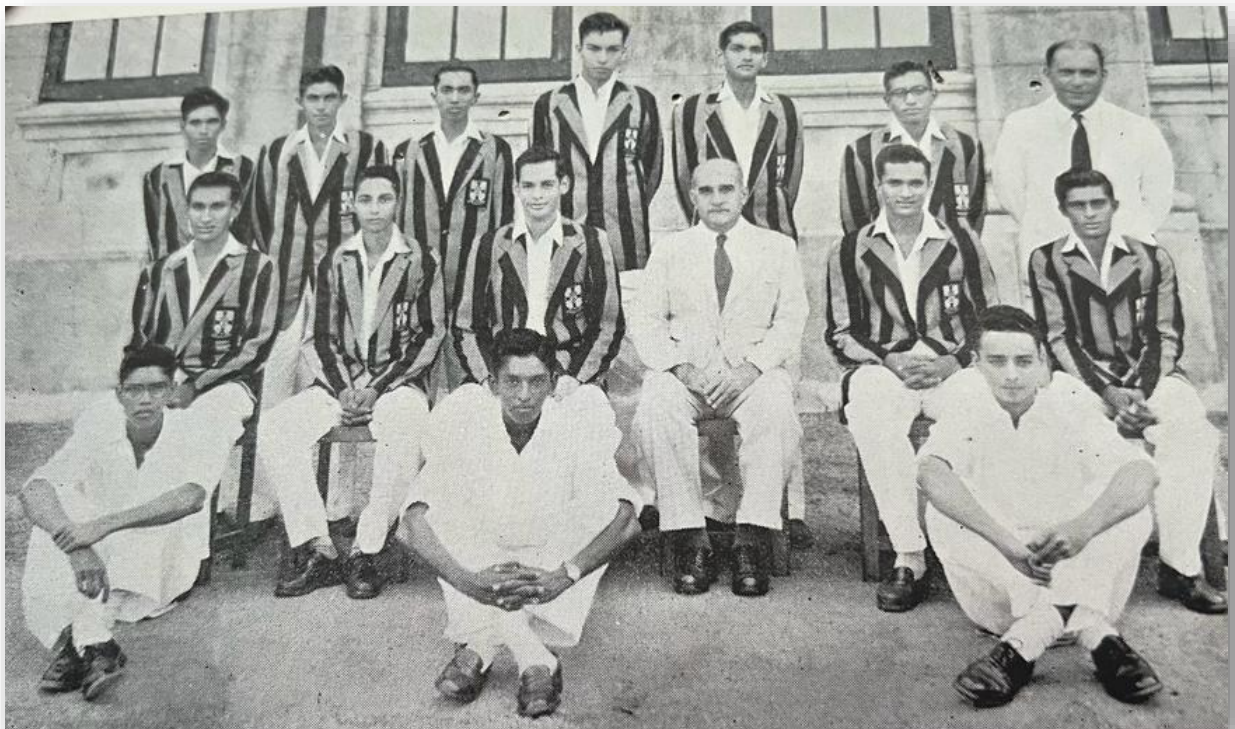




1959 STC – 1st XI CRICKET SEASON



Seated (L-R): Neil D. Chanmugam, Errol L. Lisk, Denis A. Ferdinands (Captain), The Warden, Mr. C.H. Davidson, Nihal S. Gurusinghe (Vice-Captain), M. Lareef Idroos.

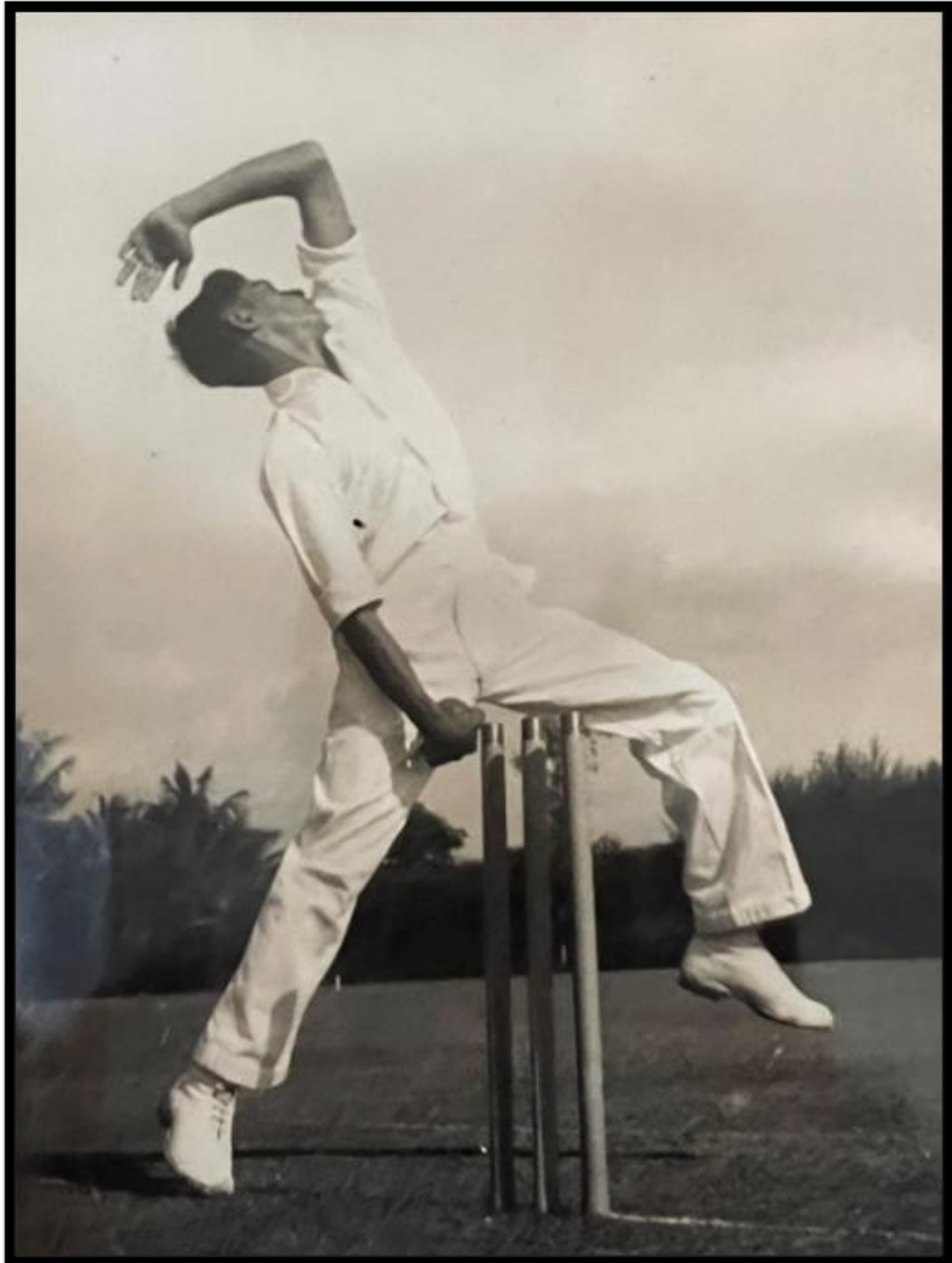
Standing (L-R): Shirley P. Wijesinha, A.E. 'Annesley' De Silva, R.M. 'Mervyn' Fernando, Michael F. Sproule, B.G. 'Barclay (Buddy)' Reid, P.S. Kumara, Mr. L.S. Gauder (Coach).

Seated on Ground (L-R): Palitha Wanduragala, B.W.R. 'Bertram' Thomas, C.K.T. 'Keith' Labrooy.

(compiled by Ravi Rudra)

LAREEF IDROOS – TAKES ALL 10 WICKETS

“IN A SENSATIONAL BOWLING PERFORMANCE M.L. ‘LAREEF’ IDROOS, THE THOMIAN LEG SPINNER TOOK ALL TEN PRINCE OF WALES WICKETS AT A PERSONAL COST OF 38 RUNS.”



“Lareef Idroos - Mastro Leg Spin & Googly Bowler”

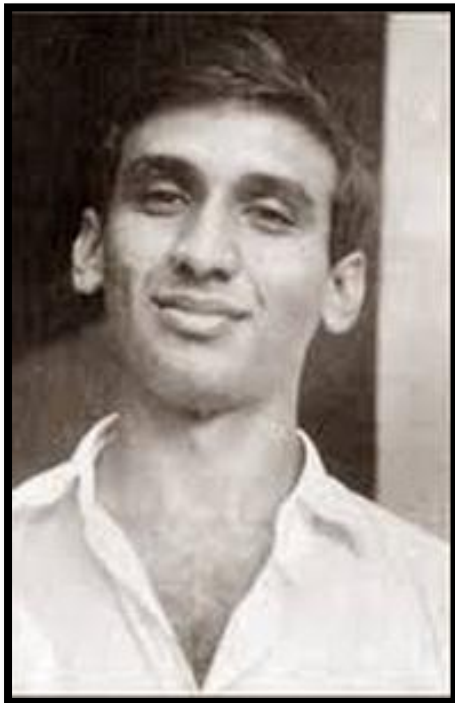
*photo courtesy of Michael Tissera.

THE CEYLON OBSERVER SUNDAY EDITION NOVEMBER 2, 1958. **IDROOS—ALL 10 WICKETS**

*Analysis of 16.1—2—38—10
vs Prince of Wales College*

01 Nov. 1958

“Idroos enabled S. Thomas’ College to defeat Prince of Wales by 89 runs at Mt. Lavinia, by taking all ten wickets for 38 runs. The Cambrians had no answer to M.L. Idroos who bundled all of them out for 115 runs in their second innings.



The Thomians declared their second innings at 154 for 3. Neil Chanmugam (left) scored a superb 72 and Michael Sproule batted well again to remain unbeaten with a sound 40.

Earlier at the end of the first days play S. Thomas’ College led Prince of Wales by 50 runs.

Batting first on an easy paced wicket, STC were 34 for 4 at one stage. Then, Gurusinghe and Sproule by careful batting brought the score to 93. The former scored a sound 47 while Sproule hit out lustily for his 53. W G. Fernando returned the best figures of 4 for 47.

The Cambrians (P.O.W) faced a steady attack spearheaded by Skipper Dennis Ferdinands and were **5 for 5** but Kasturiratne and G. de Silva batted confidently and gave the score a resemblance of respectability. The rest of the side

collapsed for 103. The wickets were shared between Ferdinands, Gurusinghe, Chanmugam, Idroos & A.E. de Silva” - Ceylon Observer

STC vs. Prince of Wales: (31st Oct & 1st Nov 1958, at Mt Lavinia)

STC: 153 (N. Chanmugam 18, N.S. Gurusinghe 47, M.F. Sproule 53, E.L. Lisk 14; W.G. Fernando 4/78) & **154 for 3 dec.** (N. Chanmugam 72, E.L. Lisk 23, M.F. Sproule 40*, P.S. Kumara 14*; W.G. Fernando 2/39).

POW: 103 (D.A. Ferdinands 2/22, N.S. Gurusinghe 2/27, M.L. Idroos 2/19, N. Chanmugam 2/14) & **115 (M.L. Idroos 16.1-02-38-10).**

STC won by 89 runs.

