

Nick Bertus – ‘Parramatta Run-maker’

[By T.J. Wood – Club Historian]



Nick Bertus along each step of his development path has always stood out as a batsman to be reckoned with but over the past three seasons, whilst assuming the added task of captaining Parramatta's 1st grade team, he has raised his performances to a new level establishing himself as one of the foremost batsmen in the Sydney Premier competition and his '*fierce hunger for runs*' has seen him smash a number of Parramatta District Cricket Club batting records and won him a well-deserved playing contract with Cricket NSW.

The Baulkham Hills junior is a genuine product of the Parramatta District Cricket Association nursery, he played through the association's Age Rep teams with distinction and first entered the Parramatta District Cricket Club's ranks in **2006/07** with selection in the **A.W. Green Shield** team. The left-handed top order batsman complements his '*skill with the willow*' with highly competent and trusty glove work behind the stumps as a 1st Grade wicket-keeper. Relatively short in height, the nuggety robust built leftie possesses deceptive strength and great '*cricket smarts*' with bat in hand – not a player in the stylish, elegant mode he more resembles the tenacious, powerful and punchy style of former Test star Allan Border – and the manner in which his batting has evolved recently he may well end his playing days as Parramatta's highest ever 1st grade run scorer resting that mantle from iconic clubman Harold "Mudgee" Cranney.

Apart from his impressive playing efforts Nick Bertus has chalked up a notable list of Captaincy accolades –

- Led Parramatta to the A.W.G Shield Semi-Finals in 2008/09.
- Led Parramatta in the Poidevin-Gray Shield competition (2011/12 – 2013/14) – highlighted by capturing the Club's second **Premiership** in this comp (**2012/13**).
- Captained Parramatta's **1st grade** team from 2016/17, highlighted by leading the club to its **fourth Premiership** after a 53 year hiatus (Richie Benaud 1964/65 captain – Doug Walters led the team in the Final with Benaud unavailable).
- Became the fifth player to captain Parramatta in the trifecta of AWG, PGs, and 1st grade [others were J. Benaud, G. Twining, M.A. Wood, M. Stretton).
- Became the **only person** to **captain Parramatta to both Poidevin-Gray Shield and 1st Grade Premierhips**.

To date in his grade career that commenced in 5th grade in **2007/08** and continues to the **2018/19** season's Christmas break, Bertus has compiled **6,647 runs @ 37.13** and snared **249 dismissals** (234 ct / 15 st) in **all grades** for P.D.C.C. In addition he proved to be a most prolific run producer in the club's A.W. Green Shield [Under 16] and Poidevin-Gray Shield teams – **A.W. Green Shield**: between seasons 2006/07 – 2008/09 he compiled **964 runs @ 64.27** (H.S. – 85) displaying a high degree of consistency and this effort placed his second in career aggregate to former Test All-rounder Greg Matthews who holds the club record with **1,024** – **Poidevin-Gray Shield**: this competition witnessed the emergence of Nick as a record breaker amassing **1,257 @ 48.35** [including a century **133*** v. Gordon 2013/14] surpassing the old mark held by Michael A. Wood [937 @ 42.59].

But 1st Grade is where he is building a reputation as a batsman of status and first-class standard – just awaiting an opportunity to play Sheffield Shield cricket – for Parramatta in **2018** he joined an elite band of batsman to score **5,000+ runs in 1st Grade for the club**, this comes on top of his previous record-breaking feats –

- In 2016/17 he smashed the club’s Most Runs in a Belvidere Cup Season by making **838** runs [John Benaud 835].
- In 2017/18 he became the first Parramatta batsman to top 1,000 runs in a 1st Grade season [All Formats incl. T20] amassing **1,018** runs.
- Became the second Parra batsman to compile **two double centuries in 1st grade** for the club – **215** v. Wests 2016/17, **206*** v. Bankstown 2017/18 – [Les Pye 244 1898/99, 215 1897/98].
- He has also made **nine** other 1st Grade Centuries [140, 138, 138*, 119*, 117, 116*, 111, 108*, 101].

Bertus has also made centuries in 5th Grade – 105*, 2nd Grade 147, and P.Gs 133*.

He has won the Parramatta Club’s major award **“Cricketer of the Year”** twice - 2015/16 and 2017/18.

Representative Honours –

- An Australian Schoolboys tour of the West Indies 2008/09.
- NSW Under 17 State Team.
- NSW Under 19 State Team.
- NSW Futures Team [currently]
- NSW Contracted Player 2018/19.

Full Career Statistics – at Christmas 2018/19 Season

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Highest Score</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Catches</u>	<u>Stumpings</u>
A.W. Green Shield	964	85	64.27	18	5
P.G. Shield	1,257	133*	48.35	20	5
5 th Grade	398	105*	33.17	22	0
3 rd Grade	198	70	24.75	21	2
2 nd Grade	819	147	31.50	41	2
1st Grade	5232	215	39.33	150	11
Total	8,868	215	37.13	272	25

With many more seasons of 1st Grade Premier Cricket ahead Nick Bertus is forging a playing career that will ultimately place him amongst the very best batsmen to have ever represented the Parramatta District Cricket Club.