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**Navod
Paranavithana**
*Mahinda College
- Galle*

SINCE 1978
42nd

**OBSERVER SLT-MOBITEL
SCHOOL CRICKETER
OF THE YEAR 2021**

Recognizing talent, inspiring greatness.



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Best schoolboy team 2020 (all island) Trinity College Kandy receive their trophy presented by guest of honour, Minister of Information and Media Keheliya Rambukwella in the presence of ANCL Chairman W. Dayaratne PC (Pix: Sudath Malaweera)

Sanath Jayasuriya pleads with school cricketers...

'Be committed and disciplined'

Former Sri Lanka cricket captain and 1996 World Cup champion Sanath Jayasuriya called on the next generation of budding players to be committed in what they do while adhering to discipline and the rules of fair-play if they are to succeed.

He made the remarks when he addressed winners of the 42nd Observer-SLT Mobitel School Cricket Awards held at the BMICH in Colombo last Tuesday as the chief guest.

"I myself won this award and I knew how important this was to me at that time when we did not even have the basic facilities. It is very different today where you have all the facilities and opportunities to realize your dreams of playing for Sri Lanka.

"So be committed make the most of what you have and pay attention to discipline. Without discipline you will not go far as a cricketer or sportsman,"



Sanath Jayasuriya addresses budding school cricketers at the Observer-SLT Mobitel Cricketer Awards

said Jayasuriya.

Recalling his school days Jayasuriya said he was only nine years old playing in the Under-II team at St. Servatius College at Matara and nothing

stood in the way to discourage him despite the absence of facilities unlike in the present era.

"It is not going to be easy for anyone to be part of the Sri Lanka team. It will

be a long and hard road ahead. When you leave school you will want to play for a club and that will be the next step and it will mean that you have competed in all the age groups at school and this is the best that your school can do for you.

"When I played for school it was not easy to enter the Sri Lanka team. But today I think it is different where you have more opportunities to be part of the Sri Lanka team which is not doing too well these days.

"Sri Lanka looks forward to players like you who will some day in the near future make the grade. In the past like until about 15 years ago we had schoolboy players who wore the Sri Lanka cap straight from school and I think some of you could be next. It is my only hope and wish to see players coming from all over the country able to make it to the Sri Lanka team," said Jayasuriya



Best schoolgirl team of the Year 2020 Devapathiraja College, Ratgama receive their trophy from the Chairman of Sri Lanka Telecom Rohan Fernando in the presence of Sunday Observer Editor in Chief Dinesh Weerawansa and guest of honour Minister of Information and Media Keheliya Rambukwella

Schoolboy Cricketer

1979

Ranjan Madugalle

Royal College

Ranjan Madugalle is a former Sri Lankan cricketer and a former captain of the Sri Lankan team, who became a match referee in 1993. He was educated at Trinity College, Kandy and Royal College, Colombo.

Madugalle who showed early promise as a schoolboy at Royal College, became a top Sri Lanka cricketer. He was the first winner of the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer 1979 and went on to captain the Sri Lanka team and now occupies the prestigious seat of Chief Match Referee of the ICC.

Ranjan Madugalle who has been a popular figure at this competition (Observer Schoolboy Cricketer) won it in 1979 and said "it was one of the best things that happened to me in 1979 when I won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year Award". He said playing for Royal brought him immense joy. "The school cricketers must be motivated and the outstation cricketers must not be neglected. This contest will give all encouragement to the school cricketers," he said.

He was one of the finest all rounders produced by Royal. Besides captaining Royal and then Sri Lanka under-19, he played a vital role against Pakistan to achieve success winning the 'Ali Bhutto Trophy' with his all round performances.



He presented Sri Lanka in international cricket between 1979 and 1988, making his debut in the 1979 ICC Trophy final against Canada. He had the honour of being in the first Sri Lankan Test team in 1982, and top-scored in the first innings with 65 – making a 99 runs partnership with Arjuna Ranatunga. Madugalle represented Sri Lanka in 21 Test matches and 63 one day Internationals and also captained the Sri Lankan cricket team in two Test matches.



Test Debut

Vs England at Colombo (PSS)
Feb 17-21, 1982

Last Test

Vs England at Lord's
Aug 25-30, 1988

ODI Debut

Vs India at Manchester,
Jun 16-18, 1979

Last ODI

Vs Pakistan at Dhaka
Oct 27, 1988

Schoolboy Cricketer

1980-82

Arjuna Ranatunga

Ananda College

● Captaincy record was 56 matches, 12 wins, 19 losses, 25 draws and the highest ODI batting score of 131 not out was made against India, Colombo, 1997.

Arjuna Ranatunga is a former international cricketer and cricket administrator. He captained the Sri Lankan cricket team in the 1990s and led them in the 1996 Cricket World Cup victory. In the 2015 General elections he contested with the UNF for Good Governance and was placed second in Gampaha District, and was appointed Minister of Ports and Shipping.

Arjuna along with his brothers (Dammika, Nishantha, Prasanna, Sanjeeva and Ruwan) he studied at Ananda College Colombo where his mother was a teacher and where he started playing cricket. He represented his school in both junior and senior teams.

A specialist left-handed batsman and part-time medium pace bowler, Ranatunga's career with the Sri Lankan national team began in 1982, when Sri Lanka were relative new-comers to international cricket and was a key player in the team. Under Ranatunga's captaincy, Sri Lanka started to improve rapidly. Their growing success rate culminated with a dominating performance and triumphed in the 1996 Cricket World Cup.