Prince of Wales – 2nd Innings

S. Mendis	st. Lisk b. Idroos	34
T.S. Fernando	st. Lisk b. Idroos	04
L. Gunatilleke	b. Idroos	08
W.G. Fernando	not out	27
G. de Silva	lbw b. Idroos	19
S.N. Rajapakse	st. Lisk b. Idroos	16
S. Kasturiratne	b. Idroos	00
G. Abeyesiriwardena	st. Lisk b. Idroos	01
D.D. Upali	ct. Gurusinghe b. Idroos	01
R. Cooray	b. Idroos	00
Piyasiri	b. Idroos	00
Extras		05
Total		115

Bowling	O	M	R	W
D. Ferdinands	06	00	22	00
H.L.C. D'Silva	05	01	15	00
N. Chanmugam	09	03	25	00
M.L. Idroos	16.1	02	38	10
A.E. de Silva	03	00	10	00

RESULT: STC Won by 89 Runs

[Thomian Team: N. Chanmugam, B.G. Reid, N.S. Gurusinghe, R.M. Fernando, P.S. Kumara, M.F. Sproule, M.L. Idroos, E.L. Lisk, D. Ferdinands captain, A.E. de Silva, H.L. C. D' Silva]*

ALL TEN WICKETS IN AN INNINGS



“Leg spinner, M.L. Idroos of S. Thomas’ College, Mt Lavinia, joined a select band of school cricketers who in the past fifty years have succeeded in taking all ten wickets in a single innings when he bagged 10 wickets for 38 in 16.2 overs against Prince of Wales College.

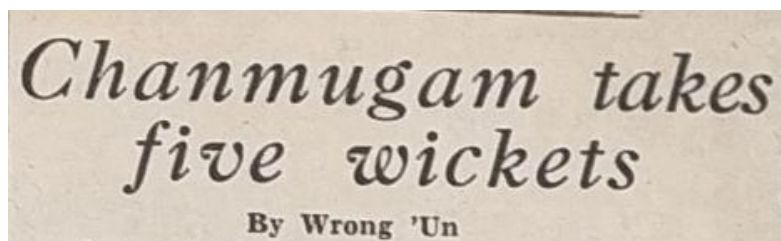
L. Bulankulame, Royal Captain of 1909 performed this feat against Trinity on the Bogambara grounds, Kandy. In 1910, another Royalist, G.A. Wickremasuriya took all ten wickets in one innings against Richmond. Then in 1912, R. ‘Dick’ de Saram, a left-armed like Bulankulame, took all ten wickets for Royal vs. Treasury.

In 1928, G. Hewavitarna playing for Mahinda vs. Galle C.C. captured all ten wickets. Then in 1951, Ambawatte of Mahinda performed the phenomenal double of scoring 103 runs and taking 10 wickets for 34 runs against Richmond.”

– Press Report

STC vs. Benedict’s: (at Mt Lavinia)

Day 1



A seemingly disastrous situation was averted by two tail-end batsmen when St. Benedict’s met the Thomians in their first inter-collegiate cricket match played at Mt. Lavinia.

Seven Benedictine wickets had fallen for 47 runs before A. Abeysekera (45 n.o.) and R. de Cruz (19) mastered the skilful Thomian bowling and retrieved the situation.

Neil Chanmugam bowling his off-breaks effectively finished the day with five wickets for 47 runs.

St Benedict’s were all out for 135 runs and the Thomians replying were 96 for 3 when rain stopped play 45 minutes before the scheduled time.

Thomians after being 49 for 3, were helped by unbroken 47 run partnership for the 4th wicket between B.G. Reid (30*) and P.S. Kumara (30*).

Day 2

St. Thomas' in
good victory

*Hectic hitting by
Channugam*

Left to make 56 runs in 45 minutes S. Thomas' hit it off in 25 minutes (10.2 overs) aided by a hurricane unbeaten 45 by opening bat Neil Channugam to beat St. Benedict's 8 wickets.



Continuing their overnight score of 96 for 3, STC declared at 225 for 9. B.G. Reid and P.S. Kumara, the overnight batsmen, both scored their half centuries. Reid played a patient knock to collect a well deserved 57. The best batting performance came from Kumara who was in fine form to hit 62 runs in rapid time.

With quick runs needed for a declaration wicket-keeper Errol Lisk hammered 26 runs in even time and left-hander R.M. Fernando scored unbeaten 35 which enabled to S. Thomas' to declare at 225 runs for 9 wickets. Fernando's short innings was impressive and he should be among the runs this season. Leg spinner, Elmo Rodrigopulle (left) bowled best for St Benedict's to capture 4 for 54.

Batting the second time with 90 runs in arrears, St.

Benedict's started well to score 90 for loss of three wickets.

However, they slumped against an accurate spin attack of A.E. de Silva (3 for 12), B.G. Reid (3 for 13) and M.L. Idroos (3 for 35) to be all out for 145 runs. Reid at one stage was unplayable and the ball he got Rodrigopulle round his legs was superb. The Thomian fielding was of a high order.

The last Benedictine batsman did not play cricket in the true spirit of the game. He walked to the wicket, flung his gloves on the ground, and took his guard. He took more time to put his gloves again. But the umpires called play and he was out the very first ball he faced....Chasing a target of 56 runs to win in 45 minutes, the Thomians hit out lustily to make it in 25 minutes. Opening the innings Neil Channugam batted in fine form hitting all-round the wicket in a hectic display for an unbeaten 45.

S. Thomas' outplayed St. Benedict's in every department of the game.

STC vs. Benedict's: (at Mt Lavinia)

SBC: 135 (A. Abeysekera 45*, R.D. Cruz 19; N. Chanmugam 5/47, M.L. Idroos 2/35) **& 145** (A. Gunasekera 20, F. Ponniah 27, L. Fernando 27; M.L. Idroos 3/35, A.E. de Silva 3/12, B.G. Reid 3/13).

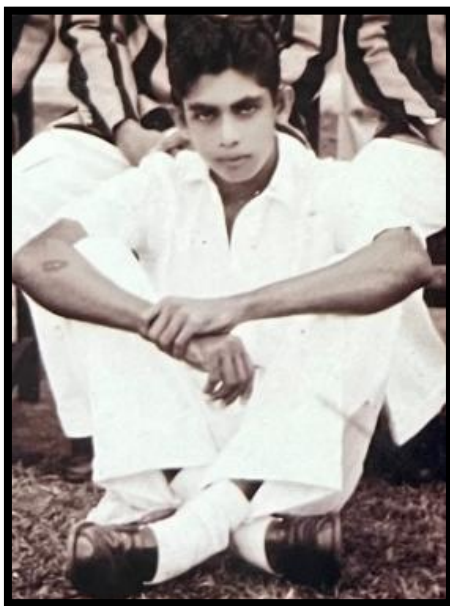
STC: 225 for 9 dec. (B.G. Reid 57, P.S. Kumara 62*, E.L. Lisk 26, R.M. Fernando 34*; E. Rodrigopulle 4/54) **& 57 for 2.** (N. Chanmugam 45*).

STC won by 8 wickets.

STC vs. St. Peter's: (at Mt Lavinia)**Day 1**

Forceful batting by the Thomians stemmed a possible collapse. A bright fifth stand of 63 in 46 minutes between **N. Gurusinghe** and **M. L. Idroos** enabled S. Thomas' to lead St. Peter's by 16 runs with four wickets in hand at the end of first day's play - (St. Peters 161 & STC 177 for 6).

Batting first on an easy paced wicket the Peterites lost half their side with only 71 runs on the board. But then an aggressive partnership of 66 runs in 77 minutes by Athukorale (38 – with six fours) and Anghie (31 – with four fours) saved them from a collapse.



Left arm spinner **A.E. de Silva** (left) bowled best for the home team capturing 5 wickets for 34 runs.

Gurusinghe who opened the attack with Ferdinands accounted for the two Peterite opening batsmen for the personal cost of 19 runs.

In reply, the Thomians started none too well, losing their first two wickets for only 10 runs when paceman Desmond Dharmarajah broke through to dismiss openers N. Chanmugam and B.G. Reid. Then Sproule who was middling the ball well was brilliantly caught by wicket keeper Anghie, who dived towards first slip to hold the catch.



But then **Nihal Gurusinghe** (left) who batted very soundly and patiently for his unbeaten 52 (in 157 minutes with only two fours), Kumara (28), Idroos (49), Lisk (19) helped S. Thomas' pass the Peterite total.

Best innings of the day came from **P.S. Kumara**, one the most attractive batsman in schools, played several delightful strokes in his polished 28 runs in just 30 minutes. It included five fours – three square cuts that left the fielders standing, a straight drive and a hook, before cutting a ball into the safe hands of Layman at gully. Mercurial bowler **Lareef Idroos** took on a new role as a batsman. He drove well on both sides of the wicket – his 49 came up in 46 minutes that included six fours, before he played across and was out leg before.

Day 2



Time robbed St. Peter's of victory when they met S. Thomas' College at Mt. Lavinia. In a sensational spell of fast bowling the Peterite paceman **Anton Perera** (left) almost snatched victory for his College when in his final over of the day the last Thomian batsman, A.E. de Silva, snicked between the slips for two runs. Anton Perera, last week against Nalanda, on an unfavourable wicket, showed he would be genuinely fast on a firm wicket. His ability to make the ball lift from a length, allied to his sustained accuracy, caused havoc with the Thomian batting. **Perera took 7 for 11 (11-06-11-07).**

(*As a schoolboy, Anton Perera was a fine Athlete in the Throwing events. He won the Pubs Shot Putt in 1958 & Discus in 1959. At the 1960 Pubs, Anton came 2nd in the Discus to Thomian Lorensz D' Silva who set a new Pubs Record. That year Anton would represent the Ceylon Schools Athletics Team to Australia under the captaincy of Maurice Faiweather. The team included two other cricketers in Lorensz D' Silva and Darrel Lievers - RR).

St. Peter's in their second innings were 4 wickets down for 60 runs, when skipper Brian Seneviratne and Anghie pulled them out of a tight spot with intelligent batting. Leg spinner, **B.G. Reid** who came on after the tea interval bowled extremely well to capture 4 for 13 in just 6.3 overs. St Peter's were all out for 163 leaving STC to score 81 runs well within the reach of the powerful Thomian batting side.

S. Thomas' fortunate to force a draw!

Brawny, broad shouldered teenage **Anton Perera** terrorised the mighty Thomian batting and brought them down to their knees in the Peterite-Thomian match at Mt Lavinia. S. Thomas's were indeed fortunate to save the game against St. Peter's when with the last pair in, an easy catch was missed in the penultimate over off Anton Perera. Even after this let off, one wondered whether Paceman Dharmarajah should not have bowled the last over instead of slow bowler B. Seneviratne.

As no runs were scored in Perera's over, the wise move would have been to put on the bowler with the best chance of breaking through a batsman's defence. And Dharmarajah is accurate, hostile and had bowled well in the first innings. Apart from this error, and any schoolboy could have made the same mistake, Seneviratne led his team well.



After completely dominating play in the first day with some good displays the Thomians cracked up due chiefly to the hostile spell of fast bowling by Anton Perera. The Thomians were left with 65 minutes to score 81 runs for victory, they fought tooth and nail to stave off defeat when 9 wickets were down for mere 32 runs. With the assistance of a crumbling wicket, Perera had all the Thomians at sea.

When it is remembered that the Mt. Lavinia ground, in close proximity to the sea, is one of the most difficult grounds for visiting teams to play on, the captain, Brian Seneviratne, and his side must be congratulated on what they achieved against the strong team.

Earlier on the second day, S. Thomas' gained a lead of 83 runs on the first innings. Gurusinghe top scored with a patiently compiled 75 while P. Wanduragala was unbeaten on 20. St. Peter's exceeded their first innings total by two runs thanks to Seneviratne and Anghie, which left the Thomians with 65 minutes to make 81 runs, a task well within their powers. And the manner in which they set about it with 16 runs scored off the first two overs, made one feel they would repeat their performance from last week against St. Benedict's when they hit 55 runs in 23 minutes.

From then on Anton Perera started the rout and had the Thomians fighting tooth and nail to save the match. Thrice Perera missed his hat-trick. The scoreboard slumped from 16 runs for 1 wicket to 23 for 6. At this stage Reid and Sproule defended stubbornly to take the score to 32 to try and save the match. However, three wickets fell at 32 including the wicket of Reid.

With about six minutes left for play the Peterites fieldsmen crowded round the last pair while tension mounted. It was up to the Thomian last pair of Wanduragala and A.E. de Silva to play out time and survive the last four exciting overs.

