

= Keith Miller with the Australian cricket team in England in 1948 =

Keith Miller was a key member of Donald Bradman's famous Australian cricket team, which toured England in 1948 and went undefeated in its 34 matches. This unprecedented feat by a Test side touring England earned the Australians the sobriquet The Invincibles.

Miller played as a right-arm opening fast bowler and a right-handed middle-order batsman. Along with Ray Lindwall, he formed Australia's first-choice pace duo, a combination regarded as one of the best of all time. Bradman typically used the pair in short and intense bursts against the English batsmen with the new ball. England had agreed to make a new ball available every 55 overs, more often than usual, allowing the pair more frequent use of a shiny ball that swung at high pace. Miller was also a skillful slips fielder, regarded by his captain as the best in the world.

Miller took 13 wickets at an average of 26.28 and scored 184 runs in the Tests at an average of 23.15, and played a key role in subduing England's leading batsmen, Len Hutton and Denis Compton, with a barrage of short-pitched bowling. He troubled Hutton to such an extent in the Tests and tour matches that the batsman was dropped for the Third Test. In the First Test, Miller took seven wickets, including Hutton and Compton twice, bearing a large part of the bowling workload after Lindwall broke down with a groin injury on the first day. In the Second Test at Lord's, he scored 74 in the second innings to help bat England out of the match. Miller also scored a rapid 58 in the Fourth Test, featuring in a counter-attacking partnership with Neil Harvey that helped Australia to regain the momentum; they went on to win in the closing minutes of the final day.

In all first-class matches, Miller scored 1,088 runs at 47.30 and took 56 wickets at 17.58. Bradman gave him a lighter bowling workload during the tour matches to keep him fresh for the key battles in the Tests. Miller played many of his more carefree innings in the tour matches, hitting many sixes. He also showed his disdain for Bradman's obsession with annihilating the opposition. In one match against Essex, he deliberately let himself be bowled first ball to protest against Australia's ruthless dismantling of the bowling; the tourists set a world record for the most runs scored in a day of first-class cricket (721).

Miller's charisma, coupled with the unprecedented popularity of the Australians, made him much sought after for social events. His friendship with Princess Margaret was particularly scrutinised by the media.

= = Background = =

Miller had played for Australia in every Test match since the resumption of major cricket following the end of World War II. He had been a specialist batsman at the start of the war, but emerged as a frontline fast bowler during the Victory Tests of 1945. He made his official Test debut against New Zealand in early 1946. Since the Test series against England during the 1946-47 Australian summer, he had opened the bowling with Ray Lindwall, as well as playing as a frontline batsman, usually at No. 5. Miller had played a leading role in Australia's 3-0 victory over the hosts in that series. He finished at the top of the Australian Test bowling averages with 16 wickets at 20.88, and was second in the batting averages, scoring 384 runs at 76.80. In particular, his pace and intimidating bouncers had caused much trouble for England's leading batsmen Len Hutton and Denis Compton, whom he would confront again in 1948. During that series, he dismissed Hutton thrice and took the wicket of his opening partner Cyril Washbrook twice. Apart from scoring his maiden Test century in the series, Miller also hit three scores over 150 for his state, Victoria, all at high pace with many long-distance shots.

Miller had a light workload in the 1947-48 home Test series against India. He was not required a great deal, as India were well beaten 4-0, three times by an innings, and his teammates often finished off the opposition before he had an opportunity, particularly with the bat. He was required to bat just once in each Test, accumulating 185 runs at 37.00, including two half-centuries. His bowling duties were also light; 72 overs yielded nine wickets at 24.78. Both

Lindwall and Miller were selected by captain Donald Bradman and his fellow selectors for the 1948 tour of England as the intended new ball pairing .

