



# OBSERVER-MOBITEL Schoolboy Cricketer

## ARCHIVES



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## OBSERVER - MOBTEL Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year

# THE MOTHER OF ALL SHOWS



Sri Lanka's flagship English newspaper - the Sunday Observer, felt the need of recognizing the raw talent of the country's schoolboy cricketers at a time when there had been no organized inter-school cricket tournaments, other than the traditional first XI matches of the so-called leading schools.

But the introduction of the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year show and its expansion to have a separate segment for the outstation schoolboy cricketers in 1979 went a long way in inspiring the talented cricketers in the far flung areas.

The mega show has produced some of the top Sri Lanka cricketers who have proved their class as some of the top cricketers in world cricket. The galaxy of stars produced over the past four decades include the current ICC Chief Match Referee and former Sri Lanka captain **RANJAN MADUGALLE**, Sri Lanka's world cup-winning captain **ARJUNA RANATUNGA**, world record holder for the most number of Test wickets **MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN**, the most valuable player in Sri Lanka's 1996 World Cup triumph **SANATH JAYASURIYA**, former Sri Lanka stars **ASANKA GURUSINHA**, **ROSHAN MAHANAMA**, **MARVAN ATAPATTU**, **KUMARA DHARMASENA** and **DINESH CHANDIMAL**, to name a few.

Year after year, the standard of the show and the enthusiasm it generates have gone from strength to strength. Its 'connection' with SLT Mobitel has been the key to the overwhelming response the show has attracted over the years.

The entry of Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel about a decade ago to boost the 'show of all shows' with a lavish sponsorship package took this great show towards new horizons. Since then, the **OBSERVER-MOBTEL** Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year contest has gone from strength to strength, inspiring the country's budding schoolboy cricketers to aim for the big league.

The Sunday Observer's initiative to recognize the achievements of schoolboy cricketers some four decades ago have brought rich dividends. The paper has been extremely happy to see several other awards shows following her example to reward outstanding schoolboy cricketers at the end of each season.

Yet, the **OBSERVER-MOBTEL** Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year remains the 'Mother of all Shows' and would continue to foster the country's next generation cricketers.

## Royal College

schoolboy cricketer **1979**

# RANJANmadugalle

**Ranjan Madugalle is a former Sri Lankan cricketer and a former captain of the Sri Lankan cricket 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 Schoolboy Cricketer 1979 and went on to captain the Sri Lanka cricket team and now occupies the prestigious seat of Chief Match Referee of ICC.

Ranjan Madugalle who has been a popular figure at this competition (Observer Schoolboy Cricketer) won it in 1979.

Ranjan Madugalle 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 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 represented 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-run partnership with Arjuna Ranatunga. Madugalle represented Sri Lanka in 21 test matches and 63 One Day Internationals and also captained 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



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schoolboy cricketer **1980-82**

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 2015 General elections he contested with the UNF for Good Governance and placed 2nd in Gampaha District, and was appointed Minister of Ports and Shipping.

**Ananda College**

Ranatunga's career with the Sri Lankan national team began in 1982, when Sri Lanka were relative newcomers 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 Muralitharan for throwing. Ranatunga exchanged heated words with umpire Emerson and led his team to a point just 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 Test.



Arjuna, along with his brothers (Dammika, Nishantha, Prasanna, Sanjeeva and Ruwan) 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,

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

- Ranatunga's highest Test batting score of 135 not out was made against Pakistan, Colombo, 1985-1986
- Captaincy record was as follows: 56 matches, 12 wins, 19 losses, 25 draws
- 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

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**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



**ROHAN**  
buultjens

**schoolboy cricketer 1981**

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.



**St. Peter's College**

**ROSHAN**  
jurangpathy

**schoolboy cricketer 1986**



Roshan Jurangpathy (born 25 June 1967) is a Sri Lankan former 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 Test** - 27 December 1986 v India

**Royal College**

**ROHAN**  
weerakkody

**schoolboy cricketer 1987**

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 side on 7 occasions during the 1987/88 Youth World Cup, winning 3 matches. He played domestic cricket professionally for NCC at both First-class and List A level. He played primarily a bowler, with a good bowling average in the low 20s-high 10s at senior level.



**St. Joseph's College**

**SANJEEVA**  
ranatunga

**schoolboy cricketer 1988**



Sanjeeva Ranatunga is a former Sri Lankan cricketer who played in 9 Tests and 13 ODIs from 1994 to 1997. He has scored 2 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.

**Ananda College**



# ROSHAN mahanama

**Roshan Mahanama is a former Sri Lankan cricketer and former an ICC match referee. He was a key member for 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 Test 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, he was picked 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's 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 stylish opening batsman in the late 1980s & early 1990s under 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 & U.C.