In the last over of the day, after a dropped chance in the slips off Perera's previous over, the fieldsmen crowded round Wanduragala and amidst wild cheering he popped up a chance to one of the close in fieldsmen who grabbed the ball but lost his balance and control thereby losing the chance of an outright victory which St. Peter's thoroughly deserved.

STC vs. St. Peter's: (at Mt Lavinia)

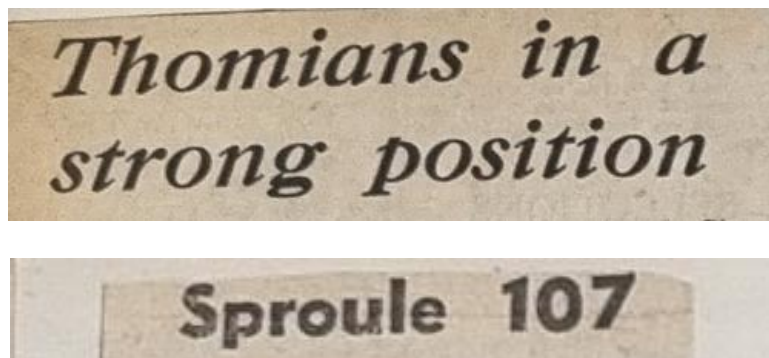
SPC: 161 (P. Athukorale 38, A. Anghie 31; N.S. Gurusinghe 2/19, A.E. de Silva 5/34) & **163** (B. Seneviratne 44, A. Anghie 36, A. Perera 20; A.E. de Silva 3/40, B.G. Reid 4/13, M.L. Idroos 2/61).

STC: 244 (N.S. Gurusinghe 75, M.L. Idroos 49; D. Dharmarajah 4/59) & **34 for 9 at close.** (N. Chanmugam 15, Anton Perera 7/11).

[Match Drawn.](#)

STC vs. Ananda: (at Mt Lavinia)

Day 1 (vs Ananda)



On the first day, an unbeaten century by **Michael Sproule** placed S. Thomas' in a strong position against Ananda College at Mt Lavinia. The home team batting first piled up 295 with fine knocks from Sproule 107 and Nihal Gurusinghe 75 being the main contributors.

Sproule took 178 minutes over his century which included seven fours while Gurusinghe's 75 was compiled in 144 minutes. B.G. Reid (29) and P.S. Kumara (24) helped to swell the total to 295. Sproule in his century displayed a correct approach and neat style. He should make many runs this season.

Sproule began slowly, scoring 30 runs in his first hour at the wicket. However, he began to hit the ball when wickets started to fall, but could not score fast enough to complete his century in good time. He was associated in two productive stands, with

Gurusinghe and Kumara. Gurusinghe continued his good batting form scoring 75 in 144 minutes while Kumara lived dangerously for 24 which included five fours.



With Sproule dominating the batting, the Thomians attacked the bowling after the tea interval and caught up with the clock.

Ananda having 38 minutes of batting lost three good wickets for 25 runs at stumps on the first day, two of them falling to A.E. de Silva.

Day 2 (vs Ananda)

St. Thomas's held
to a draw



An 8th wicket stand of 84 by Y. Amaradasa (61*) and T.D. Rajapakse (45) saved Ananda from tasting an innings defeat at the hands of S. Thomas' at Mt. Lavinia.

Ananda accumulated 117 in their first innings in reply to the Thomians 295. N. Ekanayake top scored with 49 runs. Ferdinands was the most successful bowler taking 4 for 15.

Following-on 178 runs behind Ananda were in trouble against the left-armed A.E. de Silva and defeat stared them in the face, when seven wickets were down for 62. Then came the spirited 8th wicket stand between Amaradasa and Rajapakse. Amaradasa deserves the highest praise for his fighting innings. He played both pace and spin well, and hit

anything short of length to include ten fours in his 61 not out which was compiled in 123 minutes. Rajapakse stayed 71 minutes for his valiant 45 that included eight fours.



Left-arm spinner **A.E. de Silva** troubled the Anandians and wound up with 5 for 44 while Neil Chanmugam captured 2 for 15 in 13 overs.

Thomian Skipper and fast bowler **Denis Ferdinands** (left) bowled accurately in the first Innings with tidy figures of 13-07-15-04.

POOR FIELDING

The Thomians have only them selves to blame for not being able to force a win over Ananda when they had them at 62 for 7 in their second innings after being 178 runs in arrears.

But the Thomian fielding let them down in the last 45 minutes of play with four catches being dropped and Ananda succeeded in holding the Thomians to an exciting draw.

S. Thomas' had the opportunity of declaring early on Friday (day 1) evening. They declined to do so and batted on until 5.12 pm. The Thomians failed to take advantage of the new ruling on declarations where a declaration can be made at any time on the first day.

At tea the Thomians were not in a position to declare. But by 4.45 pm. they had allowed Sproule to complete his century which he did around 5 pm.

STC vs. Ananda: (at Mt Lavinia)

STC: 244 (B.G. Reid 29, N.S. Gurusinghe 75, **M.F. Sproule 107***, P.S. Kumara 24; G. Abeyratne 4/64).

Ananda: 117 (N.G. Ekanayake 49*; D.A. Ferdinands 4/15, N.S. Gurusinghe 2/17, A.E. de Silva 2/39) & **173 for 9 at close** (Y. Amaradasa 61, T.D. Rajapakse 45; A.E. de Silva 5/44, N. Chanmugam 2/15).

Match Drawn

STC vs. Wesley: (at Mt Lavinia)



DAY 1

WESLEY DISAPPOINTED! THEY WERE COMPLETELY OUT-MANOEUVRED AND SOUNDLY BEATEN BY S. THOMAS' ON THE TURF WICKET AT MOUNT LAVINIA.

Taking first lease of the wicket Wesley gave a feeble batting display. They have only themselves to blame for their debacle. All their batsmen choose to play on the back foot which led to their downfall.

The Wesley batsmen were completely baffled by the slow left-arm inswingers of **Annesley de Silva**. He had some of his victims out without offering a stroke. Silva used the early liveliness of the wicket to the fullest advantage.

At one stage Wesley did not seem as if they would top 50 runs with their scoreboard reading 39 for 6 wickets. But plucky batting by the tailenders enabled them to reach 90 runs.



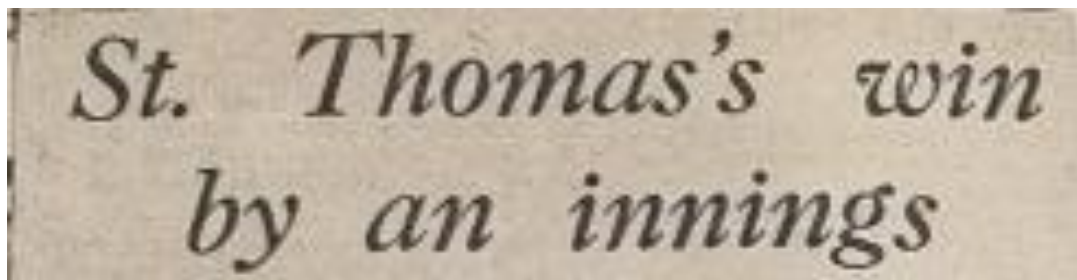
Denis Ferdinands and Annesley de Silva bowled intelligently to capture 5 for 31 in 12.3 overs and 5 for 32 in 13 overs respectively. Silva clean bowled all his victims.

The Thomians did not get off to a good start when they lost their first wicket for 1, with Chanmugam being run out attempting a foolish single. Gurusinghe coming at the fall of this wicket gave a good batting display in his short stay to score 22. He was out well caught in the slips by Sinniah in attempting to drive the ball outside the off stump.

The Thomians were not happy having lost three more wickets for 82 runs. Although the Wesley bowlers did not seem to trouble the batsmen, they found run-getting extremely difficult.

It was **P.S. Kumara** with superb batting display that turned the match in the Thomians favour. Kumara was unbeaten on 69 at close play with the Thomians on 191 for 8.

DAY 2



S. Thomas' beat Wesley by an innings and 30 runs at Mt. Lavinia with 90 minutes to spare.

In reply to Wesley's first innings of total of 90, the Thomians continuing from their overnight score of 191 for 8 added 50 runs to their total. **P.S. Kumara** went on to score a fine 85 while Ferdinands was unbeaten with 38.

L.R. Goonetilleke bowled well to finish up with 5 for 72.

Wesley fared better in their second innings scoring 121. At one stage they were 111 for 7 and looked as if they would save an innings defeat, with U. Samararatne (48) and R. Athukorale (16) putting on 53 for the 7th wicket. Then A.E. de Silva, who took 5 for 28, started a collapse and the Wesley innings folded up at 121.

A.E. de Silva had the splendid match bag of 10 wickets 60 runs in 30 overs.

STC vs. Wesley: (at Mt Lavinia)

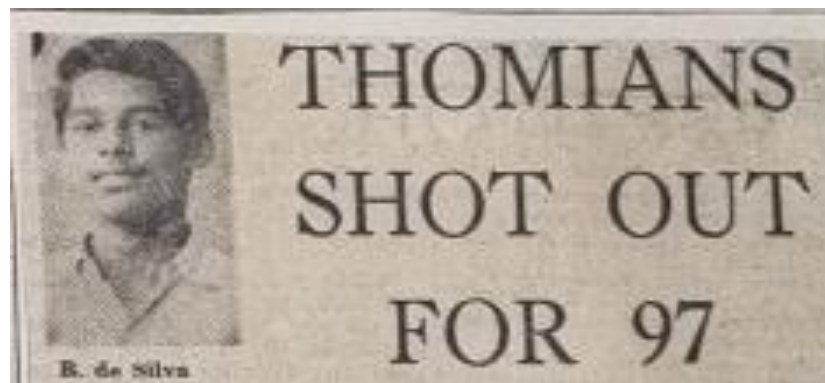
Wesley: 90 (D.A. Ferdinands 5/31, A.E. de Silva 5/32) **& 121** (U. Samararatne 48, A.E. de Silva 5/28, N. Chanmugam 2/06).

STC: 241 (N.S. Gurusinghe 22, P.S. Kumara 85, D.A. Ferdinands 38*).

STC won by an Innings and 30 runs.

STC vs. St. Joseph's: (at Darley Road)

DAY 1



A torrential downpour deprived the Josephians of driving home the advantage again when they routed the Thomians for 97 runs in their first innings at Darley Road. Shortly after the 'milk' interval, the rain came and the game was called off for the day.

Leg-spinner, **Rajah de Silva** who has recently struck form was in a devastating mood. He claimed five wickets for 30 runs while on the spot bowling by K. Amarasekera (3 for 10) enabled the Josephians to dismiss the Thomians in 120 minutes.

The Thomians had an early set back when they lost their opener, freshman Mano Ponniah (2), bowled by pace bowler Amarasekera with the total at 3 runs. However, an aggressive partnership between Chanmugam (25) and Gurusinghe (14) who put on 42 runs in even time enabled them to make a partial recovery.

With the dismissal of Gurusinghe who was very well stumped by keeper Fernando off the bowling of Trevis Perera the debacle started. The Josephian spinner Rajah de Silva taking over the attack completely baffled the Thomian batsmen and they had lost 3 wickets for 4 runs.

S. Thomas' who boast some of the best leg-spinners in the schools had no answer to the bowling of de Silva. Offering weak-kneed shots, M. Sproule on whom the batting revolved for a revival gave a lollipop catch to Amarasekera.

Thereafter, the collapse started with M.L. Idroos clinging on to one side to stop a debacle, but the other batsmen who followed fell victims in rapid succession. Idroos alone played attractively to make 22 valuable runs.

DAY 2

**A THRILLING
DRAW AT
DARLEY ROAD**



Idroos 6 for 30

The Josephian-Thomian cricket match ended in a thrilling draw at Darley Road. Set to make 142 runs in 85 minutes for victory, St Joseph's made 127 runs for the loss of eight wickets at close.