= = Early tour = =

Along with his teammates , Miller arrived in Southampton in April after a sea voyage from Australia aboard the SS Strathaird . As was the custom , Australia fielded its first @-@ choice team in the traditional tour opener against Worcestershire . Miller was duly selected and started the Invincibles tour strongly . He scored a hard @-@ hitting 50 not out , with five fours and a six , after coming in to bat at No. 9 . His innings was the fastest for the match in terms of runs per minute . He bowled a total of 20 overs for match figures of 1 / 54 as Australia completed an innings victory . His first wicket for the summer was that of opposing captain Allan White .

The tour opener was immediately followed by a game against Leicestershire , and this time , Miller was promoted to No. 3 . At the fall of the first wicket , the crowd surged towards the players ' gate , expecting Bradman to enter in his customary batting position . However , Miller emerged instead , and scored an unbeaten 202 in five and a half hours . He featured in a 111 @-@ run second wicket partnership with Sid Barnes , before putting on 159 with Bradman for the third wicket . The hosts compounded their troubles by dropping a trio of chances from Miller . After a late @-@ order collapse , in which no other batsman passed 12 , it was left to last man Bill Johnston to partner Miller from 180 onwards . The pair put on 37 for the tenth wicket before Johnston was out for 12 , having successfully shepherded his partner to a double century . One of Miller 's sixes concussed a spectator , and after his long innings , Bradman did not use his bowling in the first innings , but he was used late in the second innings to take the last two wickets and end with 2 / 10 . Australia completed another innings triumph .

The next match against Yorkshire pitted Australia against Hutton ; it was thus an opportunity for both parties to gain a psychological advantage before the Tests . Bowling medium @-@ paced off breaks , Miller removed Hutton for five after the Yorkshireman had struggled for an hour in the middle . He finished with 6 / 42 as the home team were rolled for 71 on a wet wicket in cold and blustery conditions . Miller took four of the last six wickets as the hosts fell from 4 / 45 to 71 and had bowled almost unchanged , sending down 23 @.@ 3 of the 54 @.@ 3 overs . In reply , Australia struggled to reach 101 , including a counter @-@ attacking 34 from Miller , which was the highest individual score for the low @-@ scoring match . He came to the crease at 4 / 38 and scored 34 of the next 48 runs added , before falling at 7 / 86 . He hit two sixes in his innings , including one from the first ball that he faced . He then took 3 / 49 in the second innings as Yorkshire fell for 89 to leave Australia a victory target of 60 . However , he was dismissed for two , caught at long off after attempting to hit a six from the spin of Johnny Wardle to leave the score at 3 / 13 . Australia ? s batsmen continued to struggle and fell to 6 / 31 ? effectively seven wickets down with Sam Loxton injured and unable to bat ? before stumbling home without further loss . It was the closest the Australians came to defeat for the whole tour and Miller was instrumental in preserving their unbeaten record .

After three consecutive three @-@ day matches , with only one rest day between nine scheduled days of cricket , Bradman rested Miller for the next match against Surrey at The Oval , which Australia won by an innings . He returned to take seven wickets in the next fixture against Cambridge University . In the first innings , he resumed his battle with John Dewes , whom he had tormented during the Victory Tests in 1945 . This time , Dewes put a thick towel under his shirt for protection against an anticipated short @-@ pitched barrage . Miller set up Dewes with a short ball , before yorking him . He then took the last three wickets to end with 5 / 46 as the hosts were bowled out for 167 in the first innings . Miller was not required to bat as Australia amassed 4 / 414 declared in its only effort with the bat . In the second innings , he took 2 / 29 as Australia completed an innings victory .

Miller was involved in a famous incident in the next match against Essex . Australia elected to bat and had already amassed 2 / 364 when he came to the crease midway through the first day . The previous partnership for the second wicket between Bradman and Bill Brown had plundered 219

runs from the Essex bowlers in 90 minutes . Miller took guard and deliberately let the first ball from Trevor Bailey hit the stumps , much to Bradman 's displeasure . He flicked his hair back and walked away . He later said that he was making a protest against the one @-@ sided nature of the contest , as Australia went on to set a world record of 721 runs , the most in one day of first @-@ class cricket . Former Australian Test batsman Jack Fingleton said " under the circumstances at Southend , I could well understand his [Miller ? s] feelings " . Miller regained his competitive instinct when given the ball in the first innings , taking the first three wickets to reduce the hosts to 3 / 13 . He ended with 3 / 14 as the hosts were skittled for 83 , but then bowled only two wicketless overs as Bradman enforced the follow on ; Australia won by an innings and 451 runs , its largest winning margin for the season . Bradman rested Miller for the next game against Oxford University , which Australia won by an innings .

