

24 Jan 2005

Wiseman wizardy nets nine for 13

Paul Wiseman, the New Zealand and Canterbury off-spinner today completed the second most successful bowling in an innings in New Zealand cricket history.

He took nine wickets for 13 runs in 16.4 overs to bowl Canterbury to an outstanding 343-run victory in the State Championship match over Central Districts at Christchurch's Village Green. What made his feat all the more remarkable was the fact that for the first three days of the game the bat had dominated the match.

Canterbury yesterday set Central Districts 465 to win, but the game was all over just before lunchtime today as Wiseman wove his magic. CD lost eight wickets for 24 runs in the slaughter.

He now sits behind A E Moss, who took 10 wickets for 28 runs on his first-class debut, for Canterbury against Wellington 1889-90.

The only other instances of players taking nine wickets are:

A F Wensley, nine for 36 for Auckland v Otago 1929-30

T Eden, nine for 43 for Nelson v Auckland 1875-76

T H Dent, nine for 47 for Hawke's Bay v Wellington 1900-01

Wiseman said he had commented before the match that it would be "nice to get six today".

He felt the bounce still in the pitch helped him because it was hitting the top half of the bat and there were also a couple of footmarks left by the CD left-armers that he was able to bowl into. It was just like he was used to when he played for Otago with Shayne O'Connor and David Sewell doing the same thing.

The hardness of the ball, which was still reasonably new when he got it, was also a factor because it made things happen a little quicker. And with good support keeping the pressure on batsmen at the other end it meant Wiseman was able to bowl a lot of balls to the same batsman at a time.

Wiseman said after his time overseas with the New Zealand side at the start of the summer, then the break upon his return and the problems with the weather, it was only in the last six overs of his first innings spell in this match that he felt he had regained his rhythm.

It had also helped that the centuries scored by Peter Fulton and Shanan Stewart in the match had set up a platform that allowed him to bowl with confidence.