Ranatunga is also remembered for his stand in a One Day International against England. Australian Umpire Ross Emerson called Muttiah Muralidaran for throwing and Ranatunga exchanged heated words with umpire Emerson and led his team to a point just



Test Debut

vs England at Colombo (PSS), Feb. 17-21, 1982

Last Test

vs South Africa at Colombo (SSC) Aug 6-10, 2000.

ODI Debut

vs England at Colombo (SSC), Feb 14, 1982.

Last ODI

vs Kenya at Southampton, May 30, 1999

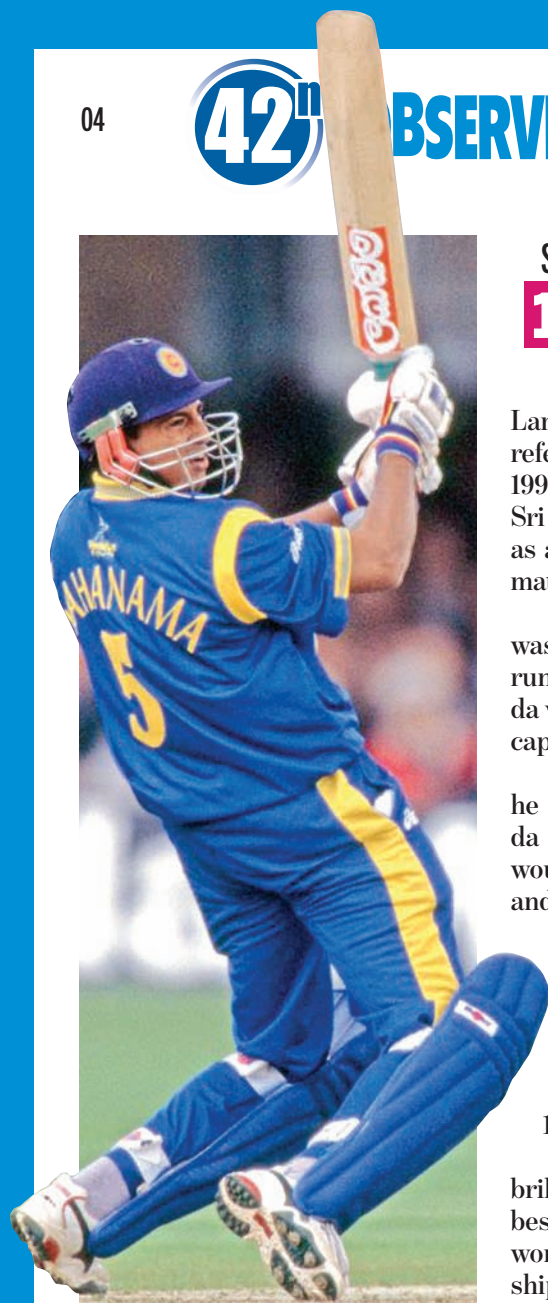
inside the boundary line, halting play and giving the impression that he was about to forfeit the match, until the Sri Lankan management conferred with him and play resumed.

In June 2000, Ranatunga played in Sri Lanka's 100th Test match, becoming the only player to represent his country in their first and hundredth Tests.

Ranatunga's highest Test batting score of 135 not out was made against Pakistan, Colombo, 1985-1986.

Captaincy record was 56 matches, 12 wins, 19 losses, 25 draws and the highest ODI batting score of 131 not out was made against India, Colombo, 1997.

Ranatunga's best bowling figures of 4 for 14 came against India at Kanpur in 1986-1987.



Schoolboy Cricketer 1983-84

Roshan Mahanama

Nalanda College

Roshan Mahanama is a former Sri Lankan cricketer and former ICC match referee. He was a key member in the 1996 Cricket World Cup winning team for Sri Lanka. He is the first man to stand as a match referee in a day-night Test match in history.

The high point of his school career was his splendid unbeaten knock of 145 runs in the 'Big Match' against Ananda which established a record when he captained the team in 1984.

With such wonderful promise that he held out as a schoolboy at Nalanda College, it was no surprise that he would climb the ladder of success – and climb he did in inter-school cricket seasons and it was no surprise that the judges in the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year Contests picked him as Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year for two years in succession in 1983 and 1984.

A dashing right-hand batsman and brilliant fielder Roshan Mahanama is best remembered as a cricketer for his world record second wicket partnership of 576 with Sanath Jayasuriya in



a Test Match against India at the R. Premadasa Stadium in 1997, since surpassed by Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene in 2006.

Mahanama's contribution to that partnership was 225, the highest score of his career. He was a key member of Sri Lanka's World Cup winning side of 1996. Roshan Mahanama established himself as a stylish opening batsman in the late 1980s and early 1990s under

Test Debut

Sri Lanka v Pakistan at Colombo (CCC) Mar 14 -18, 1986

Last Test

South Africa v Sri Lanka at Centurion, Mar 27-30, 1998

ODI Debut

Sri Lanka v Pakistan at Kandy Mar 2, 1986

Last ODI

Southampton, May 30, 1999

the captaincy of Aravinda de Silva.

In the 1992 Cricket World Cup, Roshan Mahanama was selected as opening batsman along with M.A.R. Samarasekera and U.C. Hathurusingha, scoring 59 runs off 89 balls vs Zimbabwe, 80 runs off 131 balls vs New Zealand and 68 runs off 121 balls vs South Africa.