St. Joseph's who had dismissed the Thomians for 97 in their first inning did no better when they were bundled out for 90 in just 98 minutes. **Lareef Idroos** bowled splendidly to claim six wickets for 30 runs in 12 overs. Some of the Josephian batsmen did not offer a stroke and were bowled round their legs.

Going in a second time the Thomians hit up a quick 134 for the loss of 4 wickets and declared. Batting aggressively they scored the first 50 runs in 53 minutes and the 100 came up in 106 minutes. The highlight of the innings was well compiled half century by Nihal Gurusinghe despite a pulled muscle when he was in his twenties. With aid of a runner Gurusinghe was unbeaten on 52 runs and proved that he was their best bat.

Idroos followed his magnificent bowling spell when he batted with purpose by collecting 22 valuable runs. St. Joseph's began disastrously losing their first four wickets for 32 runs. Then Rajah de Silva (22), Tissa de Soyza (22) and Travis Perera (40 n.o.) helped them come within 15 runs of their target.

*Bold closure added
thrills to the game*

*Battle at Darley
Road—the best*

FINE GESTURE

With the match heading for a certain draw the Thomian skipper Dines Ferdinands made a fine gesture leaving the Josephians to get 142 runs in 85 minutes. This livened up the game and the Josephians in their turn accepted the challenge.

Going for runs from the very first ball they lost 2 wickets in the first two overs within 5 minutes. This early setback did not deter the Josephians who tried to make a match of it.

Priya Perera coming in the fall of the first wicket survived a very confident appeal for a catch behind off the very first ball he faced.

Perera got a life again when he was dropped by Ferdinands and thereafter he looked to have settled down. After hitting A.E. de Silva for a boundary he made a rash cross bat shot and was bowled. Had he batted with more responsibility the game may well have gone in their favour.

Tension mounted as the eighth Josephian wicket fell for 108 with the Thomian bowlers on top. Travis Perera (40 not out) and Lakshaman Fernando (10 not out) however held on to the end and took the score to 127 at close.

Thomian skipper in his anxiety to snatch the last two wickets failed to realise he was perhaps over bowling Idroos. Had he tried Chanmugam or himself he may have succeeded in breaking through.

The rate of scoring was extremely good with the first 50 coming in 42 minutes and the 100 in 68 minutes. Rajah de Silva and Tissa de Soyza put on 26 runs in 14 minutes.

STC vs. St. Joseph's: (at Darley Road)

STC: 97 (N. Chanmugam 25, M.L. Idroos 22, N.S. Gurusinghe 14, P.S. Kumara 10; Rajah de Silva 5/30, K. Amarasekera 3/10) & **134 for 4 dec.** (M. Sproule 19, N.S. Gurusinghe 52*, P.S. Kumara 14, N. Chanmugam 13, M.L. Idroos 23*).

SJC: 90 (P. Fernandopulle 18, T. de Soyza 11, C. Direckze 13; M.L. Idroos 6/30; N. Chanmugam 2/20) & **127 for 8 at close** (R. de Silva 22, T. de Soyza 22, T. Perera 40*; D.A. Ferdinands 3/17, A.E. de Silva 2/44, M.L. Idroos 2/53).

[Match Drawn](#)

STC vs. Trinity: (at Asgiriya)

DAY 1



A superb century by **Malsiri Kurukulasuriya** of Trinity was the feature of the first day's play against S. Thomas' played at Asgiriya.

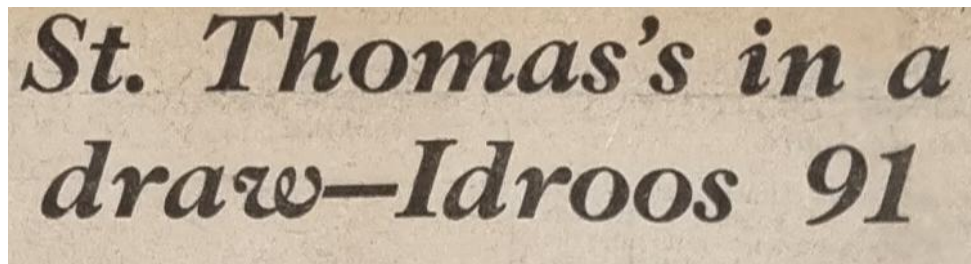
Making full use of the fast outfield and perfect batting wicket, Trinity scored 231 for 9 wickets declared. At close STC were 17 for the loss of two wickets. The mainstay of the Trinity batting was Kurukulasuriya who hit the Thomian bowling to all corners of the field to score 118 in 138 minutes which included 18 boundaries.

Trinity lost an early wicket when opener E. Fernando was bowled by Ferdinands with the total at 5. Then a 70 run partnership between Kurukulasuriya and G. Fernando put Trinity on the road to recovery.

Fernando scored a valuable 30 runs. After such a fine performance by Kurukulasuriya, Trinity failed to build with his exit at 202 for 5. The rest of the batting crumbled for an additional 29 runs.

Of the bowlers the most impressive of Neil Chanmugam who captured 2 for 42 in 18 overs. Ferdinands ended up with 3 for 55, including the wicket of Kurukulasuriya, in 14 overs. With 45 minutes play left the Thomians lost two quick wickets for 7 runs, but Gurusinghe and Sproule were together at stumps with the score at 17.

DAY 2



Batsmen took the honours in the drawn match between S. Thomas' and Trinity at Asgiriya. S. Thomas' made a splendid recovery (17 for 2 overnight) to gain a first innings lead of 36 runs.

M.L. Idroos batted extremely well but was unlucky to miss his century by nine runs. Idroos (91) and R.M. Fernando (32) put on 88 for the 6th wicket. Denis Ferdinands (24) and A.E. de Silva (16 n.o.) put on 47 for the last wicket in 31 minutes.

Earlier, Michael Sproule collected 40 runs while P.S. Kumara made an attractive 29. **Eric Roles** bowled best for Trinity with 5 for 63 in 21.3 overs.

Trinity declared their 2nd innings at 187 for 4 in 43 overs of enterprising batting with **Nimal Maralande** playing bright cricket for an unbeaten 50 runs. He and J. Ratwatte were involved in an unbroken fifth wicket partnership of 95 when Trinity made the declaration. The Thomians set to make 152 for victory had scored 44 for the loss of three wickets in 20 overs at stumps.

STC vs. Trinity: (at Asgiriya)

Trinity: 231 for 9 dec. (M. Kurukulasooriya 118, G. Fernando 30; D.A. Ferdinands 3/55, N. Chanmugam 2/42) **& 187 for 4** (N. Maralande 51*; M. Kurukulasooriya 37, S. de Chickera 23, J. Ratwatte 37*; N.S. Gurusinghe 2/9).

STC: 267 (M.L. Idroos 91, M.F. Sproule 40, P.S. Kumara 29, D.A. Ferdinands 34; E.D.K. Roles 5/63, S. de Chickera 3 for 53) **& 42 for 3 at close.** (N.S. Gurusinghe 13, M.F. Sproule 10*; S. de Chickera 2 for 11).

[Match Drawn](#)

1959 Thomian RT Souvenir
Thomian Cricket Team



Seated (L-R): Neil Chanmugam, Errol Lisk, Denis Ferdinands (Captain), Lareef Idroos, Michael Sproule.

Standing (L-R): B.W.R. Thomas, R.M. Fernando, Palitha Wanduragala, B.G. Reid, C.K.T. Labrooy, A.E. De Silva, P.S. Kumara.

Absent: Nihal S. Gurusinghe (Vice-Captain), & Shirley Wijesinha.

THE THOMIAN TEAM

Hello folks! we're here again
To watch another, well fought game.
The toss is over, the match begun,
So, I'll introduce 'em' one, by one.

Demon Dennis is leading us,
No matter who does win the toss.
Swinging the ball, both in and out,
The Royalists, he's sure to rout.

Guru is next on this honoured list.
His shots are with, the flick of his wrist.
The bowlers will toil, to get him out:
But stretching out - he'll simply clout.

Behind the sticks is Errol Lisk,
I pity the batsman taking a risk.
His batting too is superfine,
The third man boundary's sure to shine.

Twisting the ball with all his might,
And giving it all, it's required flight,
Young Lareef is sure, to have his fun
By giving the batsmen, his wrong 'un.

A graceful bat is Michael S,
His presence he is bound to stress.
He'll smash and cut, and drive and hook.
To watch, its like a picture book.

Chanmugam, Neil is known by all
To make the wickets, rattle and fall.
As a batsman too, he's quite a fellow,
'Cause the runs flow smoothly, from his willow.

Then; to "Toper" A. E. de S,
 His bowling, will make the batsmen guess.
 His fielding's superb, you'll find no flaws,
 He's sure to get, - prolonged applause.

Young Buddy Reid of T. T. fame,
 Is no stranger to this noble game.
 He sticks in his crease as long as he likes
 And makes good use of his long-handled Sykes.

Tennis Courts or Cricket grounds,
 The ball with all his might he pounds.
 P. S. Kum is sure to show
 That he can make the total grow.

R. M. F. the quiet one,
 Looks like he needs, a mid-day bun.
 Tho' small of stature, you will see
 A success at the match he'll be.

Wandura P. is the next man in,
 With specs strapped on, he'll amble in.
 He'll take his guard and peer around,
 And hit the ball right off the ground.

At No: 12 is Thomas B,
 A budding bat and keeper he.
 Water jug and towel in hand
 He too is one of the jolly band.

Run by run he'll add them all,
 And jot down every bye and ball.
 Young Keith knows every bat and bowler
 For he's the popular Thomian Scorer;

— Tissa De Alwis.

BATTING AND BOWLING AVERAGES OF OUR TEAM THIS SEASON

BATTING

NAME	No. of Innings	No. of times Not Out	Highest Score	Total Runs for Season	Average
D. A. Ferdinands	7	1	38*	96	16.0
N. S. Gurusinghe	10	1	75	277	30.77
E. L. Lisk	9	-	26	73	8.11
M. L. Idroos	8	1	91	205	29.26
N. D. Chanmugam	9	1	45*	127	15.87
M. F. Sproule	9	2	107*	208	29.71
A. E. de Silva	6	3	16*	47	15.66
P. S. Kumara	10	2	85	262	32.75
B. G. Reid	7	-	57	128	18.28
P. Wanduragala	6	2	20*	33	8.25
R. M. Fernando	5	1	34*	79	19.85

* Denotes Not Out.

