rajapakse	17	4	536	102*	41.23
J.D. Bandaranayake	8	4	117	31*	29.25
R.F. Mendis	12	4	199	64*	24.88
P.L.D. Kariyawasam	16	4	297	48*	24.75
T.M. de Silva	11	3	154	42*	19.25
A.T. Baines	11	2	170	37*	18.89
M.D.C.W. Jayasekera	19	0	345	47	18.16
D.A. Ponniah	05	0	83	39	16.60
A.M. Perera	15	2	165	38	12.69
D.R. Chanmugam	08	1	69	38	9.86
S.S. Condegama	03	1	19	15*	9.50
P. Schoorman	02	1	9	7*	9.00
N.M. Wijesooriya	01	0	7	7	7.00
J.H. Reid	01	0	6	6	6.00
D.L. de Saram	01	0	3	3	3.00

	<u>Bowling</u>				
	O	M	R	W	Avg.
A.P.B. Tennekoon	251.3	105	433	58	7.47
S.J. Rajapakse	274.5	85	480	47	10.21
T.M. de Silva	52.3	16	119	10	11.90
P.L.D. Kariyawasam	186.2	37	354	28	12.64
J.D. Bandaranayake	137.3	35	251	18	13.94
J.H. Reid	102.4	36	160	11	14.55
S.S. Condegama	114	35	192	12	16.00
D.R. Chanmugam	175	61	360	22	16.36
P. Schoorman	08	01	28	01	28.00
M. Sri Bawan	13	02	38	01	38.00
L. Chelliah	11	00	31	00	-
A.M. Perera	04	01	17	00	-

### BATTING OF AVERAGES OF TENNEKOON & RAJAPAKSE

<u>Anura Tennekoon</u>	In	N.O.	Runs	H.S.	Avg.
3rd TERM (1965)	7	1	367	82	61.17
1st TERM (1966)	13	2	549	110	49.82
Full Season	20	3	916	110	53.88

<u>Sriantha Rajapakse</u>	In	N.O.	Runs	H.S.	Avg.
3rd TERM (1965)	5	2	118	40*	39.33
1st TERM (1966)	12	2	418	102*	41.80
Full Season	17	4	536	102*	41.23

#### **(Number of Catches)                      1966 - 1st Term Fixtures only**

A.P.B. Tennekoon	14
J.D. Bandaranayake	3
S.J. Rajapakse	9
R.F. Mendis	6
P.L.D. Kariyawasam	5
A.T. Baines	4
T.M. de Silva	4
A.M. Perera	7
S.S. Condegama	1
D.R. Chanmugam	10

#### **Wicket-Keeping**

M.D.C.W. Jayasekera                      14 Catches & 12 Stumpings (Total 26)

### Catches Win Matches

*“The importance of good fielding was inculcated very early in us as we spent at least half an hour at the start of practice to do an intensive fielding session. This was supplemented when we held catches on the slip-cradle in pairs when not involved in batting or bowling. I can testify that my slip catching was very good due to slip-cradle catching. Unfortunately the slip-cradle is out of fashion now thereby depriving young cricketers of sharpening their slip fielding skills.*

*Sriantha Rajapakse was a brilliant close in fieldsman on the leg side and I complimented him on the off side by taking some good close in catches. This undoubtedly helped us to achieve the many outright victories we registered during the 1966 season.”*

**- Anura Tennekoon, 1966 Captain (extract from Anura’s Autobiography – Passionately Cricket).**



### 1966 ROYAL COLLEGE – 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket Team



**Standing (L-R):** S.J. de Silva, A.R. Gunasekera, R.L. Wijetilleke, N.B.L. Lieversz, S. Skandakumar, J. Kudahetty, W.A.J. Wimaladharm.