Following his retirement from international cricket in 1999, Roshan Mahanama made the transition into becoming an International Cricket Council match referee.

He made his debut as a match referee in the ODI between West Indies and Bangladesh in Kingstown 2004.

Schoolboy Cricketer 1985

Asanka Gurusinha

Nalanda College

Asanka Gurusinha is a former Sri Lankan cricketer who enjoyed an 11-year international career, playing 41 Tests and 147 One Day Internationals for Sri Lanka. He was a specialist batsman who helped win the 1996 World Cup final with 65 in a partnership of 125 with the final's Man of the Match, Aravinda de Silva. He studied at Isipathana College, Colombo and then joined Nalanda College Colombo. He now lives in Melbourne, Australia.

Gurusinha was selected as the Sunday Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year 1985, the year he captained Nalanda College.

At the tail-end of his school cricket career, Gurusinha, went further to stamp his class as a future Test prospect when he scored an unbeaten century in the 56th Ananda-Nalanda 'Big' cricket encounter and immediately followed it up by scoring a century for a Board President's XI against a touring Indian team captained by Kapil Dev.

Gurusinha played in 41 Test matches and 147 ODIs and was the 32nd Test 'cap' for his country. His has seven Test hundreds and eight Test 50s. He has scored centuries against Pakistan (1), New Zealand (3), Australia (2) and Zimbabwe (1). Against Pakistan, Gurusinha batted at number three and gradually cemented his place. Being a strongly built left-hander Gurusinha provided the much needed solidarity in the side's batting.

Gurusinha now domiciled in Australia brought



back nostalgic memories, saying that the Sunday Observer/Mobitel Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year contest during his time was a highly competitive one with highly talented schoolboys in many schools vying for honours.

Gurusinha was called up at 19 as a wicket-keeper, a role he took in a further two ODIs and one Test and was one of the main pillars of Sri Lanka's 1996 World



Test Debut

vs Pakistan at Karachi Nov.7-11, 1985

Last Test

vs Zimbabwe at Colombo (SSC) Sep 18-21, 1996

ODI Debut

vs Pakistan at Hyderabad Nov 3, 1985

Last ODI

vs Pakistan at Sharjah Nov 8, 1996.

Cup winning batting line up. His application at the crisis situations to drag the team through was a major highlight for those who watched the World Series tournament back in 1996.

Schoolboy Cricketer
1981

Rohan Buultjens

St. Peter's College



The stylish left-hand batsman and medium pace bowler, Rohan Buultjens won the prestigious Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award in 1981 the first Peterite to win the top award.



Schoolboy Cricketer
1986

Roshan Jurangpathy

Royal College



Roshan Jurangpathy (born 25 June 1967) is a former Sri Lankan Test cricketer. India's Mohinder Amarnath was his only Test wicket.

Batting style

– Right-hand batsman

Bowling style

– Right-arm-off-break

Test debut

– 14 September 1985 v India

Last wicket

– 27 December 1986 v India

Schoolboy Cricketer
1987

Rohan Weerakkody

St. Joseph's College

Rohan Nishantha Weerakkody (born April 30, 1968 in Colombo) is a former Sri Lankan cricketer. Making his known debut for the Sri Lankan Young Cricketers side, he went on to captain the team on seven occasions during the 1987/88 Youth World Cup, winning three matches. He played domestic cricket professionally for NCC at both First-class and List A level. He played primarily as a bowler with a good bowling average in the low 20s.



Schoolboy Cricketer
1988

Sanjeeva Ranatunga

Ananda College

Sanjeeva Ranatunga is a former Sri Lankan cricketer who played 19 Tests and 13 ODIs from 1994 to 1997. He has scored two centuries in Tests; 118 and 100* against Zimbabwe in 1994. Sanjeeva, became the sixth Anandian to win the prestigious Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award in 1988.



Schoolboy Cricketer
1989

Kumara Dharmasena

Nalanda College

Kumara Dharmasena is a Sri Lankan and international cricket umpire and former international player. He was a member of the Sri Lanka team that won the 1996 Cricket World Cup. He was a

right-arm handed batsman and a right-arm off break bowler.

Kumar Dharmasena of Nalanda College who won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award in 1989 played in 31 Tests and 141 one-day In-

ternationals for Sri Lanka between 1993 and 2004.

He umpired his first international match in 2009, overseeing the one-day International between India and Sri Lanka at the International Stadium in Dambulla and remains the youngest ever Sri Lankan to umpire any international match. He umpired at the 2011 Cricket World Cup and was appointed to the Elite Panel of ICC Umpires later that year. Dharmasena was named the Umpire of the Year at the 2012 ICC Awards, for which he received the David Shepherd Trophy.



Schoolboy Cricketer

1990

Marvan Atapattu

Ananda College

Marvan Atapattu (born 22 November 1970 in Kalutara) is a former Sri Lankan cricketer and former Sri Lankan captain. He has coached Canada and Singapore national cricket teams previously. From April 2014 to September 2015, he was the Head Coach of the Sri Lankan team.

Marvan Atapattu started his cricket career as a teenager at Mahinda College, Galle. Then crossed over to Ananda College, Colombo, where he was subsequently coached by P.W. Perera.

Atapattu first came to the limelight winning the prestigious Sunday Observer Cricketer of the Year title in 1990. Since then, he went great guns, captaining SSC and Sri Lanka team with distinction.

He was the batting coach of the Sri Lanka national team and graced the 34th Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy Cricketer mega show as the chief guest on September 11, 2012.