BOWLING

NAME	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
D. A. Ferdinands	123	42	305	20	15.25
N. S. Gurusinghe	41	8	132	8	16.50
M. L. Idroos	120	21	373	20	18.65
N. D. Chanmugam	123	32	268	14	18.65
A. E. de Silva	162	54	351	34	10.29
B. G. Reid	56	14	148	9	16.55

**50 and Over in an Innings
FOR S. THOMAS'**

69	F. Thomaz	1885
55	D. Robertson	1890
66	S. Edirisingha	1893
91	H. V Tringham	1902
68	L. H. de Alwis	1902
52*	A. Tennekoon	1907
61	F. B. Smeation	1908
87	S. Saravanamuttu	1914
94	A. E. Crowther	1915
60	F. J. T. Foenander	1917
62	R. Jayatilleka	1926
54	R. Hermon	1927
60	R. Hermon	1928
55	A. J. D. N. Selvadurai	1929
71	N. A. de S. Wijesekera	1930
70	F. Amarasinghe	1931
65	L. S. Gauder	1933
69	D. Fairweather	1934
67	S. Thabrew	1935
52*	Cotelingam	1935
57	R. B. Wijesinghe	1936
72*	W. Jayatilleke	1936
54*	N. Scheffer	1936
63	R. B. Wijesinghe	1936
55	R. B. Wijesinghe	1937
62	W. Jayatilleke	1937
57	R. Proctor	1940
81	N. T. Wijesooriya	1941
83	V. G. Prins	1942
98	K. L. M. Perera	1943
70	K. M. T. Perera	1944
63	C. Saravanamuttu	1944
55	O. Wijesinghe	1945
64	P. A. Toussaint	1945
64*	S. J. Thambiah	1947
52	R. I. P. Weerakoon	1947
54	W. J. May	1948
55	Shanti Kumar	1949
74	R. Inman	1950
50	R. Inman	1950
54	T. Jayalingam	1950
51	D. Samuel	1951
67	G. L. W. Wijesinghe	1953
61	A. T. L. Gauder	1954
55 }	R. J. Reid	1954
65*		
*Not out		1957

OVER 10 WICKETS IN A MATCH FOR S. THOMAS'

F. Thomasz	12	for	20	1884
D. Robertson	10	for	38	1891
O. G. de Alwis	10	for	47	1894
J. A. Scharenguivel	11	for	47	1896
C. Speldawine	11	for	37	1904
L. H. Arndt	14	for	55	1906
R. E. Wanduragala	14	for	76	1907
H. Seneviratne	11	for	60	1918
D. L. de Saram	10	for	97	1931
W. A. Wijesinghe	10	for	66	1933
S. Anthonisz	11	for	66	1934

OVER 5 WICKETS IN AN INNINGS

C. Wilkins	6	for	4	1885
C. Erskine	7	for	9	1887
D. Robertson	7	for	16	1890
P. Danials	5	for	7	1903
L. H. Arndt	6	for	17	1905
H. Seneviratne	7	for	38	1918
W. A. Wijesinghe	6	for	47	1933
M. O. Gooneratne	7	for	34	1935
W. E. Taylor	6	for	47	1939
O. A. Abeynaike	7	for	60	1941
H. S. Coomaraswamy	6	for	25	1943
S. Elapata	6	for	29	1944
C. T. A. Schaffter	6	for	27	1949
C. A. Barrow	5	for	18	1951
J. D. Piachuad	7	for	51	1953
W. M. Ekanayaka	5	for	55	1956

1959 Royal 1st XI TEAM



Standing (L-R): Nanda Senanayake, Harsha K. Samarajeewa, Daya Sahabandu, Sarath Vidanage, Lalith Senanayake, Nihal S. Kodituwakku.

Seated (L-R): Mr. Dudley K.G. de Silva (Principal), Mahinda Wijesinghe, Michael Dias, Sarath C. Samarasinghe (Capt.), E. Lorensz Pereira, T. Perayerawar, Mr. E.C. Gunasekera (Master-in-charge).

1959 Royal-Thomian (80th Battle of the Blues - Colombo Oval)

DAY 1

Thomians hold whip hand

*Declare at 257/6 and take
two Royal wkts. for no runs*

By WRONG 'UN

The 80th encounter between Royal and S. Thomas' took a dramatic turn at the Colombo Oval when the less favoured Thomians ended the day in a strong position. Royal who were favourites in this match are now fighting hard to stave off defeat.



The captains Denis Ferdinands (s. Thomas') and Sarath Samarasinghe (Royal) inspect the wicket before tossing for their 'Battle of the Blues' match played at the Oval.

Winning the toss and batting first on the easy paced Oval wicket is a big advantage, but, if it rains and the wicket is affected Royal for once may have to taste defeat this season.

The largest crowd this season in the series – some two thousand more than last year – about 15,000 spectators fanned themselves vigorously with newspapers in the sweltering heat and to add to the discomfort the Thomians started off with a slow rate of scoring.

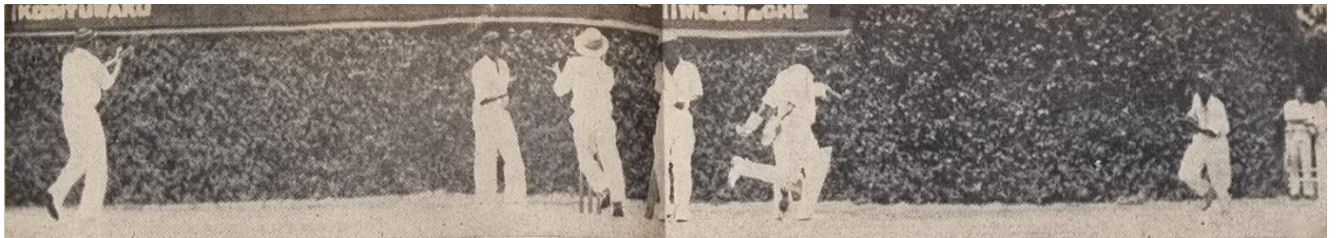
However, as batsman P.S. Kumara hit his first four off the second ball the woe-by-gone look of the spectators changed to one of delight. Thereafter the runs came in rapid succession.

Royal have only themselves to blame for this turn to the match. After giving a horrid exhibition on the field – missing catches and throwing inaccurately – they lost two wickets for no runs to the Thomian total of 257 runs for 6 wickets.

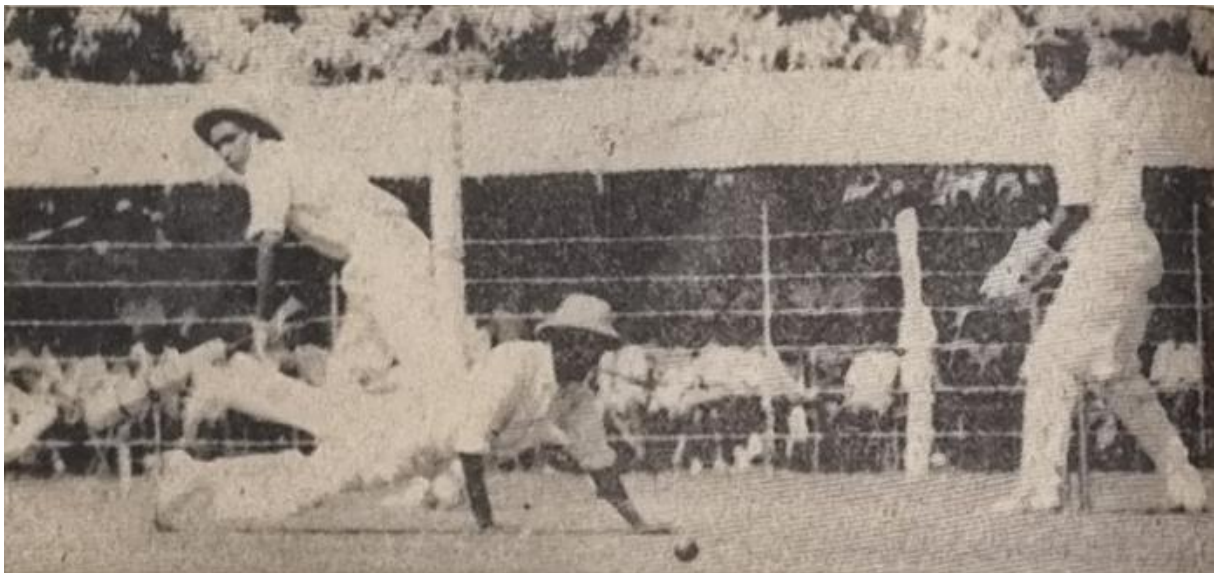
P.S. Kumara's refreshing innings (41 n.o.) – first 16 runs made by four boundaries – took the limelight off the innings of young Michael Sproule (57 run out) and Nihal Gurusinghe (69).

To improve the scoring rate hard-hitting batsman Lareef Idroos (38) gave able support to partner Kumara. They put on 69 quick runs for the 5th wicket.

A tricky catch which was taken by Sarath Vidanage on the boundary line to dismiss forceful batsman Neil Chanmugam that leaves room for controversy. After some words with the fielder, the umpire signalled Chanmugam's exit.



Above: The Royalists are jubilant as the first Thomian wicket falls with the score at 23 – left hander Shirley Wijesinha, making his debut in school cricket this season, being smartly caught by Nanda Senanayake in the slips off E.L. Pereira's first over.



Above: Michael Sproule who with Nihal Gurusinghe pulled the game round with a Century partnership for the third wicket is seen here pushing one past the slips.

When it came to their turn to bat, Royal made the initial blunder of sending Mahinda Wijesinghe as 'night-watchman' with regular opener Nanda Senanayake. The fall of the first wicket in the 25 minutes play left demoralised the tired Royalists. The rot had set in with left-arm swinger, A.E. de Silva bowling from the pavilion end.

In rather uncertain light Royal lost another valuable wicket in Sarath Vidanage. The declaration set by Denis Ferdinands with 25 minutes play left turned out to be a shrewd and fruitful move from the point of view of the Thomians.

Although, already, Royal's batting lineup has suffered with the shuffling of batsmen to combat Ferdinands and A.E. de Silva in the last moments of the first day's play, runs could be expected from skipper Sarath Samarasinghe, Michael Dias and the two Senanayake brothers.

Day 1 – Report by Eustace Rulach

S. Thomas' are sitting pretty after spending nearly the whole afternoon over 257 for 6 declared. They shocked the Royalists by capturing two of their wickets without a run being scored in the final 25 minutes of play.

Played on a perfect batting wicket at the Oval, the Thomian innings went through three changes. The cricket produced before the tea interval was dull. But, then it picked up during the post-tea session and ended up on an exciting note with Royal fighting to keep their wickets intact against some hostile and accurate Thomian bowling before stumps were drawn at 6.10 pm owing to bad light five minutes before the scheduled close.

The Thomians can be satisfied with their performance against the team reputed to be the strongest in the schools. But they missed a golden opportunity of being in a better position at the end of the first day's play by not taking advantage of the winning of the toss and not making full use of the perfect batsmen's wicket and lightning fast outfield.

However, the Thomians, who were the less fancied side, are now in a position to call the tune while the Royalists will be facing the task of avoiding defeat for the first time this season. The Royalists have the batsmen to see them 'out of the woods', but the Thomian bowlers are capable of breaking through. If they do, the match is theirs.

The Thomians batted from 12 noon till 5.40 pm to total 257 for 6 before Denis Ferdinands closed the innings. Up to the tea interval the cricket was dull with only 138 runs being scored in 210 minutes of batting. On a wicket that was of no help to the Royal bowlers the Thomian batsmen paid them far too much respect. But after the tea interval the Thomian middle order batsmen showed that the bowlers could be hit.

The 12,000 plus spectators who over-flowed to the ground, were treated to some bright batting by P.S. Kumara and Lareef Idroos, as well as some spending fielding by the Royalists, who till that time could do little correct in their attempts at running out batsmen.

The only patch of green on the Oval was the centre turf. The rest of the ground was parched and dust rose every time a fielder chased the ball.

E.L. Periera worried the Thomian batsmen most with his nagging length and change of pace and flight. The Thomian opening pair B.G. Reid and S.P. Wijesinha, the latter playing in his first match for the season, took no chances against the Royal pace bowlers who could not get anything out of the wicket.

But with the score at 10, Michael Dias failed to run out Reid when he tried to hit the wicket at the bowlers end with the batsman yards out of the crease – but he missed. Off the very next ball Wijesinha gave N. Senanayake a hard chance at first slip off H. Samarajeewa, but he failed to hold the catch.

The first hour produced only 18 runs and then with the score at 23 Royal had their first success when Wijesinha was smartly caught by N. Senanayake in E.L. Pereira's first over for 11.

Nihal Gurusinghe and Reid were extremely cautious against some accurate bowling and took the score to score to 58 before N. Senanayake held another catch off E.L. Pereira's bowling to dismiss Reid for 19.

At this stage left-hander Michael Sproule joined Gurusinghe, but both batsmen made little attempt to punch the ball. After two hours play S. Thomas' had only 46 runs on the board and at 3 pm they were 94 for 2. At tea interval the pair were together with the score at 138 for 2.



On resumption Gurusinghe (left) and Sproule completed their century stand for the third wicket after the 150 came up in 225 minutes. When the stand of worth 102 runs, Gurusinghe played a shot into the covers and Sproule, who was backing up, came down the wicket too far. A smart return by T. Perayerawar beat him and bowler Daya Sahabandu ran him out with his second attempt at breaking the wicket. The score read STC 160/3.