**Seated (L-R):** S.N.L. Wadugodapitiya, A.M. Samarajeewa, L. Thalayasingham (Captain), R.P. Liyanage, L.A.D. Sirisena.

**On Ground:** J. Wickremasooriya, B.N.R. Mendis.

(photo courtesy of: Mr S. Skandakumar)

## **HOW THEY FARED - ROYAL**

### **Royal unbeaten, played 9 - won 1 & drawn 8:-**

Drew with Thurstan. (RC 156 for 7 dec. & 66 for 5 dec. Thurstan 115 & 52 for 3).

**Beat Ananda** by an Innings & 71 runs. (RC 249 for 7 dec.; Ananda 130 & 48).

Drew with St. Benedict's. (SBC 144 & 101 for 1; RC 167).

Drew with St. Anthony's. (RC 274 for 6 dec.; SAC 169 & 96 for 6).

Drew with St. Joseph's. (SJC 205 & 149 for 6 dec.; RC 122 & 105 for 3).

Drew with Nalanda. (NC 168 & 130; RC 234 & 61 for 4).

Drew with St. Peter's. (RC 194 & 82 for 9; SPC 126 & 86 for 7).

Drew with Wesley. (RC 217 & 76 for 1; WC 190).

Drew with Trinity. (TC 145 & 183 for 8 dec; RC 167 & 108 for 4).

### **Best Performances for Royal**

#### **Batting**

**S.N.L. Wadugodapitiya** - 78\* v Ananda; 57\* v St. Anthony's; 26 & 24\* v St. Joseph's; 44 v Nalanda; 28 v St. Peter's; 43 v Wesley; 31 v Trinity.

**J. Kudahetty** – 66\* v St. Benedict's; 38 v St. Anthony's; 30 v Wesley; 56\* v Trinity.

**S. Skandakumar** – 41 v Ananda; 55 v St. Benedict's; 65 v Nalanda; 39\* v St. Joseph's; (\*plus 62 run out vs STC.)

**L.A.D. Sirisena** – 26 v Ananda; 76 v St. Anthony's; 27 v St. Joseph's; 30\* v Wesley; 27 v Trinity.

**R.P. Liyanage** – 36 v Thurstan; 28 v St. Peter's; 51 v Wesley; 27 v Trinity.

**R.L. Wijetilleke** – 28 v Thurstan; 27\* v Ananda; 58 v St. Peter's.

**A.R. Gunasekera** – 43 v Ananda; 38 v St. Anthony's; 41 v Wesley.

**A. Wimaladharm** – 36 v St. Joseph's.

**A. Samarajeewa** – 28 v St. Peter's.

**S.J. de Silva** – 31 v Wesley; 28 v Trinity.

#### **Bowling**

**B.N.R. Mendis** – 6 for 16 v Thurstan; 5 for 16 v Ananda.

**S.N.L. Wadugodapitiya** – 3 for 10 v Ananda; 3 for 36 v St. Benedict's; 3 for 32 v St. Anthony's; 5 for 10 v St. Peter's; 3 for 22 v Trinity; (\* plus 4 for 38 v STC).

**S. Skandakumar** – 4 for 25 v St. Anthony's; 5 for 37 v Nalanda; 3 for 27 v Trinity.

**A. Wimaladharm** – 6 for 40 v St. Joseph's.

**A. Samarajeewa** – 3 for 23 v St. Benedict's.

**J. Kudahetty** – 3 for 7 v Nalanda.

**L. Thalayasingham** – 4 for 16 v St. Peter's.

**L.A.D. Sirisena** – 3 for 35 v Trinity.

### **Royal - Partnership Over 75**

88 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> wicket – L.A.D. Sirisena (76) & A.R. Gunasekera (36) vs. St. Anthony's.

78 for the 6<sup>th</sup> wicket - S.N.L. Wadugodapitiya (78\*) & R.L. Wijetilleke (27\*) vs. Ananda.

76 for the 7<sup>th</sup> wicket - R.P. Liyanage (51) & S.N.L. Wadugodapitiya (43) vs. Wesley.