Making his Test debut in November 1990 just after his 20th birthday, his first six innings yielded five ducks and a single run, but supporters insist that his debut-innings duck puts him in good company with batsmen such as Mike Atherton, Graham Gooch, Saeed Anwar and Wasim Akram, who all made debut-innings ducks and went on to score at least 2500 Test runs.



- He registered his highest Test score of 249 against Zimbabwe in 2004, sharing a 438 run partnership with Kumar Sangakkara for the second wicket.

Batting and fielding averages

	Mat	Inns	No	Runs	HS	Ave
Tests	90	156	15	5502	249	39.02
ODIs	268	259	32	8529	132*	37.57

He made his one-day International debut against India at Nagpur. He was appointed as captain of the one-day team on April 2003. In April 2011 after the World Cup, Atapattu was named as the batting coach of the Sri Lankan national team. Following Paul Farbrace's early unexpected exit in 2014, he was appointed as interim head coach of the team. During this period, Sri Lanka won its first Test series in England in 16 years, with a 1-0 win in its 2014 tour. He officially took over as Head Coach in September 2014 and was the team's first local coach in 15 years.



Schoolboy Cricketer

1991

Muttiah Muralidaran

St. Anthony's College, Katugastota

In domestic cricket he played for two first-class Sri Lankan sides, Tamil Union Cricket and Athletic Club in the Premier Trophy and Central Province in the Provincial Championship.



- The most Test wickets (800 wickets)

	Mat	Wkts	BBi	BBM	Ave
Tests	133	800	9/51	16/220	22.72
ODIs	350	534	7/30	7/30	23.08
T20Is	12	213	3/29	3/29	22.84

Muttiah Muralidaran (born 17 April 1972) is a former Sri Lankan cricketer who was rated the greatest Test match bowler ever by Wisden Cricketers' Almanack in 2002. He retired from Test cricket in 2010, registering his 800th and final wicket on 22 July 2010 from his final ball in his last Test match. Muralidaran holds the world record for the most wickets in both Test and one-day cricket. Muralidaran is the first wrist-spinning off-spinner in the history of the game and after his many attractive feats with the ball during the inter-school cricket seasons for St. Anthony's College, Katugastota he was picked Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year in 1991. He was also picked as the Best Bowler too, that year.

World Records and achievements:

- The most One-Day International wickets (534 wickets).
- The highest number of international wickets in Tests, ODIs and T20s combined (1320 wickets).
- The most 5-wicket hauls in an innings at Test level (67).
- The most 10-wicket hauls in a match at Test level (22). He is the only player to take 10 wickets in a match against every Test playing nation.
- Only player to take 50 or more wickets against every Test playing nation.
- Most Test wickets taken bowled (157), stumped (41) and caught & bowled (31).
- Most successful bowler/fielder (non-wicket keeper) combination-c. Mahela Jayawardene b. Muttiah Muralitharan (77).
- Most Man of the Series awards in Test cricket (11).
- Most Test wickets in a single ground. Muralitharan is the only bowler to capture 100-plus Test wickets at three venues, the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground in Colombo, the Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy and the Galle International Stadium in Galle.

Schoolboy Cricketer

1992

Sajith Fernando

St. Anthony's College

Sajith Fernando was born on September 27, 1972, Kandy and he became the second Observer Schoolboy Cricketer (1992) from Kandy. Sajith started his cricketing career at St, Paul's College, Kandy (later Sri Sumangala College) where he was guided and made to play good cricket by former Sri Lanka cricketer D.H. de Silva.

In 1998, he was adjudged the man of the series in the premier limited over tournament when Colts emerged champions.

Apart from his domestic cricket career he has played for various clubs overseas in Australia, England and Bangladesh.



Schoolboy Cricketer

1993

Naveed Nawaz

D.S. Senanayake College

Mohamed Naveed Nawaz (born September 20, 1973 in Colombo), is a former Sri Lankan cricketer. He was a left-handed batsman and a leg-break bowler who played Test cricket and One-Day Internationals for Sri Lanka. During his school days he won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year in 1993.

Nawaz retired from international and domestic cricket in 2005 and ventured into the field of coaching first-class cricket in Sri Lanka. In 2000, Sri Lanka Cricket appointed Nawaz the Head Coach of the Sri Lanka National under-19 team.



