

DANNY WOODS

Danny Woods' Cheshire career stats tell only part of the story of somebody who brought warmth and humanity to so many people.

To lose his life at just 32 following a courageous battle with cancer is devastating. He was fit and active, playing cricket until last summer, alert and enjoying the early stages of married life. Working as a PE teacher in York, he was a role model for youngsters.

Unassuming, warm and canny, Danny's standing on a cricket field was outstanding. He'd walk into an all-time 'Cheshire Greats XI'. Cheshire Chairman David Bailey describes him as 'quietly disarming and charming.' He says "Danny was a student of the game who terrorized the opposition batsmen as they knew he could read their play."

"This is so sad. He was one of the best left arm slow bowlers in the country. A privilege to have been associated with him for so long. He was so motivational and contributed so much to Cheshire cricket over his years. When he moved away to work, marry and play, we really missed his presence and influence, but would still gauge his thoughts and opinions. York CC were the fortunate recipients of his enormous character, cricketing ability and experience. Our hearts go out to Danny's wife and family."

One of the most influential players in the Cheshire County League, with Hyde CC for many years, Danny first played for Cheshire in 2006, finally retiring in 2018 after picking up 261 wickets from 53 matches. He was in the Championship winning sides of 2007 and 2013 and took 5 wickets on 21 occasions.

During his illness, surrounded by a loving family and his incredible wife Heather, Danny stayed firmly in touch with many of his Cheshire cricketing colleagues, enjoying reminiscing about a colourful career.

Tributes have been received from across the country on social media – from playing colleagues at Hyde, York, Leeds/Bradford University and Cheshire to opponents from across the leagues.

One of Danny's closest friend Lee Dixon – who is running 5 kilometers a day throughout 2020 in support of Macmillan Cancer and his best mate 'Woodsy' - reflected on "a great journey of 23 years of Cheshire cricket, friendship and sharing the highs and lows of life'.

Danny Leech, Cheshire captain in Danny's last season said "He was the essence of what Cheshire was all about, understanding the importance of representing the County.

"He was such an example to youngsters. When I asked him once what he did in the week, he said he'd just go to his club and bowl on his own for an hour. I relayed that example of dedication to our younger players."

This was reflected by Pete Babbage, Cheshire CC Cricket Chairman who recalled a young Woods being coached, claiming he'd "give his right arm to play for the County."

Danny Berry, ex-colleague at Hyde and Cheshire and now living in Australia said "So many great memories. My spin twin, my D-Floor buddy. I'm so proud to call you one of my greatest friends. A true legend in so many ways. Sleep well you great man."

And perhaps the final words for now, come from Leeds/Bradford University: "Superb cricketer but more importantly, a wonderful bloke. RIP Woodsy."

We'll miss him.

Lee Dixon is running 5k for Macmillan Cancer, supporting his friend Danny Woods. 60 days in and all going well. To offer your support go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lee-dixon169>