Sproule (left) played a sound innings of 57 runs which took him just over two hours. He concentrated on defence, but when he decided to hit the ball, he hit it well and found the boundary on nine occasions.

Sproule's partner Gurusinghe was out soon after with the score at 172 when he cocked a drive back to bowler Daya Sahabandu who held a simple catch. Gurusinghe collected 69 but it was a restrained innings which included eight fours and took him nearly three hours to compile. Gone were those

flowing strokes that feature his style.

Bright part

But with Kumara and Idroos at the wicket came the best batting from the Thomians. These two batsmen attacked the bowling from the word 'go' and runs came twice as fast as they had done before the interval with the 200 coming in 255 minutes. Kumara was in an attacking mood, his first four scoring strokes being fours. His first 25 runs contained a six and four fours.

Then, it was 'Idroos' turn and this batsman cut and drove powerfully to leave the fielders standing. They put on 68 bright runs for the fifth wicket before Idroos was brilliantly caught at gully by Lorensz Pereira off Sahabandu for 38 which included seven fours.

Neil Chanmugam came and went, brilliantly caught by Vidanage on the square leg boundary. In taking the catch, surrounded by schoolboys on the boundary, Vidanage fell over. The umpires after consultation gave it out.

Ferdinands closed the innings at 5.40 pm, with the score at 257 for 6. Kumara was unbeaten with 41 stylish runs which included one six and six fours that came in 80 minutes.

Lorensz Pereira was the most successful of the Royal bowlers, taking 3 for 82 in 28 overs. With 25 minutes to go Royal changed their batting order and it cost them two wickets for no runs at close of play. Both wickets fell to left armer A.E. de Silva who bowled very effectively.

Scores at end of day 1: STC 257 for 6 dec. & Royal 2 wickets for 0 runs in 7.5 overs (A.E. de Silva 3.5-3-0-2).

DAY 2

E. L. PEREIRA SAVES

*Brilliant bowling by
Ferdinands & Silva*

As prophesied, the 80th annual 'Battle of the Blues' ended in a draw. It was the 6th successive draw in the series since 1954. A belated declaration by the Thomians – they declared at 5.10 pm – left Royal to get 165 runs in about one hour. It was an impossible task, yet the Royalists made a grand effort, and they got 82 for the loss of three wickets at stumps.



The brilliant all-round performance by **E. Lorensz Pereira** (left) was a feature of the match. After bowling his heart out for 3 for 82, he prevented a Royalist follow-on with a courageous and enterprising innings with an unbeaten 65 runs.

On his performance in this match, Lorensz Pereira stands out as the best schoolboy cricketer of 1959. His task yesterday, was most enviable, but yet he stood up to his work with indomitable courage and saved Royal from dire distress.

When he came into bat the Royal score was only 83 for 6. Taking the burden on himself and with the able assistance of diminutive Nihal Kodituwakku, this pair fought the Royalists out of the rut. Their 55 runs stand for the 8th, saw Royal out of danger.

Coming in at number 9, Kodituwakku played a courageous innings for his 18 runs. He came in at a time (83 for 7) when the Royalists were struggling. He treated the bowling – which until then was tops – with scant respect.

But, Royal owe a great deal to Lorensz Pereira. His 65 unbeaten runs were scored with precision and perfect timing. He was at the wicket for nearly 185 minutes and hit 9 fours and a six.



The Thomian skipper, **Denis Ferdinands** bowled great heartedly. Taking a shorter run, he made his presence felt, getting plenty of pace and mixing his stuff. At one stage he had 4 wickets for 10. But finished with 5 for 55 in 27 overs, 15 of which were maidens.

A.E. de Silva, the other opening bowler, did a grand job with the ball. Used sparingly he swung the new ball and when the shine was worn out, he turned it appreciably and finished with 4 for 20 in 20.3 overs. Unfortunately, all his good fielding was marred by his indifferent fielding. He dropped opener Nanda Senanayake who batted confidently for his 36 runs.

Having averted a follow-on the Royal skipper, S.C. Samarasinghe, declared at 3.25 p.m. – 20 minutes before tea with the total at 169 for 9.

The Thomians who had a first innings lead of 88 runs started to go for the runs but lost left-hander S.P. Wijesinha quite cheaply. But **Nihal Gurusinghe**, the hero of the Thomian first innings, and **B.G. Reid** took the score to 76 for one, before Ferdinands made the declaration leaving Royal to get 165 runs for victory in about an hour – an impossible task.

Reid batted solidly to be unbeaten with 42 runs, while Gurusinghe hit hard for his 27 runs – his runs coming in the last few overs before the Thomian declaration.

Spirited reply

The Royalists' despite the impossible task before them made a spirited reply losing three wickets for 82 runs, with skipper Sarath Samarasinghe scoring an unbeaten 56 runs. The crowd at the Oval was the biggest seen in the series. It is understood that many hundreds were turned away for want of accommodation.



A dashing innings of 65 not out by Lorensz Pereira saved Royal from following on and put paid to the Thomian chances of breaking through in their 80th encounter which ended in a tame draw at the Oval. This is the sixth consecutive draw in the series.

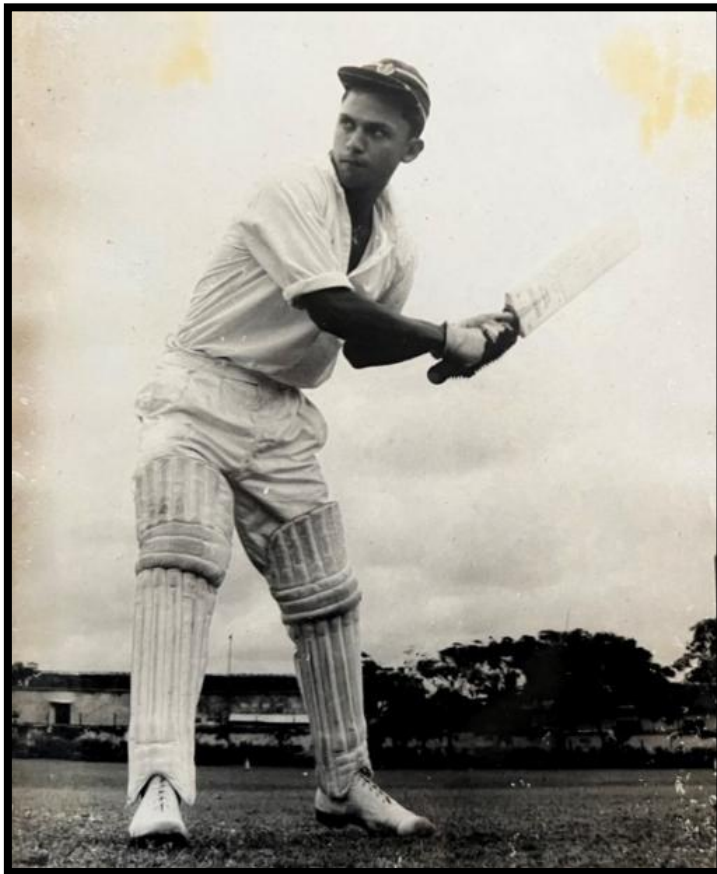
Once Royal averted the follow on at 3.15 pm the match was as good as over. Royal declared at 3.25 pm with their score at 169 for 9. The Thomians, 88 runs ahead in the first innings batted till 5.10 pm in scoring 76 for 1 wicket before they closed their innings.

Royal were left with 55 minutes of play and playing bright cricket they scored 82 for 3 at stumps (in just 16 overs) when they had to make 165 runs for victory. Royal skipper, **Sarath Samarasinghe** batted beautifully for an unbeaten 56.

The wicket played true and the Thomians did well to dismiss the strong Royal top order batsmen so cheaply. Royal looked almost certain of following on when they had 83 for 7 needing to score 158 runs to make the Thomians bat again.

At this stage Lorensz Pereira took over and aided by Nihal Kodituwakku helped Royal stage a recovery when they put on 58 bright runs for the 8th wicket. But when this partnership was broken Royal still needed 20 runs to avert the follow on, Pereira farming as much as possible and Daya Sahabandu defending as though his life depended on it, took the score along to 157 when Sahabandu was out bowled by A.E. de Silva for O. Harsha Samarajeewa, the last man, faced an hectic over and then Pereira with a crashing four helped them avert the follow-on.

Lorensz Pereira, with his aggressive innings when the Thomians was right at top, proved that he is the best all-rounder in the schools this season. He never failed to punish anything short of length and he upset the bowlers with his crashing pulls, drives and cuts. His unbeaten 65 came in only 78 minutes and included nine fours and a six. So well was he in command of the Thomian bowling that the last 20 runs needed to avert the follow-on was scored entirely by him.



Lorensz Pereira

(*photo courtesy of Michael Tissera)

“Fine All-Round Performances at both the 1958 & 59 Royal Thomian.

In 1958, as Royal Captain, Lorensz scored a handy 35 in Royal’s first innings and had match figures of 5 for 64 with the ball.

He followed it up in 1959 with an aggressive innings of 65 not out when his side was under tremendous pressure. He also took 3 for 85 off 28 overs.” - RR

Lorensz Pereira was particularly severe on

Thomian skipper Ferdinands who gave his best bowling performance of the season, capturing five wickets for 55 runs off 27 overs. Pereira received a great ovation when he returned to the pavilion after Royal had declared at 169 for 9.

This was Pereira’s first match after nearly a month and he showed no fear against the short-pitched balls, the type of delivery which broke his nose while batting against Nalanda. In fact, he got most of his runs off the pull shot and showed confidence to get inside the line of the ball and punch it hard.

Royal must also thank **Nihal Kodituwakku** for his fighting innings of 18 runs. Although he is essentially a stroke-maker, he curbed his natural tendencies to have a bang at the bowling and played correct defensive cricket against some accurate bowling.

Daya Sahabandu too played his part well. He was content to stop the ball from hitting his wicket and left it to Pereira to get the runs. Their ninth wicket stand realised 19 valuable runs, all scored by Pereira.



Sahabandu (left) received a great ovation from the crowd and it was the first time this season that I have seen a batsman who failed to score getting so much applause!

Accurate bowling

At the start of second day's play Royal, continuing their overnight innings of two wickets down for NO score, had to fight for runs against some accurate bowling. **Denis**

Ferdinands with an inspired spell of fast bowling had Royal on the run. Using a short run up he bowled some of the

fastest and most accurate overs seen in school cricket this season to break the back of the Royal batting.

Ferdinands had Perayerawar caught by R.M. Fernando which broke the third wicket stand of 49, and then clean bowled skipper Sarath Samarasinghe and Lalith Senanayake – both for no score. Royal were reeling at 50 for 5. He then surprisingly took himself off after having the remarkable figures of 3 for 8 in 13 overs, 10 of them being maidens.

By the time Ferdinands brought himself back again into the attack Michael Dias and Nanda Senanayake had put on 33 runs for the sixth wicket but he broke through once again clean bowling Dias for 24, and at the same total Senanayake was LBW to A.E. de Silva for 36 runs which took him over two hours to compile and included six fours.

It was at this stage (Royal 83 for 7) that Pereira and Kodituwakku came together and paved the way for a Royal recovery.

Ferdinands worried all the batsman with his pace and wound up with 5 for 55 in 27 overs, 15 of them being maidens. Left arm bowler, A.E. de Silva bowled accurately and had the impressive figures of 4 for 20 in 20.3 overs 10 of them being maidens.

Royal declared at 3.25 pm and S. Thomas' batted for 80 minutes to make 76 for 1, and had a lead of 164 runs when they closed their innings at 5.10 pm.

Royal batted brightly to hit 82 for 3 in the 55 minutes of batting left for play with skipper **Sarath Samarasinghe** (below) collecting 56 bright runs in 55 minutes. He hit 10 fours in his unbeaten knock.

