

CITY CRICKET CLUB LEGENDS

Joseph ('Joey') Yovich

It's hard to think of a person who has been more connected to City Cricket Club in his life than Joseph Adam Frank Yovich. Around this club you only have to say "Joey" and everyone knows who you're talking about.

The reason is simple, for not only has Joey given his all on the field, he's done so off it as well. Proud of his Croatian heritage, Joey has always brought with him a strong work ethic, loyalty and a 'can do' attitude. On the field he is a tenacious, fierce competitor, with a never-give-in and resilient nature.

Joey's story can't be told without his Dad's - Frank "Manuleto" Yovich. As Joey says: *"I basically lived in the back pocket of my old man. When I was 10, he would bat for the CCC Men's Prens and after his innings, it would be pads off and builder's apron on to work on the upstairs clubrooms at the old Cobham Oval. I'd sub-field (fine leg to fine leg) and loved every minute of it."*

Interestingly though, Joey's Premier cricket didn't start with City, but instead the WBHS 1st XI. It was there that he scored his first premier grade century (114*) at age 16 vs Mangakahia in 1994. At that time, and for the majority of his career, Joey was a "tearaway" quick who could also bat anywhere in the top six - a genuine all-rounder. A natural athlete, his fielding was also top drawer. WBHS gave Joey his first taste of National honours when in 1994 they won the Gillette Cup to be crowned NZ's top Secondary School team. And it was while he was at WBHS that Joey, aged 17, made his Northland debut that same season.

He found quick success, scoring his maiden Northland century (119) in just his second game, vs Midlands. With Dion Nash also getting a century, Northland reached 568/6 which remains the province's highest team score. He would then later in the season take 7-26 vs Thames Valley to confirm his all-round status.

Joey made his City Premier grade debut in 1995-96, when the club won the Senior Championship and Dargaville Shield.

With Northland, Joey played in seven Hawke Cup matches (5 Challenges and 2 Defences). His abiding memory of Hawke Cup cricket was that it wasn't for the faint of heart. Joey though, dominated with his most memorable match being the challenge victory against holders Auckland-Waitakere in 1998 when he scored 124. Making it extra special was a century by fellow "Club Legend" Bryan Young, with another "Club Legend" Denis Lloyd the team coach and City stalwart Martin Kimber the team manager.

Joey quickly gained a reputation as a cricketer who demanded the best out of the opposition, if they were to be competitive, and from his team mates. Playing hard was the only way to engage - and if you didn't measure up then that was your problem, not his. You never had to wonder where Joey stood with his thinking.

In all matches for Northland, Joey finished as one of eight players to do the 1,000 runs/100 wickets double, with 2,251 runs and 197 wickets (3rd all time). His First Class debut for Northern Districts came at age 19 in 1996 vs Canterbury. ND scored 550 in the first innings and yet did not win the match. Joey didn't bat and didn't take a wicket. Over the next 17 seasons Joey was involved and made significant contributions in winning no less than 11 Championship titles for ND across all formats - Max Cricket (1), Shell Cup (6), and Shell Trophy/Plunket Shield (4).

Finals brought the best out of Joey and a quality he aspired to be as a player - reliable when the pressure was on. In the 1999-2000 Shell Trophy final, he batted all day for 99 to set up victory over Auckland; and in the last game of the 2001-02 season, scored 63 vs Central Districts, despite his hand being broken early on in two places, for ND to win the Plunket Shield.

Joey proved to be incredibly adaptable during his First Class career. From that tearaway quick, he would become a resolute opening batsman who would bat all day if you let him. His first century (144) was against Central Districts where initial thoughts were of survival when he joined Mark Orchard on the McLean Park block with the team at 38-5. Four sessions later the pair had set what at the time was a NZ First Class record for the sixth wicket of 322 runs.

Joey was named ND Cricketer of the Year in 1999-2000 and 2005-06 with a host of individual awards noted below, including being NZ Domestic 20/20 MVP (2008-09) and Northland Sportsman of the Year in 2003.

