

In the spotlight...

Nairn Guilbert

‘Every run this season has been fully deserved’

Dedication and hard work has been paying off for 16-year-old Nairn Guilbert, with some fantastic spells at the crease for Elizabeth College and Griffins. **Matt Lihou** reports

WITH two centuries to his name at senior level already this season, it is fair to say that Nairn Guilbert is in something of a purple patch when it comes to scoring runs.

But his Elizabeth College coach says that because of the hard work the 16-year-old has put in, there is no reason to suggest it should end any time soon.

Last weekend, Guilbert destroyed Wanderers' attack to finish unbeaten on 137 after opening the batting for Griffins in their Weekend League clash. It is fair to say that Wanderers must dread facing him at the moment as he also scored a fine ton against them in Elizabeth College colours earlier in the summer.

On that occasion Wanderers did edge home, but only after Guilbert's 104 had anchored college's innings batting at No. 3 on that occasion at the College Field.

From the same position he also scored a superb 86 in the opening match of the college season against Cobo.

At the moment, he is averaging over 100 in Weekend League cricket.

His college coach is Tom Eisenhuth, who says that there is no element of chance whatsoever about the teenager's recent performances.

'I suppose you could call it a purple patch, but that would be harsh on Nairn really because he has worked incredibly

hard for it and has been so dedicated,' he said.

'Every run that he has scored this season has been fully deserved and what is fantastic about Nairn is that he knows and trusts his own game so well.

'He has all the shots he needs, he is not lacking in that department, but he won't take unnecessary risks or play silly shots, he will just accumulate runs – and lots of them.'

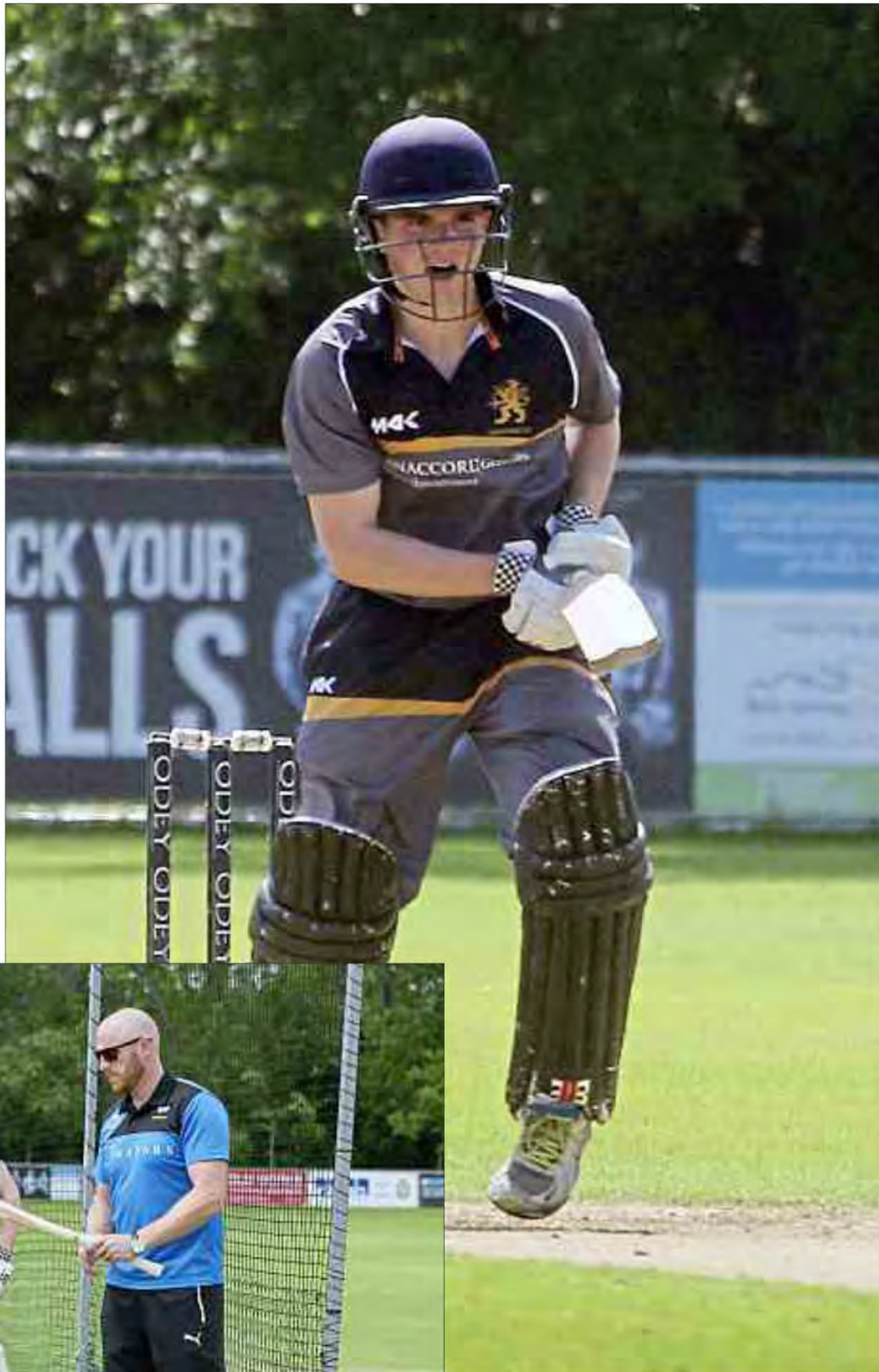
Eisenhuth also says that Guilbert's promise has been evident from a young age and that every challenge thrown in front of him is efficiently dealt with.

'Nairn has punched above his weight in every age group he has been in, ever since he batted excellently on a first XI tour when he was only 13 years old.

'It is easy to forget he is still very young and he has some fantastic opportunities ahead of him in the next couple of years with the fixture programmes he is involved in.

'Like any young batter, playing against different and high-quality bowlers in different places while facing different conditions will only make him an even better player.

'We have a group of very good youngsters at the moment coming through and motivating each other, so the next couple of years is very exciting,' Eisenhuth added.



Above: Nairn Guilbert on his way to a century for Griffins at the KGV.

(Picture by Tom Tardif, 15214324)

Guilbert takes some advice from Yorkshire cricketers Tim Bresnan, left, and Andrew Gale, right.

(Picture by Adrian Miller, 15141904)