There were over 15,000 people who watched the match on the second day and this I believe is the biggest attendance for any school cricket fixture in Ceylon.



Match Summary:

STC 1st Innings: 257 for 6 dec. (N.S. Gurusinghe 69, M.F. Sproule 57 run out, P.S. Kumara 41*, M.L. Idroos 38, B.G. Reid 19, S.P. Wijesinha 11; E.L. Pereira 3 for 82).

*** Gurusinghe & Sproule registered a partnership of 102 runs for the 3rd wicket.**

RC 1st Innings: 169 for 9 dec. (E.L. Pereira 65*, N. Senanayake 36, M. Dias 24, T. Perayerwar 18, N. Kodituwakku 18; D.A. Ferdinands 27-15-55-05, A.E. de Silva 20.3-10-20-04).

STC 2nd Innings 76 for 1 dec. (B.G. Reid 42*, N.S. Gurusinghe 27*).

RC 2nd Innings 82 for 3 (S.C. Samarasinghe 56*, L. Senanayake 13; D.A. Ferdinands 2 for 24, N.D. Chanmugam 1 for 13).

Match Drawn

***Five of the Team Members who played in the 1959 Royal-Thomian – Two Royalists (Nihal Kodituwakku & Daya Sahabandu) and Three Thomians (Lareef Idroos, Neil Chanmugam & Buddy Reid) would go on to play for Ceylon.**

Nihal Kodituwakku



Nihal Kodituwakku (born 23rd July 1940) attended Royal College, Colombo, where he played in the cricket team. Short of stature, he became an opening batsman, strong on the back foot and against the short ball.

He made his first-class debut in the Gopalan Trophy match in 1965–66, scoring 87 in the second innings after the Ceylon team had been forced to follow on 255 runs behind. He toured Pakistan in 1966-67 with the Ceylon team.

Kodituwakku opened the batting for Ceylon, along with former Royal captain – Fitzroy Crozier, against a strong West Indian team captained by Sir Garfield

Sobers, at the Colombo Oval (P. Saravanamuttu Stadium) in Jan 1967. He scored a gutsy 33 on the first morning that included facing the fearsome Wesley Hall.

Kodituwakku subsequently coached the cricket teams at a number of schools, including Maliyadeva College, Royal College and S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. He officiated as a match referee in domestic first-class and List A matches from 2002 to 2011. In September 2018, he was one of 49 former Sri Lankan cricketers honoured by Sri Lanka Cricket for their services before Sri Lanka became a full member of the International Cricket Council.

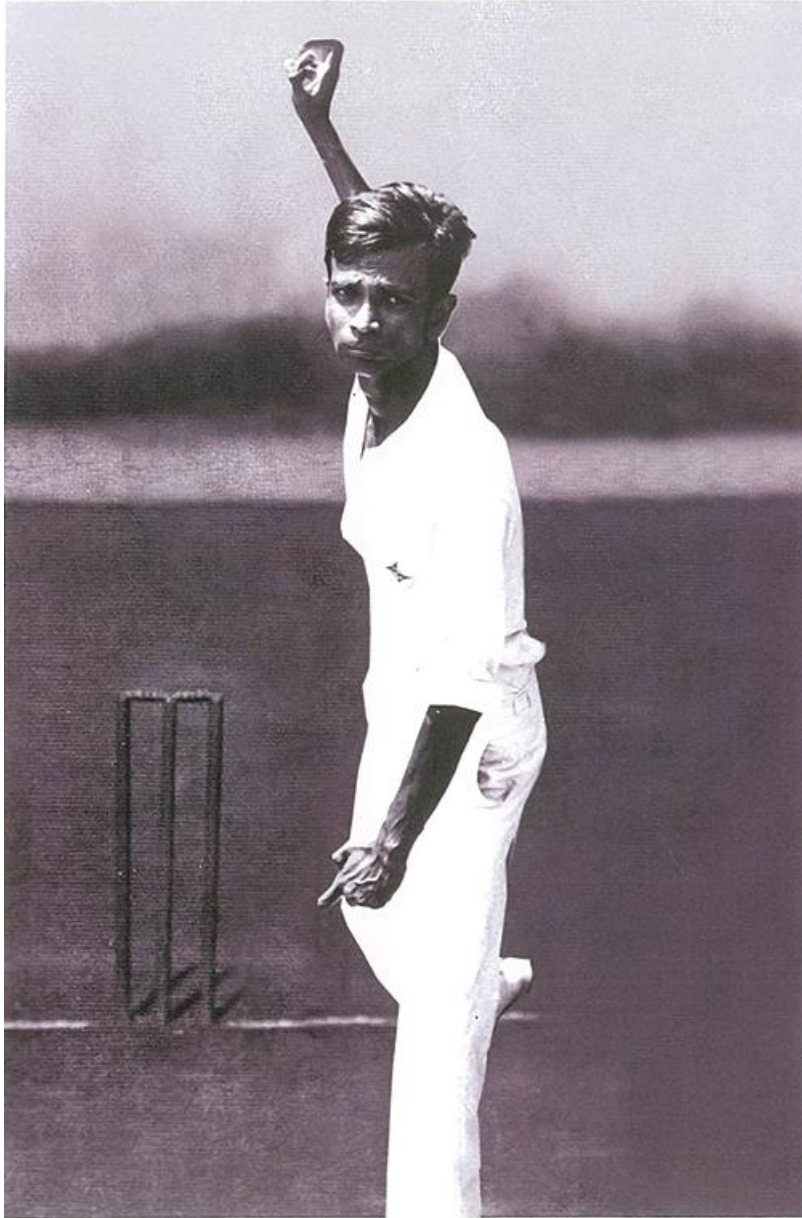
‘King of Viharamahadevi Park’ no more

- Sunday Times, Aug 2023

Former Ceylon cricketer **Dayananda Sahabandu**, one of the best left arm bowlers produced by Sri Lanka and well known as ‘Daya’ Sahabandu passed away at the age of 83.

Born on March 28, 1940 in Colombo he went on to become a crafty left-arm spinner during the pre-Test era. He attended Royal College Colombo, where he played First XI cricket from 1957 to 1960 before earning his place in the Ceylon team in the 1960s. In 18 First Class games he turned out for Ceylon between 1968 and 1977, Sahabandu claimed 87 wickets at an average of 19.49.

Sahabandu's wicket taking streak goes as far back as his schooldays, as he once captured a match bag of 5 for 78 as an effective spinner. But going further, as a junior cricketer, Sahabandu opened the bowling for Royal. He went on to open the bowling with pace and switch to spin no sooner the track slowed down, which was regarded as a rare ability that benefitted his country in his day.



(28 March 1940 – 09 Aug 2023)

He was known as the best left-arm bowler of his generation despite being a dual purpose bowler. Those who knew Sahabandu well identified him as 'a quite person whose character was in his bowling' with a 'golden arm and long pointed fingers'. He was a humble servant of cricket, regarded as a moderately gentle left arm bowler.

Some termed his bowling as mesmerising and a player of guts and determination who always puts country before self.

Despite many accolades, Sahabandu had very little opportunity to show his prowess at international level. He played 18 First Class games and took 87 wickets, but his victims included many well-known cricketers. Those in this list include Tom Graveney of England, Keith Fletcher, Ian Chappell, Ian Redpath and Keith Stackpole.

Sahabandu bowled what was described as a 'lovely loopy off-stump line' to take 5 for 86 in 37 overs and 1 for 33 against Tony Lewis' England side. Touring India in 1975, Sahabandu finished with figures of 3 for 54.

At domestic level, where he turned out for Nomads Sports Club for nearly two decades, Sahabandu played 253 matches taking 1048 wickets. For that he bowled 6550 overs to end up with an astonishing average of 14. He was fondly called as the 'King of Viharamahadevi Park' for his bowling heroics.

Playing in the Gopalan Trophy Sahabandu opened bowling for Ceylon and finished with figures of 5 for 54 and 6 for 83 in a drawn game. During the Indian tour in 1975-76 he captured 8 for 37 and 4 for 46 against East Zone. Playing for the Board President's XI against State Bank of India, Sahabandu finished with a match bag of 7 for 77. Against Ajit Wadekar's XI in 1975, Sahabandu came on top to claim a match bag of 8 for 112.

Apart from his bowling, Sahabandu was an occasionally useful and defensive tail-ender in the batting order, but he was famous as a poor fielder. After his playing days were over Sahabandu also served as a national cricket selector.

He was employed at Colombo Municipal Council as a Physical Education Instructor for 14 years before joining Maharaja Organisation as an Executive for the next 30 years.

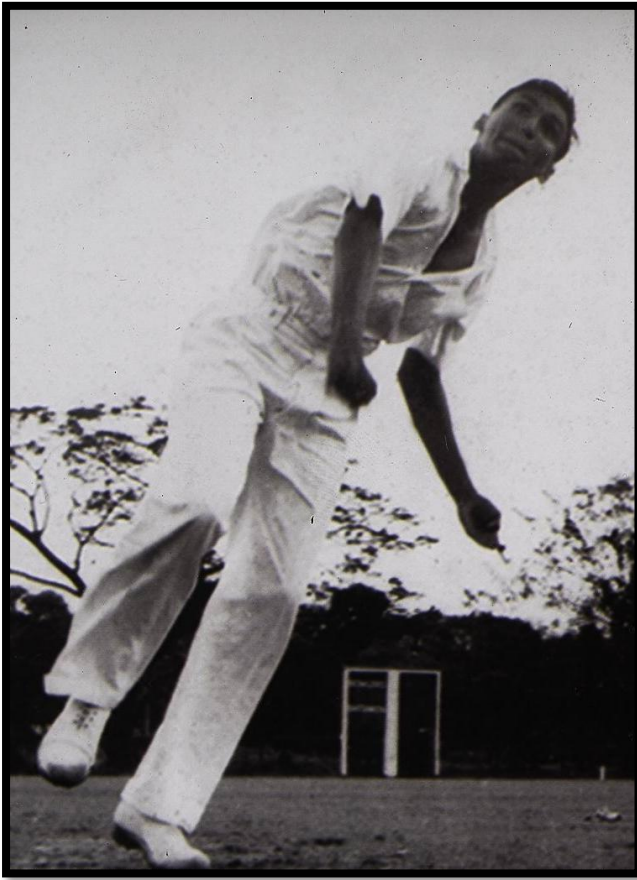
Sahabandu hardly had foes on and off the field, as he was 'incapable of making enemies'. But he was known to share humour in the dressing room.

He was one of the 49 veteran cricketers felicitated by Sri Lanka Cricket few years later. Sahabandu's name is listed among the 30 'Lions of Sri Lanka Cricket' where top names are included.

He lived on Charlemont Road in Wellawatte, towards the beach side, with his wife Swarna and only son Janaka."

Neil Chanmugam

(13 May 1940 – 22 April 2014)



*photo courtesy of Michael Tissera.

Neil Chanmugam (L) made his mark as a fresher at the 1958 Royal-Thomian. He came on first change and dismissed three of the top four Royal batsmen with his wily off-spin.

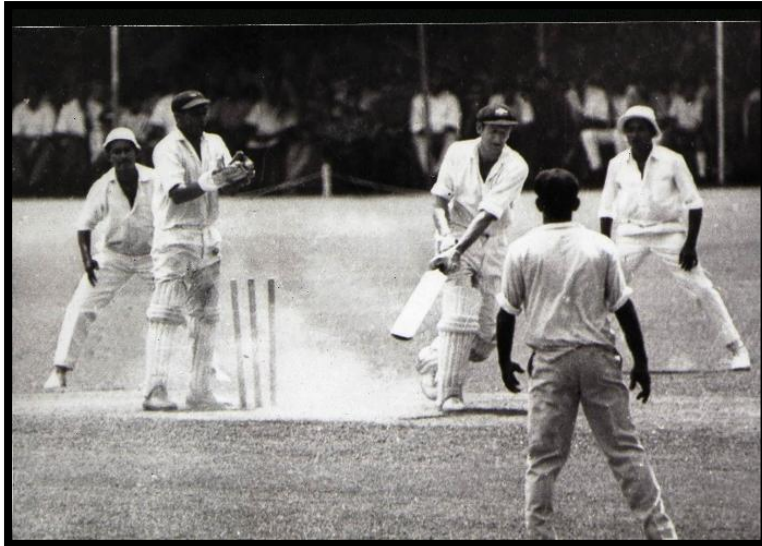
Neil played for S. Thomas'

College in 1958 & 1959 and went on to become one of Sri Lanka's leading offspinners of the pre-Test era.



