

06 Apr 2005

Youth Cricket Scholarship recipient announced

Stephen Fleming has announced that the second recipient of the Rexona New Zealand Youth Cricket Scholarship is Todd Astle, from Canterbury.

The Rexona New Zealand Youth Cricket Scholarship was established to support upcoming cricketers in New Zealand. Todd will receive \$20,000 from Rexona, to assist in the development of his cricket skills and education, as well as having the opportunity of meeting and spending time with Stephen Fleming.

Todd Astle will be following in the footsteps of last year's winner, Te Ahu Davis. Te Ahu was recognised as one of the most talented and promising bowlers in his Associations and is now playing for Northern Districts. He used the scholarship money to attend the Dennis Lillee Fast Bowling Clinic in Mumbai, India. Te Ahu said the scholarship has enabled him to further develop his cricketing career.

"The clinic improved my bowling immensely. It provided me with an edge that I would not have had coming into my first class debut. A highlight was rubbing shoulders with Zaheer Khan – an experience I will never forget. I am really grateful to Rexona for these opportunities."

Stephen Fleming, along with the two other judges David White, Chairman of NZCPA Board and Dion Nash, Director of NZCPA Board, said the quality of this years nominees was exceptional.

"The standard of these young players is fantastic. It bodes really well for the future of cricket in New Zealand to have a broad base of talented, committed and professional young men in the sport," said Stephen Fleming.

"However, Todd Astle's talent really shone through. He had an amazing season. Highlights include scoring 157 not out against Auckland at the National Under 19 tournament and sharing an unbeaten opening stand of 374 in the same innings, being selected for the New Zealand Under 19 team and scoring back-to-back centuries [162 and 100] versus Otago A, and being invited into this year's New Zealand Cricket Academy. He is totally dedicated to the game and is a fine role model for all aspiring age group players."

Todd said, "It is a fantastic privilege to be the second recipient of the Rexona New Zealand Youth Scholarship. I am looking forward to working with top worldwide coaches to further develop my leg spin bowling and batting."

The Rexona New Zealand Youth Cricket Scholarship enabled each of the six Major Associations to nominate one player who had represented them at under-17 and/or under-19 level cricket in 2004/05 and was enrolled in a recognised secondary school.

The judges were looking for a player displaying outstanding cricketing ability as well as a clear ambition to undertake ongoing education. Todd is currently studying for a Bachelor of Recreation Management at Lincoln University.

Heath Mills, Executive Manager, New Zealand Cricket Players Association, said "cricket is so important to New Zealand's sporting future and all professional cricketers in this country value the partnership with Rexona and the contribution it is making to our future cricket players."

"It's very exciting to have our second Rexona New Zealand Youth Cricket Scholarship recipient announced," said Nathan Low, Senior Brand Manager, Rexona.

"Rexona is very much enjoying being committed to developing future cricket stars, and partnering with one of the most successful cricketing captains New Zealand has seen in Stephen Fleming. We are very pleased with Te Ahu's development and know Todd will follow in his footsteps."

Source: NZ Cricket

<http://www.nzcricket.co.nz/display.aspx?pri=20&sec=69&cid=4343&tpl=0>