

The Rise & Fall of Farhan Ahmed

Two years ago a 14 year old Farhan Ahmed came with his mother to The Oval for the 2022 Cricket Society Awards. He modestly accepted the Jack Hobbs Award for Most Promising Schoolboy cricketer. As the younger brother of Leicestershire and England leg-spinner, Rehan Ahmed, he might reasonably have felt that he would be in the latter's shadow for a while. But, in the late summer of 2024, he was propelled into the Nottinghamshire side inevitably under-performing in spite of helping themselves the three Worcestershire players in the close season (Haynes, Pennington and Tongue) and proving that whoever they signed it made the season as disappointing as ever. The spinners nominally ahead of him in the pecking order, Liam Patterson-White and Calvin Harrison took 28 championship wickets between them and the former went on loan to Northamptonshire for part of the season. Peter Moores has shown a curious lack of interest in giving the local academy players a chance but boxed in by an irritated membership and a disapproving local press, he picked out Farhan and Freddie McCann from his hat, probably as a last resort. Moores now looks like someone who has prescient thinking as Farhan took 22 wickets at 23.22 in 4 matches (McCann averages 51.14 with the bat by the way in 5 games). What looked like an act of desperation suddenly becomes the work of a genius. Next step for Farhan Ahmed is the England Lions. It would be wonderful if he could keep his progress going.

By Peter Hardy