

SMANGALISO NHLEBELA

Bowling All-Rounder (Spin)



Name	Smangaliso Nhlebelu
DOB	02-06-1994
Nationality	South African
Player Status	Available
Playing Role	Bowling All-Rounder (Spin)
Batting Style	RH Middle Order Bat
Bowling Style	SLA Orthodox Spin
Entry Route	International Sportsperson Visa
Coaching Qualifications	CSA Level 1

Smangaliso Nhlebelu is an accomplished left-arm spin bowler, and capable lower-order batter, currently involved with the KwaZulu-Natal Inland set-up in South Africa.

Now into his 30s, the veteran tweaker has enjoyed significant success in domestic cricket since his debut a decade ago (2014/15). With 46 first-class, 42 List A, and 18 T20s under his belt, the left-arm spinner has bagged 182 wickets across these three formats, whilst also boasting highest scores of 42, and 55* in FC and List A, respectively.

Nhlebelu was a domestic stand-out for three seasons, namely 2016-17 to 2018-19, with first-class tallies of 22 wickets at 26.90 (16/17), 35 wickets at 21.91 (17/18), and 23 wickets at 27.78 (18/19). During this period, he was involved with 4 title campaigns – the CSA 3-Day Competition (twice), 1 Day Cup, and T20 Competition. Individually, he was also the Player's Player of the Year, Player of the Season, One Day Player of the Year, and 3-Day Bowler of the Season.

Since COVID, opportunities have been more limited, and as it stands Nhlebelu has played just 4 first-class matches since the 2022/23 season. That said, he's been a T20 regular for KZN-Inland where he has been key to their success.

The talented left-arm spinner is hoping to pick up one further FC match this summer in a view to becoming eligible to play UK club cricket in 2025. Failing that, he will be eager to spend a summer in Europe (Republic of Ireland or the Netherlands).

(Note: Nhlelela needs to play 1 more FC match to qualify for the International Sportsperson Visa)

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