

Batsman continues family tradition

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By TERRY SEFTON

It is certainly in his genes and he has been wearing pads all his life.

Oliver Hutton, the grandson of England cricket legend Sir Leonard Hutton who scored a double century against New Zealand in 1949, started playing senior club cricket for Old Boys -Collegians last weekend.

Hutton, an opening batsman, has come to Christchurch to hone his practical legal skills as a newly trained lawyer and said he hopes he can play some decent cricket while he is here.

"I was born into cricket," he said.

A quick look at his family tree shows he is right.

His grandfather Sir Leonard was a captain of England and played in 79 tests. He scored a mammoth 364 against Australia in 1938, which at the time was the highest score in tests. His record stood for 19 years and England went on to win the match by an innings and 579 runs after making 903 for seven declared.

The cricketing heritage does not stop there. Hutton's brother Ben is the current captain of Middlesex, having taken over the reigns from Andrew Strauss and their father Richard also played for England in five tests.

"There's some pretty big boots to fill all right," he said.

At 25, Hutton already has some first -class experience to his name and recently played in the Yorkshire League in England.

Although only picking up scores of 10 and 16 in his two senior innings in Christchurch so far, Hutton is hoping to get a lot more runs under his belt this season.

Sir Leonard, who died in 1990, played his first and last test matches against New Zealand and averaged 56 with his bat, including 19 centuries. His biggest score against New Zealand was 206 in 1949 and in his final test in Auckland, New Zealand was dismissed for a paltry 26.