73 for the 4<sup>th</sup> wicket - S. Skandakumar (65) & S.N.L. Wadugodapitiya (44) vs. Nalanda.

**ROYAL COLLEGE AVERAGES - 1966 SEASON**

<b>BATTING</b>	<b>Innings</b>	<b>N.O.</b>	<b>H.S.</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Avg.</b>
S.N.L. Wadugodapitiya	17	6	78*	449	40.82
W.A.J. Wimaladharm	8	5	36	87	29.00
J. Kudahetty	15	4	66*	310	28.18
S, Skandakumar	19	3	65	423	26.44
L.A,D. Sirisena	16	1	76	330	22.00
R.L, Wijetilleke	17	5	58	270	22.50
M.A. Samarajeewa	13	2	46	189	17.18
A.R. Gunasekere	12	1	43	190	17.27
R.P. Liyanage	16	2	51	232	16.57
S.J. de Silva	11	1	31	155	15.50
L. Thalayasingham	12	0	21	97	8.08

<b>BOWLING</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Avg.</b>
B.N.R. Mendis	108.2	37	239	20	11.95
S.N.L. Wadugodapitiya	239.1	85	431	30	14.35
W.A.J. Wimaladharm	119.2	37	250	20	12.50
S, Skandakumar	130.5	36	336	25	13.44
R.P. Liyanage	101	22	295	21	14.05
L. Thalayasingham	143	64	302	19	15.89
M.A. Samarajeewa	122	44	259	15	17.27
J. Kudahetty	76.5	26	156	9	17.33
L.A,D. Sirisena	84.1	34	179	10	17.90

**\*Also Bowled**

S.J. de Silva	5	1	11	1	11.00
A.R. Gunasekere	10	1	18	1	18.00
Samaraweera	9	2	26	0	-
B. Lieversz	6	1	31	0	-

**(Number of Catches)**

S.N.L. Wadugodapitiya	10
W.A.J. Wimaladharm	4
J. Kudahetty	4
S, Skandakumar	12
L.A,D. Sirisena	6
M.A. Samarajeewa	13
A.R. Gunasekere	3
R.P. Liyanage	4
S.J. de Silva	3
L. Thalayasingham	6

**Wicket-Keeping**

R.L, Wijetilleke 12 Catches & 16 Stumpings (Total 28)

## 50 Years later - Reflecting on the 1966 Royal-Thomian

### “Two Old Thomians to Celebrate Golden Anniversaries”

*By Mahinda Wijesinghe (The Sunday Times, March 06, 2016)*

50 years back almost to the day, the then 2-day Royal-Thomian (87<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Blues) cricket encounter, began at the P. Saravanamuttu stadium, formerly known as the Colombo Oval, on 11th March 1966.

The Thomians were led by Anura Tennekoon while Lakshman Thalayasingham captained the Royalists.

As the 137th annual fixture – the second oldest uninterrupted school cricket match in the world – begins at the Singhalese Sports Club grounds on 10th March 2016 – there are a couple of golden anniversary landmark achievements worth recalling.

Sadly though – to Royalists, that is! – the kudos belong to two Thomians! Firstly, this match due to begin shortly, would mark the golden anniversary for Thomian skipper **Anura Tennekoon**, having led his team in 1966.



Arguably, one of the most technically accomplished batsman to emerge in the pre-Test era, **Tennekoon** (left) went on not only to captain his College, Club and Country but also, inter alia, went on to become the CEO of the Cricket Board, The Cricket Foundation and Manager of the National Team.

The right-handed Tennekoon has the unenviable record of having notched a century against three visiting international teams, namely England, India and the West Indies. Undoubtedly, these are feats without parallel achieved by a single player in the annals of local pre-Test cricket history.