In the lead @-@ up to the Tests , Australia took on the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) at Lord 's ; it was effectively a dress rehearsal for the Tests , as the MCC fielded seven players who would represent England in the Ashes . It was Miller 's first match at the home of cricket since the Victory Tests . Bradman ? s men batted first and Miller came to the crease at 3 / 200 to join Lindsay Hassett . The pair put on 80 for the fourth wicket before Hassett fell for 51 . Brown then partnered Miller for another 63 runs before he was out . Ian Johnson then came in and accompanied Miller to the close of play on the first evening . The latter reached his century in 165 minutes and was 114 at stumps , with Australia at 5 / 407 . The next day , the partnership extended to 155 runs before Miller fell at 6 / 498 . His innings had taken 250 minutes , with 20 fours and three sixes . The Australians attempted to gain a psychological advantage ahead of the Tests by attacking the off spin of Jim Laker . They hit nine sixes from the Englishman on the second morning . Miller 's dismissal triggered a collapse and Australia lost 5 / 54 to be all out for 552 . Miller and Lindwall then attempted to maintain their ascendancy over Hutton before the Tests . On this occasion , Hutton held off the pair with 52 and 64 , but his teammates could not , as the MCC fell to defeat by an innings and 158 runs . However , Miller was able to account for Bill Edrich and twice claimed Jack Robertson , ending with figures of 3 / 28 and 1 / 37 as Australia enforced the follow on . Test batsman Edrich had been prolific in recent English seasons , and was expected to be one of the key batsmen in the forthcoming Anglo @-@ Australian match ; Robertson was thought to be in contention for England selection but two low scores against Miller saw him overlooked . In addition to his performance on the field , Miller solved some off @-@ field problems . The MCC ? which administered cricket at the time ? provided him with legal assistance in his contract dispute with Rawtenstall . The Australian all @-@ rounder had signed a contract to play for the club in the Lancashire League , but failed to honour it . Rawtenstall dropped the dispute after being offered compensation .

Miller was rested for the next match against Lancashire , which resulted in Australia 's first non @-@ victory for the tour after the first day was lost to rain . He returned against Nottinghamshire and scored 51 of Australia 's total of 400 . His wicket prompted the loss of 5 / 45 as the tourists were bowled out . Miller took a wicket in each innings , including that of Test batsman Reg Simpson , to end with a total of 2 / 67 as Australia drew its second consecutive match . The next match against Hampshire saw Australia run into difficulty with Bradman resting under the rotation policy . Miller bowled 19 overs without reward , taking 0 / 39 as Hampshire batted first and scored 195 . In reply , Australia was in trouble after rain turned the pitch into a sticky wicket . Miller came in at 2 / 38 and launched a counter @-@ attack , scoring 39 of the 53 runs added before he fell with the score at 5 / 91 . The remainder of the Australians folded quickly , losing 6 / 26 to be all out for 117 , ceding a first innings lead of 78 , the first time during the tour that they had been behind on the first innings . Miller 's top score of 39 included three consecutive sixes from the bowling of Charlie Knott , whose bowling troubled the Australians the most and ended with 5 / 57 . He helped ensure that they did not capitalise on their lead and set a large target , taking 5 / 25 and bowling three of his victims . The tourists dismissed Hampshire for 103 , leaving a target of 182 , which Australia achieved with eight wickets to spare without Miller having to bat . He was rested for the match against Sussex at Hove , after six consecutive days of cricket . In its last match before the Tests , Australia completed an innings victory in just two days .

