

Pakistan Services XI or the Gopalan Trophy game against an Indian state the player was regarded as playing for the C.C.A. (Ceylon Cricket Association). Accordingly and in strict terms if a player did not represent Ceylon against a visiting Country eg England or Australia he was not a person who played for Ceylon.

Page 5. It will be of interest if this photo is now published on the internet if someone would identify others in the photo. My first reaction was the guy in white to the side of the groundsman Wilbert is P. Arulpragasam. If I am not right I am still pleased that I made a guess because it has given me the opportunity of remembering a friend. Arulpragasam was in my class and I am pleased to remember him.

Before I close there are two things I should do. The first is to send you in the enclosed papers as a matter of friendship a copy of one of my poems. It comes with my very best and affectionate regards. I do hope you like it.

The send aspect is to end up with a strange and weird story and a very true one. Wesley was playing St Joseph at Campbell Park in 1951. It was D.B.C. Mack's 2<sup>nd</sup> year as captain. In the first innings I was batting with Denis Ebert who incidentally was batting in a pretty aggressive manner. I was on 15 runs and on strike to fast bowler Ken Serpanchy. The ball lifted sharply and stuck me on the left elbow. With that I went to ground and left the field. Radley Claessen followed me. Dennis got out a few minutes later for 57 and Pat Schokman went out to replace Dennis. The First days play the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February ended with Radley and Pat Schokman at the crease. That night I had a dream - it was clear as daylight. In my dream a wicket fell quickly and I went in. The very first ball I received I despatched through extra cover for four. The very next ball was well pitched up on leg stump. As usual and in my customary manner I flicked the ball intending it to go to fine leg. Instead the ball hit the edge of my bat and it went soaring into the heavens. The ball went extremely high and Reiny Perera at deepish mid on go under it. He swayed from side to side keeping his eye on the ball and he took the catch. At the game on 3/2 Pat Schokman after adding 3 more runs was out for 9 and I went in. The very first ball I received (From Perumal as the records show) I drove through cover for four. The next ball was on leg stump and up went the ball. I have never seen a ball go so straight up and so high. Reiny Perera the brilliant fielder would have been about the only one who could have taken a catch like that. What an amazing story and it is all very true

With all that I must bring this letter to a close. I am aware from your recent E Mails that you are anxious to get information about the three Claessen brothers. I think Wesleyites have heard a lot about them and sometimes I wonder if it is too much. Be patient, the Claessen story will come out in the end. If this present attempt succeeds there will be more to follow and I sincerely hope that in the fabric of the stories told there will be accounts of so many others, not necessarily cricketers who were such an important and exciting part of our lives as Wesleyites.

With Kindest regards,

Bryan