Schoolboy Cricketer

1994-95

Thilan Samaraweera

Ananda College



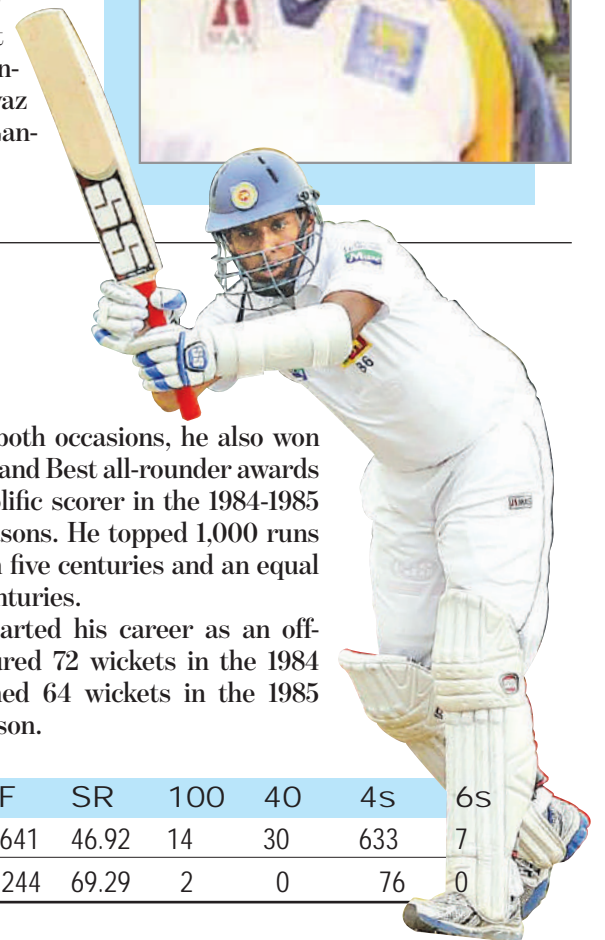
Thilan Thusara Samaraweera (born 22 September 1976 in Colombo) is a Sri Lankan cricketer. Samaraweera played international cricket for Sri Lanka and was in the side primarily for his solid right-handed batting but was also a capable off spinner.

Thilan Samaraweera who became the tenth Anandian to represent Sri Lanka in Test Cricket, was twice winner of the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award in 1994

and 1995 and on both occasions, he also won the best Batsman and Best all-rounder awards too. He was a prolific scorer in the 1984-1985 school cricket seasons. He topped 1,000 runs in both years with five centuries and an equal number of half centuries.

He actually started his career as an off-spinner; He captured 72 wickets in the 1984 season and claimed 64 wickets in the 1985 school cricket season.

	Mat	Inns	No	Runs	Hs	Ave	BF	SR	100	40	4s	6s
Tests	81	132	20	5462	231	48.76	11641	46.92	14	30	633	7
ODIs	53	42	11	862	105*	27.80	1244	69.29	2	0	76	0



Schoolboy Cricketer

1996

Nimesh Perera

St. Sebastian's College

Nimesh Perera was one of the finest cricketers to come out of St. Sebastian's College in Moratuwa who went on to -play for teams like Basnahira South, Chilaw Marians, Colombo Cricket Club and the Sebastianites with distinction.

With his leg spin bowling he captured a hundred wickets in a school season and even came close to matching the feat of Muttiah Muralidaran. He was also a very useful batsman who became the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer in 1996 the year in which Sri Lanka won the World Cup.



Nimesh played in over 140 domestic matches and to match his bowling he aggregated over 5000 runs with a best 152.

Schoolboy Cricketer

1997

Chinthaka Jayasinghe

Dharmapala College

Chinthaka Jayasinghe was educated at Dharmapala Vidyalaya in Pannipitiya. Perhaps his greatest cricketing moment to date was when he scored twin hundreds against Royal College, Colombo in 1995/96. His name first appeared on the national scene when the selectors included him in the U19 team that toured Malaysia and Singapore in 1994 and England in 1995. He also played for the Sri Lankan 'A' team that toured India in 1998 and played against Zimbabwe 'A' in their 2000 tour of Sri Lanka.





Pawan Ratnayake of Mahanama College receiving the Division One Schoolboy Cricketer award from Minister of Information and Media Keheliya Rambukwella

Observer SLT Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year 2020



Navod Paranavithana of Mahinda College Galle, receives the Best Batsman's award in the National awards category from ANCL Chairman, President's Counsel W. Dayaratne



Observer SLT Mobitel Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer of the 2020 Anuda Jayaweera of Ananda College, Colombo receiving his trophy presented by the Editor-in-Chief, Sunday Observer, Dinesh Weerawansa



Best Batswoman Umesha Thimeshani of Devapathiraja College, Ratgama receiving her award from Champika Weeratunga the Secretary of the Girls Tournament Committee of SLSCA



Janadi Anali of Anula College, Nugegoda the Girls' Best Bowler receiving a cash award of Rs. 25,000 from Chief Editor, Daily News, Pramod de Silva



Best All-rounder Division Two Samith Isuru of Karadeniya MV receives his award from Sumith Kotalawala acting GM of ANCL



Best All-rounder - Division Three Hashen Lalindra of Loyola College, Negombo receiving the award from Senior Deputy General Manager ANCL, Kamal Wijesuriya



CMO Sri Lanka Telecom Prabath Dahanayaka, Shashika Senarath CMO Mobitel (Pvt) Ltd. and Lalith Seneviratne Group CEO Sri Lanka Telecom PLC presenting awards



Best School team Northern Province 2020: St. John's College Jaffna received their trophy from ANCL Director Finance, Janaka Ranatunga



Best School team North Western Province 2020: St. Sebastian's College, Katuneriya received their trophy from ANCL Director Legal and Administration, Rakhitha Abeygunawardhana



Observer SLT Mobitel Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer runner-up of 2020 Ahan Wickremasinghe of Royal College receiving his trophy presented by Senior Associate Editor Sunday Observer, Dudley Jansz



Observer SLT Mobitel Most Popular Schoolgirl Cricketer of the 2020 W.P. Nimesha Wijesundera of Marapola Madya Vidyalaya, Marapola receiving her trophy presented by the Editor-in-Chief, Sunday Observer, Dinesh Weerawansa



Best Fielder Sithum Sanjana of Holy Cross College Kalutara receiving the award from Prasanna Jayasundara Additional GM (Advertising)



Best Fielder Nipun Dananjaya receiving the award from Thilak Wattuhewa president of SLSCA



Navod Dinusri Paranavithana of Mahinda College, Galle also received the best All Rounder's award in the National category presented by Daminda Cooray president of the Sri Lanka Umpires' Association

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Dimuth Sandaruwan of Richmond College the best wicket keeper receiving his award from Nishantha Kumara U-19 Tournament Secretary SLSCA



Best wicket keeper Division Two Hasitha Perera of Holy Cross College Kalutara receiving the award from Deputy GM Naradha Sumanaratne



Best Batsman runner-up division one Avishka Perera of Nalanda College receiving his award from Kumara Gamhewage CEO of Batsman.com

Schoolboy Cricketer

1998

Pradeep Hewage

St. Benedict's College.