Secondly, one must not fail to mention the other golden anniversary that falls on the shoulders of left-handed batsman and a brilliant fielder to boot – namely, **Sriantha Rajapakse** (left) who hit a face-saving, albeit, possibly a match-saving century (101) out of a meagre Thomian total of 187 in the 1966 game. Statistically this innings accounted for more than half the total – or 54% to be exact.

Interestingly, only one other Thomian batsman reached over 20 runs. That was the contribution made by opener A.M. ('Tony') Perera (22) while 'Extras' (16) too helped swell the total. The last 5 Thomian wickets

fell for a paltry 6 runs! Perera's individual score of 22 runs is a mere 11.76% of the Thomian total.

When taking into account previous Thomian batsmen who made hundreds in the first innings of a R-T, starting with B.T. Jansz in 1917, until Rajapakse did so in 1966, Perera's score is the lowest contribution by any Thomian batsman while a century was being notched from the other end as at that date. In other words, Rajapakse's innings was of inestimable value for the Thomians.

Reverting to the R-T of 1966, batting first, the Thomians were not healthily placed at 16/2 with skipper Tennekoon (2) also back in the hutch. The Royal bowlers, especially after left-arm spinner Wadugodapitiya (who ended with the excellent figures of 4/38) having earlier accounted for the Thomian skipper cheaply now smelled blood.

Then it was Rajapakse who belligerently counter-attacked while losing his partners at regular intervals from the other end until off-spinner Wimaladharma trapped him leg-before but not before reaching a hundred and thus becoming the 11th Thomian centurion in the 'Big match' as at that date.

Rajapakse eventually went on to don the national cap as well whilst enjoying a colourful career representing SSC in the P. Sara Trophy tournament. Of course rain on both days of the 1966 Royal-Thomian curtailed play to a great extent and Royal, in a desperate bid to obtain a result, declared their innings closed at 160/6 with S. Skandakumar top-scoring with a fluent 62. STC replied with 43/2 when rain had the last say."

- Mahinda Wijesinghe

### Ajit Jayasekera reflects on the 1966 Season

*“A brief narrative - The 1966 Thomian team led by Anura Tennekoon had just two coloursmen, Anura and Sriantha Rajapakse. These two brilliant cricketers carried that team to unprecedented success, winning 10 matches outright. Come the Royal Thomian, we won the toss and elected to bat and at the fall of the first wicket, the great Anura Tennekoon walked out to bat. We had the usual high expectations on his customary solidity and were looking forward to a typical solid innings from him.*



*However, when Anura had scored just 2 runs, he pushed forward tentatively to a slow left arm in-dipper from Royal Star Nissanka Wadugodapitiya, got wrapped on the pads and was given out LBW. Royalists reacted as though they had won the match while Anura walked back dejectedly... but, then came in Sriantha and put the Royal bowlers to the sword, scoring a brilliant century.*

*Nissanka Wadugodapitiya (left) was a Royal star. In the 1965 Royal Thomian he had shone with the bat too, scoring a match saving 50. Just a few days back we learnt that he had passed away at the age of 79. May the turf lie gently on him.” - Ajit*



The Jayasekera Brothers – Mohan (left) & Ajit (right) who excelled with bat for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI in 1966. Both opened the batting & kept wickets for STC 1<sup>st</sup> XI – Mohan (1966) & Ajit (1967-69).

## 1965/66 INTER-HOUSE CRICKET MATCHES

### Buck-Copleston

**Buck: 199 for 5** (R.F. Mendis 71, D.L. de Saram 45, W.M. Mendis 30\*, P. Pillai 2 for 23).

**Copleston: 132 for 9** (L. R. Watawala 52, P. Pillai 50, S.H. Kottegoda 3 for 20, R.F. Mendis 3 for 44, N.M. Wijesooriya 2 for 19).

### De Saram-Miller

**De Saram: 93** (A. Jayasekera 32, P. Kariyawasam 22, B.N. Tennekoon 4 for 12, R.N. Nilaweera 4 for 33, A. Tennekoon 2 for 9).