Hathurusingha, scoring 59 runs off 89 balls vs. Zimbabwe, 80 runs off 131 balls vs. New Zealand & 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.

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## 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

Kenya v Sri Lanka at Southampton, May 30, 1999



Nalanda College

schoolboy cricketer1985

# ASANKA gurusinha

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 ODI's and was the 32nd Test 'cap' for his country. His has seven Test hundreds and eight Test 50's. 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.

Gurusinghe was one of the main pillars of Sri Lanka's 1996 World Cup winning batting line up. His application at the crisis situations to drag the team scorecard was a major highlight for those who watched the World Series tournament back in 1996.



- 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



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schoolboy cricketer 1989

## KUMAR dharmasena



Nalanda College

Kumar Dharmasena is a Sri Lankan 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-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.

Dharmasena played in 31 Tests and 141 one-day internationals 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 Rangiri International Stadium in Dambulla: he 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 1992

## SAJITH fernando

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 (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.

St. Anthony's College



schoolboy cricketer 1993

## NAVEED nawaz

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 School Boy 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 2009, Sri Lanka Cricket appointed Nawaz the Head coach of the Sri Lanka National under-19 team.

DS Senanayake College





# Ananda College

## schoolboy cricketer 1990

# MARVANatapattu

**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 Sri Lankan Cricket Team.**

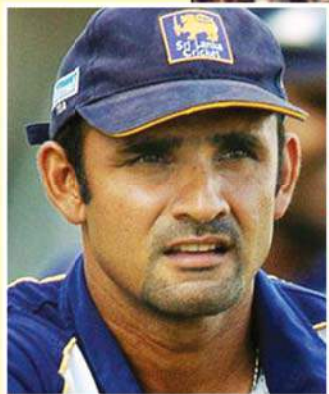
Marvan Atapattu started his cricket career as a teenager at Mahinda College, Galle. Then he crossed over to Ananda College, Colombo, where he was subsequently coached by P. W. Perera.

Marvan Atapattu first came to 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 1, 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 made his one-Day International debut against India at Nagpur. He was appointed as captain of the one-day team on April 2003. He registered his highest Test score of 249



against Zimbabwe in 2004, sharing a 438-run partnership with Kumar Sangakkara for the second wicket.

In April 2011, after the World Cup, Atapattu was named as the batting coach of 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.

### BATTING AND FIELDING AVERAGES

	Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave
<b>Tests</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5502</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>39.02</b>
<b>ODIs</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>8529</b>	<b>132*</b>	<b>37.57</b>

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schoolboy cricketer **1991**

**St. Anthony's College**

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# MUTTIAH muralidaran

Muttiah Muralitharan (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. Muralitharan holds the world record for the most wickets in both test and one-day cricket. Muralitharan is the first wrist-spinning off-spinner in the history of the game.



Muralitharan, after his many attractive feats with the ball during the inter-school cricket seasons for St. Anthony's College, Katugastota was picked Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year in 1991.

He was also picked as the Best Bowler too, that year.

In domestic cricket, Muralitharan 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.

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/ 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.



## WORLD RECORDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- The most Test wickets (800 wickets)
- The most One-Day International wickets (534 wickets)
- The highest

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

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## THILAN samaraweera

schoolboy cricketer 1994-95

Thilan Thusara Samaraweera (born 22 September 1976 in Colombo) is a Sri Lankan cricketer. Samaraweera plays international cricket for Sri Lanka and is in the side primarily for his solid right-handed batting but is 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. Thilan was prolific scorer in 1994-1995 school cricket seasons. He topped 1,000 run marks in both years with five centuries and equal number of half centuries.

Thilan actually started his career as an off-spinner. He captured 72 wickets in the 1994 season and claimed 64 wickets in the 1995 school cricket season.



	Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	BF	SR	100	50	4s	6s
<b>Tests</b>	81	132	20	5462	231	48.76	11641	46.92	14	30	633	7
<b>ODIs</b>	53	42	11	862	105*	27.80	1244	69.29	2	0	76	0

**Ananda College**

## NIMESH perera

schoolboy cricketer 1996

Batting	Mat	Runs	HS
<b>First-class</b>	146	5769	152
<b>List A</b>	90	1716	90*



**Born** September 5, 1977, Moratuwa

**Major teams** Basnahira South, Chilaw Marians Cricket Club, Colombo Cricket Club, Sebastianites Cricket and AC

**Playing role** Allrounder

**Batting style** Left-hand bat

**Bowling style** Legbreak

**Education** St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa

**St Sebastian's College**

## CHINTHAKA jayasinghe

schoolboy cricketer 1997

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.

**Dharmapala College**




schoolboy cricketer **1998**

## PRADEEP hewage

Pradeep Hewage was educated at St Benedict's College, Kotahena. 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 is captain the Sri Lanka Colts XI against England tour to Sri Lanka in 2000-01 at Moratuwa.

