



MEDIA RELEASE

Jackson Freeman named Giles Foster Scholar for 2016

Jackson Freeman has played at the Ringwood Rams since he was 10 years of age and today, at the age of 22, he was named the 2016 Giles Foster Scholarship (GFS) recipient. The scholarship will see him represent Great Preston Cricket Club (GPCC) during the 2016 English cricket season.

Jackson being a born-and-bred Ringwood cricketer has both the cricketing credentials and the personal qualities to ensure he will make a significant contribution both on and off the field. Giles Foster Scholarship selection committee Chair Bob Giles, and members Stuart Giles (GFS co-founder), Sean Flynn, Darren Roe and Jason Evans - all former Ringwood teammates - agreed Jackson was the perfect recipient and had no hesitation in recommending him to the Epic Good Foundation Board that he be awarded the 2016 Scholarship. Stuart noted, 'The final step for Cathie and I was to catch up with Jackson over dinner and we could not have come away from that meal more confident with the selection committee's recommendation and are delighted to have Jackson as the second Giles Foster Scholarship recipient.'

Jackson's father Mark enjoyed a long and successful playing career with Ringwood and is the current Ringwood President whilst his grandfather was a long time Treasurer and along with his grandmother continues to volunteer at the club. Jackson also follows in his father's footsteps in heading to the UK to play cricket in Yorkshire.

Jackson progressed from the junior club up through the playing ranks to make his 1st XI debut in the 2013/14 season after collecting the competition Player of the Season award in the 2nd XI in 2012/13. He became a 1st XI Premiership player for Ringwood in his 30th game last season (2014/15) in a match in which he opened the batting with David King (brother of Matt King, the inaugural GFS recipient). He has currently played 39 1st XI games and this season made his highest 1st XI score in an 8th wicket partnership that was crucial for the reigning Premiers to secure a hard fought 26 run victory. He has made a significant contribution with the ball already this season, snaring 10 wickets at an average of 19.4. His career best 1st XI bowling figures are 4 for 20 and his highest score for the club was 101 in the 2nd XI in his award winning 2012/13 season.

On being named the GFS Scholar Jackson said, 'I am honoured and excited to be a part of the evolving GFS story. I am also very proud to represent the Giles Foster Scholarship and Ringwood as I turn out for Great Preston in 2016.'

Aware of the outstanding achievements of inaugural recipient Matt King in 2015, Jackson is firmly focussed on the professional side of the scholarship. He aims to not only experience another successful on field year at Great Preston CC but he also looks forward adapting to the English conditions and making a positive impact on matches. He is quick to add, 'I also plan to enjoy my cricket at Great Preston CC!'

The GFS is not only about cricket; as proven by Matt King who raves about his scholarship experience saying, 'The GFS provided the perfect mix of cricket, travel and life learning opportunities. The experience was a life changer. Even though at 29 years of age I was



later in my cricketing life than Jackson, it was the best possible opportunity I could have imagined taking on.'

Jackson also plans to make the most of the generous opportunities the GFS provides, setting himself some broader life goals while in the UK. Aside from meeting new people and forming lifelong friendships, he says 'I am determined to enrich myself within the community of Great Preston and surrounding areas through coaching, working and living generally. I also want to experience travel in Europe.' It is expected that participating in local community life and travel on the Continent will later assist Jackson when seeking work as a teacher of outdoor education and physical education.

While the limelight will be firmly focussed on the young cricketing star, the GFS is also about the relationship between the GPCC and Ringwood CC.

Captain of GPCC Ian Newton says there are a number of benefits to the GFS and the process of choosing a recipient is a key part of the scholarship's success. The understanding Stuart and the GFS selection committee have of GPCC, including the standard of cricket, the people involved with the club and the surrounding area, enables them to identify players who will not only make a contribution on the field, but also enjoy the challenges and opportunities that being at GPCC presents.

The impact that Matthew had as the first recipient helped to raise the profile of the GFS and GPCC within the surrounding area. We are now seen by league administrators, other clubs, players and potential sponsors as a club to get involved with. I am confident a player with Jackson's pedigree can help us to make the next step by achieving a second successive promotion in 2016. Great Preston also has a rich tradition in cup competitions and without sounding greedy, it would also be nice to have a good cup run.'

The GFS is one of the many philanthropic activities of the Epic Good Foundation, <http://epicgood.com.au/> and while it may only be heading into its second year, 2015 has already seen the unique cricketing scholarship off to an Epic Good start, and you can read more here <http://epicgood.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/GFS-Article-2015-overview-speads.pdf>



Photos courtesy of Cricket Victoria