**Miller: 174 for 9** (R.N. Nilaweera 48, A. Tennekoon 37, J.D. Bandaranayake 28, B.N. Tennekoon 27, L. Chelliah 3 for 15, J.G. Rajendra 2 for 32).

### Stone-Wood

**Wood: 176** (A.T. Baines 54, M. Jayasekera 47, B.D. Reid 3 for 19, D. Scharenguivel 3 for 10, S.J. Rajapakse 2 for 56).

**Stone: 161 for 9** (T.M. de Silva 87, B.D. Reid 24, L.M. Fernando 4 for 44, A.M. Perera 2 for 23, J.H. Reid 2 for 37).

### Miller-Copleston

**Miller: 231 for 7** (A. Tennekoon 68, W. Flamer-Caldera 35\*, H.D.W. Kannangara 35, B.N. Tennekoon 28, L.R. Watawala 2 for 41, M. Gunasekera 2 for 47, M. Fernando 2 for 53).

**Copleston: 27** (S. Welikala 8, A. Tennekoon 6 for 7, B.N. Tennekoon 2 for 2, J.D. Bandaranayake 2 for 7).

### Stone-Buck

**Buck: 79** (N.S. Wijesooriya 23, N.M. Wijesooriya 15, S. Weerasinghe 15, D. Scharenguivel 3 for 18, B.D. Reid 2 for 14, T.M. de Silva 2 for 18).

**Stone: 139** (A. Gunasekera 34, K. Kanagarajah 23, V.S. de Soysa 18, N.M. Wijesooriya 4 for 21, R.F. Mendis 2 for 30, S. Nithiananda 2 for 34).

### Wood- De Saram

**Wood: 217** (A.T. Baines 49, M. Jayasekera 48, P.S. Mendis 35, L. Chelliah 4 for 39, P. Kariyawasam 4 for 39).

**De Saram: 93** (A. Jayasekera 29, L. Chelliah 16, P. Kariyawasam 11, M. Sri Rangan 11, S.S. Condegama 4 for 35, J.H. Reid 2 for 22, L.M. Fernando 2 for 29).

**\*Winners: Miller-Chapman**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> XI CRICKET – 1966

Master-in-Charge: Mr. Q. Israel

Captain: R.N.W. Nilaweera

We had quite a successful season playing six matches of which we won five and lost the other. We fielded a team which comprised a host of freshers, and their performances were most creditable. We lost only to Royal College. We had a firm grip of the game, but our fielding let us down badly in the latter stages, and that cost us the match.

2<sup>nd</sup> XI Colours were awarded to: R.N.W. Nilaweera, M.A. Hameed, B.N. Tennekoon, A.N.C.W. Jayasekera, M. Sri Rangan, M. Sri Bawan, L.M. Fernando and P.S. Mendis.

Finally a word of thanks to the Master-in-Charge Mr. Q. Israel who devoted much of his valuable time solely for our benefit.