As an off-spinner making use of his height he mesmerised most leading batsmen, local and international, with crafty variation in flight and length. Neil was also an excellent close-in fielder and as a hard-hitting batsman it was a delight to watch the shots that he played with immense power, dispatching the ball to every corner of the field and many a times over the ropes.

“Neil started by bowling seam at College but we had JKC Gunasekera and Denis Ferdinands in our side. However, we didn't have an off spinner. So I said to Neil, ‘why don't you try and bowl off spin’. And he took it on himself and was not coached...great fellow. Neil was a natural talent.... Idroos in school was also a superb bowler”. – Michael Tissera (in conversation with Ravi Rudra).



Bill Lawry bowled Neil Chanmugam for 70 in the 2nd innings.



Neil Chanmugam mesmerised the Aussies taking 5 for 47 in the 1st inning. He took three wickets in the 2nd, getting Bill Lawry for the second time and the wickets of Doug Walters and Ian Redpath. Lawry was generous in praising Chanmugam's efforts and complimented him as the best bowler of the match.

**Neil Chanmugam also took 5 for 28 against Mike Smith's MCC in 1965 having broken into limelight in 1962 when he scalped five English batsmen for 43 runs to dismiss Ted Dexter's MCC team for 159 playing for Ceylon C.A.*

BARCLAY GEORGE 'BUDDY' REID

Former Thomian Buddy, was a Double International, sportsman for Sri Lanka. He also captained Sri Lanka at both Cricket and Table Tennis. Furthermore as a brilliant Table Tennis player he has represented both Ceylon (as a young schoolboy and in his twenties) and Australia, winning numerous National and World Veteran Titles, as well as captaining the Australian Veterans at Table Tennis.



Buddy owes his early cricket career to his elder brothers Claud and Ronnie. After learning the basics from the great legendary Thomian coach Lassie Abeyawardena in the under 16's in College, the rest of his coaching was watching Claud and Ronnie in every match they played.

He played for S. Thomas' at all age levels from under 12 to 1st XI. He played only one year in the Royal Thomian (under the captaincy of Dennis Ferdinands), receiving the delightful news on the first day of the Royal Thomian of 1959 that he had been successful in the entrance exam for Medical College.

Buddy owes his later cricket career to the legendary Dr. H.I.K. Fernando. Buddy had intended to give up cricket for studies when he entered the University but Herbie

(H.I.K) came to the chemistry lab to meet Buddy and persuaded him to play. In spite of many failures in his first year H.I.K. encouraged Buddy until he finally made good.



Buddy's First Class Cricket highlights

✚ Winning the Sara trophy in 1963 for the Ceylon University team under the captaincy of former Josephian, Carlyle Perera. Buddy was vice captain that season.

✚ The following season (1964), under Buddy Reid's captaincy, the University team were runners-up to Bloomfield in the Sara Trophy, losing by the barest of margins of 0.14 points.

✚ Winning the Macan Markar trophy for the highest individual score (**177** runs) in the Sara Trophy tournament in 1960, his debut first class season.

✚ Heading the Sara Trophy batting averages in two consecutive years 1963 (**50.0**) and in 1964 (**42.1**).

- ✚ Heading the Sara trophy run aggregate in two consecutive years 1968 (692 runs) and 1969 (702 runs).
- ✚ Making his first-class debut for the Ceylon Board President's XI in a Gopalan Trophy match against Madras in 1964, batting at number three and scoring 46 (the innings top score) and 22 in a six-wicket victory.

- ✚ Playing for Ceylon against Australia in 1964 and 69 against Pakistan in 1964, against England in 1966, 69 and 70. and captaining Ceylon against England in 1969.

- ✚ Having an unbroken 50 run partnership with brother Ronnie against England in 1965.
- ✚ He captained Ceylon against Colin Cowdrey's MCC in 1969, making his highest score, 50 not out, in the second inning which involved an unbroken opening partnership of 118 run with Ranjit Fernando (59*). This was an unofficial test record which stood for around 10 years.
- ✚ Few days earlier against Cowdrey's 1966 team both Buddy (57) and Ranjit Fernando (58) compiled a 121-run opening partnership in the 60 over match. This was the first match in which a Ceylon team ever beat England, and
- ✚ Finishing his career for Ceylon by top scoring in both innings against Tony Lewis's England in 1970. (*The great **M. Sathasivam** commented on Buddy's batting, "*Reid was the only batsman with the correct technical approach. Against good nagging bowling he proved it beyond reasonable doubt by giving solid displays in both innings.*")

- ✚ It is also worth noting that Dr Buddy Reid was the first doctor to examine Muralitharan in Melbourne in 1996 and explain the optical illusion created while bowling due to the deformity in his arm.

BUDDY REID
INDUCTED TO THE PRESTIGIOUS HALL OF FAME
BY TABLE TENNIS AUSTRALIA

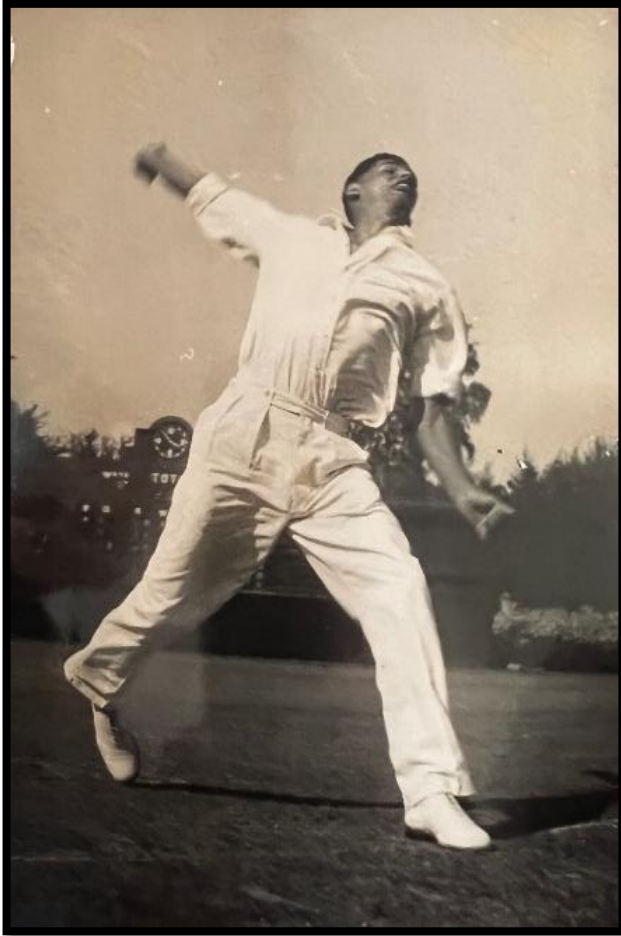


Buddy Reid receives his prestigious Hall of Fame award.

Denis Ferdinands



(15th May 1939 – 30th Jan 2024)

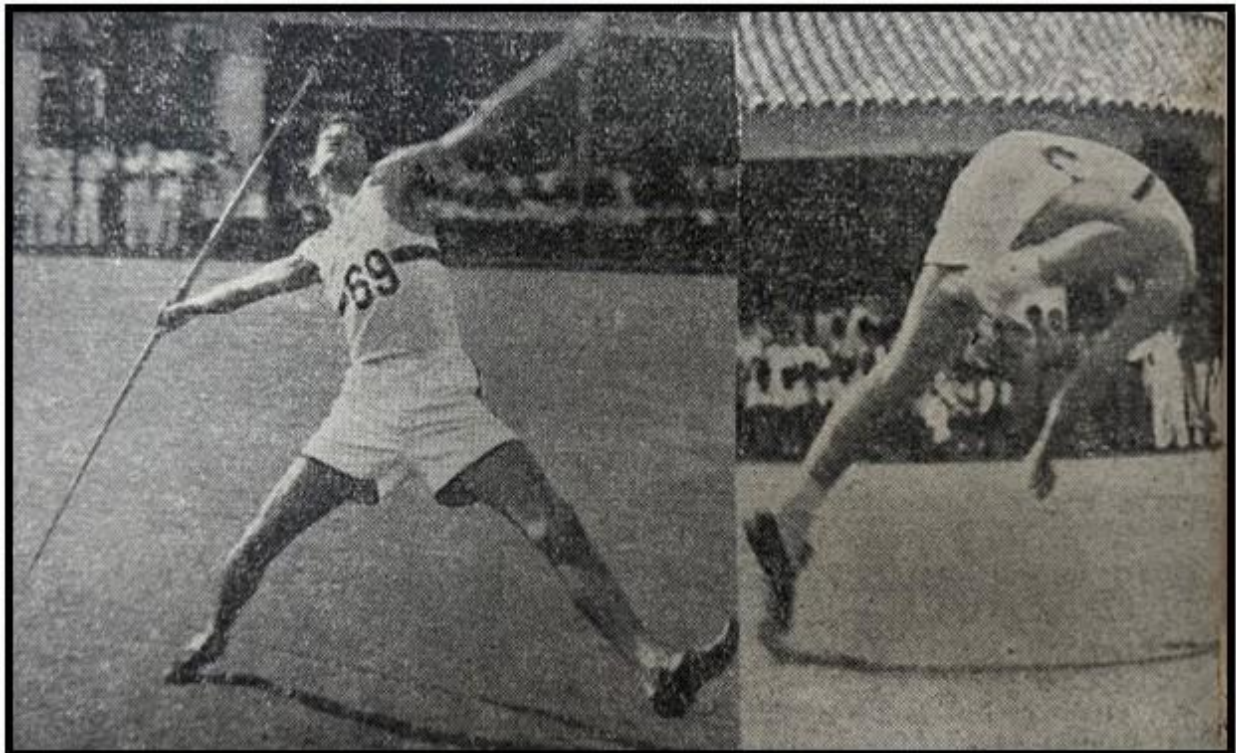


Denis Ferdinands (left *photo courtesy of Michael Tissera) perhaps the fastest opening bowler to play for STC, was also a superb Javelin thrower - including a magnificent throw of 196' 8" as a 16-year-old that shattered the Colombo South Group Meet record in 1955... a throw better than the Pubs record set by Josephian H. Jayawardena (1952) by over 22 feet – a staggering performance!

Ferdinanda won 1st Cricket Colours for 5 years (1955-59) and Athletics Colours (1955-57) and had the honour of captaining STC in Athletics (1957) and Cricket (1959).

(Below) Denis in action at the 1955 Pubs.

Denis sadly passed away in Melbourne on 30 Jan 2024



Errol. L. Lisk

Errol Lisk, an outstanding wicket-keeper, won his 1st XI Cricket Colours in 1958 & 1959.

He would go to represent NCC 'B' in the Daily News Trophy tournament.

Following an 'Over-35' game between Royal (captained by C.H. Gunasekera jnr. & S. Thomas' (captained by Michael Tissera) played on 4th March 1979 at CCC, the press report commented, "Errol who had come from 'Blighty' to witness the big 'un (RT) gave a polished display behind the sticks. If he was in Sri Lanka, Lisk would have been a certainty for the National Pool."

My sincere gratitude to Eddie Appathurai for providing bulk of the paper cuttings for this compilation obtained from the late Errol Lisk's well preserved scrapbook.

- Ravi Rudra, Auckland, NZ. (01 Aug.2026)