Pradeep Hewage was educated at St. Benedict's College, Kottahena. He made his first class debut in the domestic scene in 1994. He became the "Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year" in 1998 and went on to captain the U19 team in the 1998 World Cup in South Africa. He batted superbly in the tournament and was adjudicated as the best batsman. On his return the selectors included him in the Sri Lankan Squad against New Zealand.



He captained the Sri Lanka Colts XI against England in Sri Lanka in 2000-01 at Moratuwa.

Schoolboy Cricketer

1999

Muthumudalige Pushpakumara

Ananda College

All-rounder Muthumudalige Pushpakumara won the prestigious Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award 1999 for his fine performances. Born on 26th September 1981 in Colombo, Pushpakumara became the sixth Anandian to win the coveted award. Muthumudalige fashioned out as a top all-rounder. He was a left-handed bat and right-arm off-spinner. He was able to fit in at any position in batting and he was a clever and match winning bowler.



He was also picked as the Best Bowler, Best All-Rounder and Best Fielder in the All-Island Contest.

Schoolboy Cricketer

2000

Kaushalya Weeraratne

Trinity College

Trinity College's Kaushalya Weeraratne was the winner of the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year Award in 2000.

Weeraratne born on 29th January 1981 in Gampola, captained Trinity College, Kandy for two consecutive years. He was a member of the under-19 Youth World Cup team and captained Sri Lanka under-19 cricket team's tour of England.



Batting

	Mat	Runs	HS
ODIs	15	160	41
T20Is	5	49	20*

Bowling

	Mat	Wkts	BBI
ODIs	15	6	3/46
T20Is	5	4	4/19

After his school career he played for major teams Bloomfield, Colts, CCC, NCC, Kandurata and Ragama CC in the premier league tournaments and Twenty-20 tournament.



Schoolboy Cricketer

2001

Kaushal Lokuarachchi

St. Peter's College

Kaushal Lokuarachchi became the second Peterite to win the coveted Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year Award in 2001 for his fine performances in the inter-school cricket season 2000-2001.

Lokuarachchi has played for major teams after his school career such as Bloomfield Cricket and Athletic Club, SSC and Twenty-20 tournaments with a great deal of success.



Lokuarachchi played 21 one-day Internationals and scored 210 runs with a best being 69 and a batting average of 14.00. Bowled 1,011 balls and captured 31 wickets at an average of 23.38, best bowling 4 for 44 and held 5 catches.

Batting

	Mat	Runs	HS
Tests	4	5	2/47
ODIs	15	160	41
T20Is	5	49	20*

Bowling

	Mat	Wkts	BBI
Tests	4	5	2/47
ODIs	21	31	3/44
T20Is	2	2	2/31

Schoolboy Cricketer
2002

Sahan Wijeratne
Prince of Wales College

Sahan Wijeratne, the Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year 2002, has played for Prince of Wales College, Moratuwa for two seasons. He has been a champion cricketer right from his young days. He captained the Cambrian team in four age groups under 13,15,17 and 19. He represented the under-17 all-island team that toured Pakistan for the Asia Cup and also toured Bangladesh. He made a century against Malaysia and won the man of the match award.



Batting style – Right-hand bat
Bowling style – Right-arm off-break

Schoolboy Cricketer
2004/05

Lahiru Peiris
St. Peter's College

Lahiru Peiris, the St. Peter's College Cricket Captain of 2006, who became the first Peterite to win the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year Contest-All Island twice in 2004 and 2005. Lahiru started playing cricket in 1999 and has captained the under-13 and under-15 and 1st XI teams. In the final round match in the under-13 tournament Lahiru scored his first century 113 and was presented a special award and Colours from the Sri Lanka Schools Sports Council for his 2005 and 2006 performances in cricket.



Schoolboy Cricketer
2003

Farveez Maharoo
Wesley College



Batting

	Mat	Runs	HS
Tests	22	556	72
ODIs	109	1113	69*
T20Is	8	33	13*

Bowling

	Mat	Wkts	BBI
Tests	22	25	4/52
ODIs	21	135	6/14
T20Is	8	7	2/18

Mohamed Farveez Maharoo (born 7 September 1984, in Colombo) is a Sri Lankan cricketer. He first made his impression in the 2004 U19 World Cup in which he captained the Sri Lankan team. He enjoyed a prolific school career for Wesley College, with a highest score of 243 and best bowling figures of 8 for 20. An all-rounder, he made his Test debut in 2004. He has featured more frequently in ODIs and has played nearly 100 for Sri Lanka since 2004.

Maharoo, won the Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award 2003 and was also picked as the Best Batsman All-Island.

Schoolboy Cricketer
2006

Gihan Rupasinghe
Nalanda College



Gihan is Sri Lanka's 30th Twenty20 International Cap. He was educated at Nalanda College Colombo. Gihan also became the best all rounder in 2006.