When his First Class career came to a close, Joey was in elite company as one of only 9 players to have scored 2,000 runs and taken 200 wickets. In a list of spinners and medium pacers, the only true "quicks" on that list are Joey and one Sir Richard Hadlee - illustrious company. NZ representation included: NZ U-19; Brierley NZ Youth XI; NZ Sixes; NZ A, numerous NZ training and World Cup squads and NZ selection teams vs International touring sides. He played against or toured Australia, England, India, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. Although he would be selected as "stand-by" for higher honours, surprisingly this eluded him.

In the 2001-02 season, ND put an end to Steve Waugh's Australia team run of consecutive First Class wins by drawing with them in Hamilton, Joey knocking over Greg Blewett and the great Adam Gilchrist. Waugh noted to media that Joey was the quickest NZ bowler he'd faced "by a mile" - and couldn't believe he wasn't in NZ colours. Quite the compliment from the Aussie legend.

Of note, Joey has only played for one other club, being Sutherland District Cricket Club in Sydney Grade Cricket, where for three years he would prepare for the NZ summer. In the 1999-2000 season, Joey was City Cricket Club's fitness trainer/coach. City would be undefeated club champions that year, winning all 19 matches under Scott Wilson's captaincy. Part of Joey's regime was to introduce the infamous "Yoyo test". Joey's high standards of strength and conditioning, which he prided himself on, demonstrated the professional attitude he wanted to engender at City.

That same season, City would be one of the "top six" clubs in the country, representing Northern Districts in the prestigious National Club Championships, where they finished 3rd. Joey missed the first two games being in the Shell Trophy Final but, ever the club man, returned immediately after the final to join the lads for the last two games.

Off the field, Joey was part of the City's executive from 2003 and was elected City's President in 2015 for a three-year term. During that period, City would win 9 Premier/Reserve Grade championships (including the NDCA Club Champions Eric Petrie Cup - best club in the ND Region) along with the prestigious Whangarei Club of the Year (for all codes in Whangarei). Joey always strived for excellence and these achievements reflected the leadership skills and professionalism he brought to the role.

To date (2019) Joey has been a part of 17 Whangarei/Northland Cricket Association winning championships with the club. Add the 11 for ND and that's a boat full! As well, he was a founding member of the NZ Croatia Cricket team - one very busy and successful cricketer. To show he hasn't yet finished, this past season (2018-19) Joey surpassed the long-held record by fellow legend Craig Presland for most runs in a season. Chasing down Pres's record of 1,245 runs set in the 1990-91 season, Joey finished with 1,343.

The picture of the young cricketer adorning City Cricket Club's 50th Jubilee book was of Joey in 1989 playing for the Northland U14 team. It was a glimpse into the future of a young lad who would go onto a fantastic cricketing career; but also of a person who would hold dear his father's legacy and help City succeed on and off the field for the next 30 years. In 2019 CCC bestowed its highest honour by making Joey a Life Member, where he sits alongside his father Frank. He has been for some time now the "heartbeat" of City Cricket Club. We are proud to have him as one of us and for all these reasons Joey Yovich is a **City Cricket Club Legend**.

Notable Achievements

(Representative Cricket)

- Eleven Championship titles for ND: four First Class (Plunket Shield), six one-day titles and a Cricket Max
- New Zealand U19 Tour to England 1996, and New Zealand U20 Tour to Australia 1996
- 1st ND player to do the double of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets in domestic one day cricket
- Offered NZ's Young Player to Lords Scholarship (but unable to accept) 1994
- New Zealand A Team Tour to India 2001, and Australia 2006
- 1st NZ domestic player to score 2,000 first class and 1,000 one day runs; and take 200 first class and 100 one day wickets for one province
- New Zealand Major Association Selection XI 2004/5 vs Sri Lanka
- New Zealand Sixes Team Tour to Hong Kong 2003/04 - finished 3rd in the series
- NZ Black Caps vs Tasmania and NSW (warm up matches) 2002/3
- New Zealand World Cup One-Day Squad 2003
- New Zealand Domestic Cricket Max Bowler of the Series 1997/98
- New Zealand Domestic T20 MVP of the series 2008/9
- North Island vs South Island State of Origin One-Day Match 2002/3
- Northern Districts Cricketer of the Year 1999/2000, 2005/6
- Northern Districts Bowler of the Year 2001/2, 2002/3
- Northern Districts Batsman of the Year 2005/6
- Northland Sportsman of the Year 2003
- Northland Cricketer of the Year 1999, 2003
- Northland Youth Cricketer of the Year 1997