### Results of the Matches

**1. STC v St. Peter's College, at Mt. Lavinia**

**SPC: 99** (K.G. Perera 4 for 31, D.V. Gunatunga 2-12).

**STC: 102 for 5** (S.R. Jayawardene 32, M.A. Hameed 26).

**STC Won by 5 wickets on 1<sup>st</sup> Innings**

**2. STC v St. Mary's College, Dehiwala, at Mt. Lavinia**

**St. Mary's: 125** (K.G. Perera 3 for 21, M. Sri Rangan 3 for 19).

**STC: 268** (M.A. Hameed 164, R.N.W. Nilaweera 57).

**St. Mary's: 119 for 6** (K.G. Perera 3 for 28, M. A. Hameed 2 for 19).

**STC Won by 8 wickets on 1<sup>st</sup> Innings**

**3. STC v St. Mathew's College, at Mt. Lavinia**

**STC: 268** (M. Sri Bawan 79, S. de Mel 48).

**St. Mathew's: 117 & 63** (M. Sri Rangan 5 for 22, D.V. Gunatunga 5 for 18).

**STC Won by an Innings and 25 runs**

#### 4. **STC v St. Joseph's College, at Darley Road**

**STC: 294 for 8** (R.N.W. Nilaweera 78, A. Jayasekera 61, M.A. Hameed 55, R. Senanayake 33).

**SJC: 65** (M. Sri Bawan 6 for 22).

**STC Won by 228 runs on 1<sup>st</sup> Innings**

#### 5. **STC v St. Benedict's College, at Mt Lavinia**

**SBC: 108** (R.N.W. Nilaweera 3 for 18, M. Sri Rangan 3 for 25) & **28 for 4** (M. Sri Bawan 4 for 15).

**STC: 176 for 9** (M. Sri Bawan 41, A. Jayasekera 39, B.N. Tennekoon 35, R.N.W. Nilaweera 28).

**STC Won by 6 wickets on 1<sup>st</sup> Innings**

#### 6. **STC v Royal College, at Reid Avenue**

**STC: 154** (A. Jayasekera 71, B.N. Tennekoon 36).

**Royal: 161 for 8** (R.V. Jayasinghe 2 for 32, M. Sri Bawan 2 for 50).

**STC Lost by 2 wickets on 1<sup>st</sup> Innings**

- **R.N.W. Nilaweera (Captain)**

#### **Anura's recollection of a hilarious incident from the 1966 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Season**

"Hi Ravi, now that we are exchanging views on STC cricket I must let you into a funny infield and off field occurrence. Our 2nd XI was captained by **Nihal Nilaweera** who took his sport seriously and hated loosing.

Came the much anticipated 'mini' big match against Royal at Reid Avenue. STC batted first and scored 154 runs. RC chasing this moderate score lost wickets regularly but with determination got to a score of about 140 when their 8th wicket fell.

When the next RC batsman walked in Nihal N told **Sri Bawan** to bowl a few bouncers at him to which he agreed. But, as Bawan began his run-up, he unexpectedly came to a halt just short of the bowling crease and burst into a loud laughter. Nihal warned him to be serious and bounce the batsmen with his next delivery.

The light-hearted Bawan, however, repeated his antics with the next run up as well to the utter annoyance and frustration of skipper Nihal. This jovial mood created by Bawan resulted in Royal getting the required score beating STC by 2 wkts.

By now Nihal had reached boiling point and as they entered the dressing room attempted to reprimand Bawan in a serious manner and had to be restrained by others in the team. Bawan of course remained unfazed maintaining his cheerful demeanour all this while!



### **The Loveable Sri Bawan (RIP)**

Bawan was delightfully unpredictable who never took life seriously. He kept us in fits of laughter when he made the annual pilgrimage to the RT. He was such a staunch Thomian that when he met another Thora on the road he would invite them to his office at HNB Nugegoda branch and extend financial assistance without collateral, demonstrating his desire and commitment to help fellow Thomians. We now miss him very much and may his soul rest in peace.”

- Anura T



With Two of my Cricketing Heroes, Sriantha Rajapakse (centre), who shall be remembered eternally for his brilliant 101 at the 1966 Royal-Thomian, & Michael Tissera, the ultimate Royalty of Sri Lanka Cricket - RR.



“It must be said that in the era we played School Cricket many challenging declarations were made in trying to obtain outright victories which resulted in very exciting Cricket for spectators.

We were not shy to lose a game in trying to win. This attitude drew a large number of spectators and the grounds were filled to capacity when key matches were played.” - Anura Tennekoon

“I extend heartfelt thanks to the legendary Anura Tennekoon, Trevor Baines, Eddie Appadurai, and the highly admired, S. Skandakumar for their invaluable help and support in assembling this collection. This process brought back cherished memories from my childhood.”

– Ravi Rudra