Gihan Rupasinghe (born March 5, 1986), is a Sri Lankan T20 cricketer who won the Observer Mobitel Cricketer of the Year in 2006. He captained Nalanda College first XI team in 2006 and played for Sri Lanka Schools under-17 team at the Asian Schools Cricket Tournament held in Sri Lanka in 2002 and toured with the Sri Lanka under-19 cricket team to Pakistan in 2005.

Schoolboy Cricketer 2007

Malith Gunathileka

Ananda College

Former Ananda College captain Malith Gunathileka, the star all rounder, created somewhat of a record when he was picked Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year 2007. But before getting that honour, the Observer readers picked him to be the Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer of Year All-Island 2007.

This was the first occasion that a schoolboy got the two top awards in the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year competition.

Playing role – All Rounder

Batting style – Right-hand bat

Bowling style – Slow left-arm orthodox



Schoolboy Cricketer 2008

Umesh Karunaratne

Thurstan College

Umesh Karunaratne had the distinction of being adjudged “Observer Mobitel” School Cricketer of the Year in 2008.

Born – January 19, 1989

Major teams – Bloomfield Cricket and Athletic Club, Chilaw Marians Cricket Club, Sri Lanka Under-19s

Playing role – Batsman

Batting style – Right-hand bat

Bowling style – Right-arm off break



Schoolboy Cricketer 2010-11

Bhanuka Rajapaksa

Royal College

In 2011, Bhanuka Rajapakse became only the fourth individual to be adjudged as the ‘Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year’ twice in the country’s premier school sector awarding ceremony ‘Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year’. He was adjudged the Young Emerging Player of Under 19 Category at the CEAT Sri Lanka Cricket Awards 2011.

Rajapakse was selected for the 2010 Under-19 World Cup in New Zealand as one of the team’s key batsmen.



	Mat	Runs	HS
T20Is	7	140	58



Schoolboy Cricketer 2009

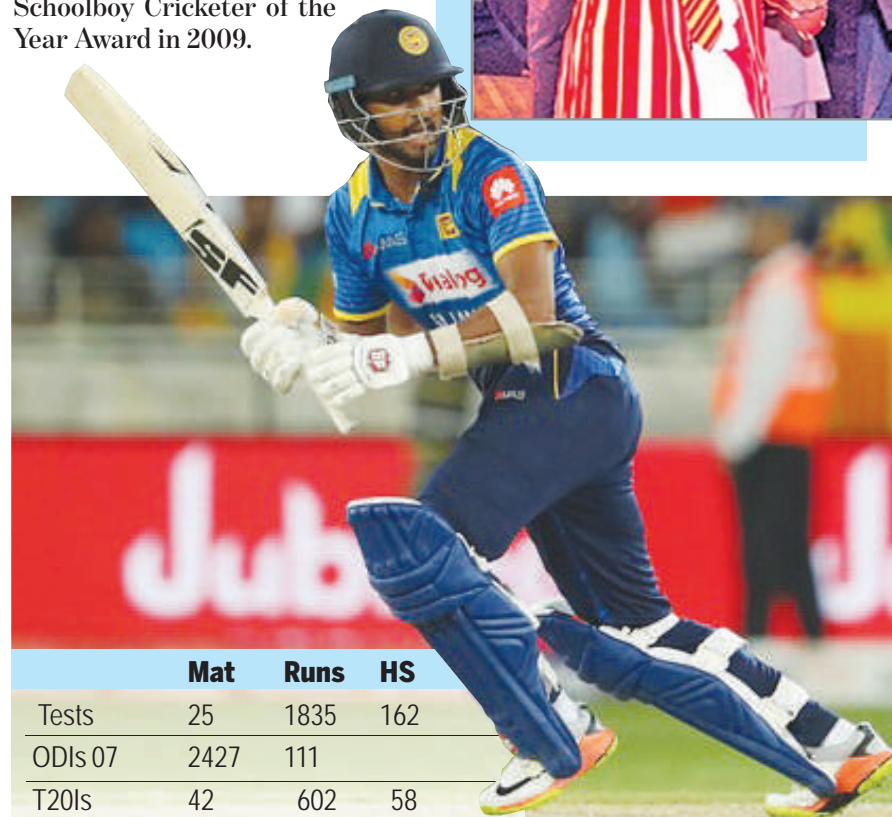
Dinesh Chandimal

Ananda College.

Dinesh Chandimal (born 18 November 1989), is a professional Sri Lankan cricketer and a former T20 International captain for Sri Lanka.

Chandimal started his cricketing career as a teenager at Dharmasoka College,

Ambalangoda. He was the first schoolboy cricketer to exceed 1,000 runs with an aggregate of 1,580 and won the Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year Award in 2009.



	Mat	Runs	HS
Tests	25	1835	162
ODIs 07	2427	111	
T20Is	42	602	58

Schoolboy Cricketer
2012

Niroshan Dickwella

Trinity College



Niroshan Dickwella won Sri Lanka's Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award in 2012, having hit over 1000 runs in the previous season and captained Trinity College to the national championship. Under his captaincy Trinity won the League title, big match and the limited overs title.

A regular Test player who performs the role of wicket keeper and batsman, Dickwella played for several teams Major teams including Nondescripts Cricket Club, Southern Express, Sri Lanka A, Sri Lanka Under-19s and Sri Lanka Under-23s.

