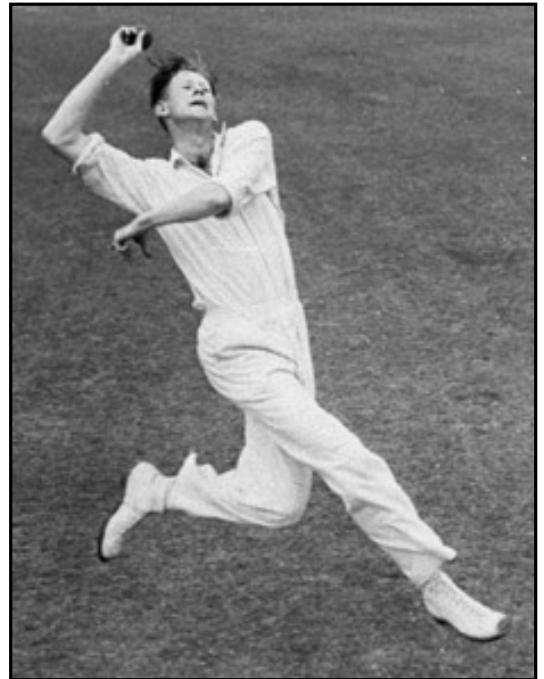


Pat Crawford

1933-2009

- Born in country NSW and came to Petersham when he was a child
- Tall right-arm fast bowler
- 4 Tests for Australia taking 7 wickets, best bowling 3/28
- 37 First class games (Australia, NSW) – 110 wickets, best bowling 6/55
- Ongoing knee injuries limited his Test career

Pat Crawford made his U16 A W Green Shield debut with Petersham in 1947-48 as a 14 year old. In the same competition the following season he showed outstanding promise as a fast bowler with returns of 6-7 against Randwick, 4-8 against Paddington and 2-5 against St George to end the season with 14 wickets at an average of 5.21. He also played 3rd Grade, 4th Grade and U21 Poidevin-Gray Shield that season finishing with a total of 44 wickets at just 15 years of age.



William Patrick Crawford was born in Dubbo on 3 August 1933. He was just 11 years of age when he first began with the Petersham Saturday morning coaching classes. His obvious promise prompted selectors to put him in the A W Green Shield side a little earlier than normally may have been the case. But that experience paid quick dividends because in 1949-50 at just 16 he made his 1st Grade debut and within two years spearheaded the attack taking 30 wickets at 12.4 which included a 7-55 effort against Paddington.

In 1954-55 Pat Crawford was at his fiery best. Bowling a number of hostile spells he guided Petersham-Marrickville to a 1st Grade Premiership win with 29 wickets. His performance caught the attention of State selectors and at 21 years of age he was named in the NSW team to play the visiting MCC at the SCG. By season's end he was the leading Australian first class wicket-taker with 25 at 12.96 and played a key role in NSW winning the Sheffield Shield.

The next season, 1955-56, Crawford was part of a history-making bowling partnership at the SCG when NSW played South Australia. Only two bowlers were needed when Keith Miller (7-12 off 7.3 overs) and Pat Crawford (3-14 off 8) skittled the "Crow-eaters" for just 27, the lowest score in Sheffield Shield history.

Pat Crawford made his Test debut in the second Test at Lord's in 1956. He later played three Tests in India. Unfortunately, he broke down in two of those matches and within a year his first class career had been ended by injury. With a first-class record of 110 wickets at 21.02 including seven in four Tests, Pat Crawford played his last season with Petersham-Marrickville in 1957-58 aged just 25. With the club he took 217 wickets in all grades, with 124 of those in 1st Grade at an average of just 19.61.

Lyall Gardner, Randwick Petersham Cricket Historian