(Miscellaneous)

- 3rd Most First Class wickets for ND (255)
- 3rd Most One-Day wickets for ND (119)
- 6th Most One-Day games for ND (111)
- All-time and Northern Districts 6th wicket First Class batting partnership record (322)
- 2nd Most First Class matches for ND (120)
- 5th Most First Class runs for ND (4,839)
- Century against all First Class Major Associations (Central Districts, Wellington, Otago, Canterbury, Auckland)
- NZ Croatia Cricket Founding Member
- 3rd wicket Hawke Cup Record Batting Partnership - 105 vs Taranaki 1994/5
- 5th wicket Hawke Cup Record Batting Partnership - 196 vs Auckland Waitakere 1997/8
- One of eight players in the "1,000 runs/100 wickets" club for Northland, with 2251/197

(City Cricket Club - Honours Board)

- Most runs in a season for City CC, 2018/19: 1,343 at an average of 134.3
- Named in the 50th Jubilee Book - City Cricket Club all-time best selection XI (Test Match side - 1972-1997)
- Club Cup (Most Improved Player) - 1997/98
- Wiseman Trophy - Best Bowling Average 1999/2000 (7.8)
- Highest Batting Score - 2008/09 (145), 2014/15 (134), 2018/19 (174*)
- Best Batting Average (8 occasions) - 1998/99, 2000/01, 02/03, 07/08, 11/12, 14/15, 17/18, and 18/19
- Wilson Platter (with points for runs, wickets, catches, etc) - 2007/08 (982), 2015/16 (692), 2018/19 (1533)
- MVP, Premier Grade - 2015/16
- Kessell Trophy (Highest Partnership) - 2003/04, 06/07, 08/09, 10/11, 11/12, 18/19
- Cooney Cup (Clubman of the Year) - 1999/2000
- Horses Arse (Balls-up of the Day) - Telephone Book Fundraiser - 2001/02, 04/05

(Cricket Administration)

- City Cricket Club Executive Member: 1999 - 2018
- President City CC: 2015 - 2018
- Cobham Cricket Club Executive: 2011-13, 2018 - Present
- Trustee, Frank Yovich Memorial Trust: 2000 - Present
- NZ Croatia Cricket President: 2014 - 2017
- NZ Croatia Cricket Executive: 2014 - Present



JOEY YOVICH



First Class Cricket (Northern Districts)									
Batting & Fielding									
	M	Inns.	N.O.	Runs	Ave.	Best	100s	50s	Ct
First Class	121	190	29	4839	30.05	144	6	27	37
List A One Day	114	97	24	1584	21.69	78*	-	6	34
T20s	30	25	7	248	13.77	33*	-	-	3

Bowling								
	M	Runs	Wickets	Average	Best	Economy	5w	10w
First Class	121	8579	255	33.64	7-64	3.47	8	1
List A One Day	114	3255	123	26.46	4-44	5.42	-	-
T20s	30	663	33	20.09	4-36	8.55	-	-

Northland									
Batting & Fielding									
	M	Innings	N.O.	Runs	Ave.	Best	100s	50s	Ct
Two Day	55	63	13	1789	35.78	124	4	9	20
One Day	24	22	5	690	40.6	78	-	3	4

Bowling									
	M	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts.	Ave.	Best	5w	10w
Two Day	55	1118.1	270	3140	174	18.05	7-26	2	-
One Day	24	147	21	529	23	23.00	3-24	-	-