	Mat	Runs	HS
Tests	43	2311	96
ODIs	52	1571	116
T20Is	26	466	68



Schoolboy Cricketer
2013

Kusal Mendis

Wales College

A wicket keeper and free-flowing right-hand batsman with an attacking approach, Kusal Mendis won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award in 2013, for his performances in the Prince of Wales College team. He was Sri Lanka's under-19 captain in the Youth World Cup the following year.

He made his Test debut in second Test of the West Indies tour of Sri Lanka 2015, scoring 13 runs in the first innings and 39 runs in second innings.

He does not keep wickets and only plays as a specialist batsman.



Schoolboy Cricketer
2014

Sadeera Samarawickrama

St. Joseph's College

Sadeera Samarawickrama (born 3 August 1995) is a Sri Lankan first-class cricketer. He was part of Sri Lanka's squad for the 2014 ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup.

As any schoolboy cricketer's ambition is to represent the country at the highest level, the Sunday Observer/Mobitel Schoolboy Cricketer of the year 2014, Samarawickrama's intentions were quite clear as he became only the second player from St. Joseph's College to win the richest school cricket award.



Schoolboy Cricketer
2015-16

Charith Asalanka

Richmond College

Richmond College's priced product Charith Asalanka is one of the most promising players on the present scene at the age of 23 who plays as a left hand batsman and right arm off spinner and represented Sri Lanka at the Under-19 World Cup. He won the Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy Cricketer award twice in 2015 and 2016 and his prowess and value is such that teams like Galle Cricket Club, Sinhalese Sports Club and the Sri Lanka Emerging Team had him in their line-ups.

Last year he went further in his quest for more recognition when the Jaffna Stallions bagged him for the Lanka Premier League (LPL) and it became a memorial occasion for him when they won the title.



Schoolboy Cricketer
2017

Nipun Ransika

P de S Kularatne College

Fast bowler Nipun Ransika came into the scene as one of the fastest young bowlers and is a product of P de S Kularatne College who is now 21 years of age. He has played for teams like Colts and Colombo Cricket Club and is also a handy left hand batsman who can swing the long handle if required. His primary role is a bowling all-rounder.

In August 2018 he was named in Kandy's squad for the SLC T20 Super League and prior to his T20 debut he was named Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy Cricketer 2017. He made his first class debut for Colts Cricket Club in the 2018-19 Premier League tournament which also marked his List A debut.



Schoolboy Cricketer
2018
Hasitha Boyagoda
 Trinity College

Hasitha Boyagoda became a sensation when he emerged as the first Under-19 World Cup player to hit a highest score of 191 when he achieved the feat against Kenya and is a special product of Trinity College.

He was the Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year in 2018 and after the Youth World Cup in 2018, the International Cricket Council (ICC) named him as the rising star of the squad. The 22-year old Boyagoda is a specialist right hand batsman who also played for Kandy in the Super Provincial tournament and NCC. He made his T20 debut for Damulla that same year and turned out for NCC in the first class Premier League championship. Same year he was also named in the Sri Lanka team for the 2018 ACC Emerging Teams Asia Cup tournament in Bangladesh.

When Sri Lanka won the Silver medal at the 2019 South Asian Games, Boyagoda was part of the team that lost to Bangladesh in the final.


Schoolboy Cricketer
2019
Kamil Mishara
 Royal College

Kamil Mishara has been touted by the pundits as one of the most promising young cricketers of the future from Royal College in Colombo.

He won the Sunday Observer-Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year title in 2019. He is a technically correct left hand batsman who can also come in handy with his right arm off spin bowling who has played for the Sri Lanka Under-19 team, Panadura Sports Club and the NCC.

Born on April 24, 2001, Mishara made his T20 debut for the NCC in the 2018-19 season and was named in the Sri Lanka squad for the 2020 Under-19 World Cup. He made his List A debut last month for the Nondescripts Cricket Club.


Best team Western Province: S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia


Best team of the Western Province 2020 S. Thomas' College receive their award from the GCEO of Sri Lanka Telecom Group, Lalith Seneviratne

Best team Central Province: St. Anthony's College



Best team Central Province 2020 : St. Anthony's College, Katugastota receives their award from Director Editorial ANCL Dharma Sri Kariyawasam

Best school team Southern Province 2020 : St. Thomas' College, Matara



Best school team Southern Province 2020 : St. Thomas' College, Matara received their trophy from ANCL Director Operations Canishka Witharana

Best school team Sabaragamuwa Province 2020: Dudley Senanayake Central College Tholangamuwa



Best school team Sabaragamuwa Province 2020: Dudley Senanayake Central College Tholangamuwa Presented by COO of Sri Lanka Telecom, Priyantha Fernandez

pix by: Sudath Malaweera



Best School Girl Team National Runners Up 2020, received their trophy from the Chairman of Sri Lanka Telecom, Rohan Fernando

Best up-and-coming girls school team of the year 2020



Best up-and-coming girls school team of the year 2020 Princess of Wales College Moratuwa receive their trophy from the Secretary to the Ministry of Media Jagath P Wijeweera in the presence of Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella, Group Chairman of Sri Lanka Telecom Rohan Fernando, ANCL Chairman W Dayaratne PC and Editor in Chief Sunday Observer Dinesh Weerawansa

Most promising and best behaved team 2020



Most promising and best behaved team 2020 Karunaratne Buddhist School, Mattumagala in the Gampaha district receive their award from Group CEO of Sri Lanka Telecom, Lalith Seneviratne

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