**St. Benedict's College**

schoolboy cricketer **1999**

## MUTUMUDALIGE pushpakumara

All-rounder Muthumudalige Pushpakumara won the prestigious Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award 1999 for his fine performances. He was also picked as the Best Bowler, Best All-rounder and Best Fielder in the All-Island Contest. 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.

**Ananda College**

schoolboy cricketer **2000**

## KAUSHAL weeraratne

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

Weeraratne born on 29th January 1981 in Gampola, captained Trinity College, Kandy, for two consecutive years.

Kaushalya was a member of the under-19 Youth World Cup team and he captained Sri Lanka under-19 cricket team's tour of England. After his school career, Kaushalya has played for major teams Bloomfield, Colts CC, NCC, Kandurata and Ragama CC in the premier league tournaments and Twenty-20 tournaments.


**Trinity College**

schoolboy cricketer **2001**

## KAUSHAL lokuarachchi

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 2000-2001.

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

Lokuarachchi played 21 one-day Internationals scored 210 runs best being 69 batting average 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.


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schoolboy cricketer 2002

## SAHAN wijeratne

**Batting style**

Right-hand bat

**Bowling style**

Right-arm offbreak

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.



Prince of Wales College

schoolboy cricketer 2003

## FARVEEZ maharoor

Mohamed Farveez Maharoor (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.

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



Wesley College

schoolboy cricketer 2004-05

## LAHIRU peiris

Lahiru Peiris, the St. Peter's College Cricket captain of 2006, who became the first Peterite to win the Observer Most Popular 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.

Lahiru was presented a special award and colours from the Sri Lanka Schools Sports Council for his 2005 and 2006 performances in cricket.



St. Peter's College

schoolboy cricketer 2006

## GIHAN rupasinghe

Gihan Rupasinghe (born March 5, 1986), is a Sri Lankan "T20" cricketer. Gihan is Sri Lanka's 30th Twenty20 International Cap. He was educated at Nalanda College Colombo.

Gihan is Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year 2006 and also became the best all rounder in 2006. He captained Nalanda College first XI team in 2006.

Gihan 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.



Nalanda College



schoolboy cricketer 2007

**MALITH**  
gunathileka

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 the 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**Ananda College**

schoolboy cricketer 2008

**UMESH**  
karunaratne

Umesh Karunaratne who had the distinction of being adjudged "Observer- Mobitel" Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year in 2008.

**Born** January 19, 1989**Major teams** Bloomfield Cricket andAthletic Club, Chilaw  
Marians Cricket Club,

Sri Lanka Under-19s

**Playing role** Batsman**Batting style**

Right-hand bat

**Bowling style**

Right-arm offbreak

**Education** Thurstan

College, Colombo

**Thurstan College**

schoolboy cricketer 2009

**DINESH**  
chandimal

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

	Mat	Runs	HS
	25	1835	162*
<b>Tests</b>	107	2427	111
<b>ODIs</b>	42	602	58
<b>T20Is</b>			

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.

**Ananda College**

schoolboy cricketer 2010-11

**BHANUKA**  
rajapakse

In 2011, Bhanuka Rajapaksa 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 'CEAT Sri Lanka Cricket Awards' 2011.

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

**Royal College**

schoolboy cricketer 2012

## NIROSHAN dickwella

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 having led Trinity College to the national championship.

**Born** June 23, 1993, Kandy  
**Major teams** Sri Lanka, Nondescripts Cricket Club, Southern Express, Sri Lanka A, Sri Lanka Under-19s, Sri Lanka Under-23s, Trinity College  
**Playing role** Wicket keeper batsman  
**Batting style** Left-hand bat



Trinity College

schoolboy cricketer 2013

## KUSAL mendis

A wicket keeper and flowing right-hand batsman with an attacking bent, Kusal Mendis won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award in 2013, for his work 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 2nd Test of West Indies tour of Sri Lanka 2015, scoring 13 runs in the first innings and 39 runs in second innings.

**Playing role** Wicket keeper batsman  
**Batting style** Right-hand bat



Prince of Wales College

schoolboy cricketer 2014

## SADEERA samarawickrama

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 one 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 to win the richest school cricket award.



St. Joseph's College

schoolboy cricketer 2015

## CHARITH asalanka

Charith Asalanka captained the national under-19 team against under-19 teams from Australia and Bangladesh in

2014-15. In the five-match limited-overs series against Bangladesh under-19 he was Sri Lanka's highest scorer, with 225 runs at an average of 45.00, and second-highest wicket-taker, with eight wickets at 21.00.

Asalanka was crowned the Schoolboy Cricketer of year 2015 at the Sunday Observer/ Mobitel Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year award ceremony.



Richmond College





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