= = First Test = =

Leading into the Tests , Fingleton speculated that the English batsmen would have great difficulty against Miller and Lindwall , claiming that their prolific scoring against low @-@ quality bowling in county cricket would hinder their ability to adapt to the demands of facing world @-@ class opposition . Miller set the tone for Australia after England won the toss and batted first on the opening morning of the First Test at Trent Bridge . There had been overnight rain , which meant that the pitch would initially be favourable towards fast bowlers . Opening the bowling with Lindwall , he induced an edge from Washbrook in his first over , but it went to ground . In his second over , Miller bowled Hutton with a faster ball , leaving England at 1 / 9 . In his second over , Miller bowled Hutton for three with a faster ball that skidded off the pitch to leave England at 9 / 1 . The ball went between bat and pads as Hutton moved forward onto his front foot . The journalist and former Australian Test leg spinner Bill O 'Reilly criticised Hutton for not moving his leg across to the pitch of the ball , thereby leaving a gap between bat and pad , but also praise Miller for his ability to make occasional deliveries skid on faster , surprising the batsman .

Miller beat Washbrook 's bat twice in one over soon after lunch , but was unable to extract an edge . Miller then had a hand in another wicket , when Johnston removed Joe Hardstaff junior for a duck . Johnston induced an edge , which flew to the slips after the batsman had attempted a cut ; the catch was described by Wisden as " dazzling " . Miller dived and balanced himself on his spine , before catching the ball to leave England at 4 / 46 . Two runs later , he bowled Compton , who was attempting a leg sweep . The batsman 's leg stump was knocked out of the ground as he moved across the stumps . As a result , half the English team were out with only 48 runs on the board after 100 minutes of play . England fell to 8 / 74 , but recovered with an 89 @-@ run ninth @-@ wicket partnership between Alec Bedser and Laker . Miller ended the innings by removing Laker ' caught behind for 63 ' leaving England all out for 165 . The paceman ended with 3 / 38 from 19 overs .

On the second day , Miller came in at 2 / 121 and was dismissed for a duck without further addition to Australia 's total . He failed to pick Laker 's arm ball , which went straight on instead of turning in , clipped the outside edge and was taken at slip by Edrich . The hard @-@ hitting Miller had come in at No. 4 , a position usually occupied by vice @-@ captain Lindsay Hassett , a more sedate batsman , indicating that Bradman may have been looking to attack , but the change in batting order failed .

After Australia finished at 509 on the third day to take a 344 @-@ run lead , Miller opened the bowling with Johnston , as Lindwall had broken down in the first innings and was unable to take to the field . Miller removed Washbrook for one , caught behind by Tallon from a top @-@ edged hook shot . Washbrook was displeased with the decision and gestured to a red mark on his shirt , indicating his opinion that the ball did not touch the willow , but made a noise upon brushing his clothing . Miller continued his battle with Hutton and Compton , although he resorted to bowling off spin from a shorter run to conserve energy late in the day .

Hutton then hit three fours in quick succession from Miller 's bowling to reach his fifty . The paceman responded to the spate of boundaries by reverting to pace and bowling a series of bouncers , including five in the last over of the day . One of these struck Hutton high on his left (front) arm . The batsmen survived , but the bowler received a hostile reaction from the crowd throughout his barrage of short @-@ pitched bowling , including shouts of " Bodyline " . At the time , bowlers of the pace of Lindwall and Miller were rare , and persistently aiming at the upper bodies of batsmen had not yet become a mainstream practice . However , as only Australia possessed international quality bowlers of such pace , opposition teams could not use retaliation as a means of deterrence . In addition , the original practitioners of Bodyline , Harold Larwood and Bill Voce , were both from Nottinghamshire , and were later excluded from Test selection for England after being blamed for the ill @-@ feeling caused by their tactics . The Nottinghamshire supporters were still angry with how their players had been removed and were not happy that Miller was able to do something that they saw to be equivalent . For his part , Miller appeared to be amused by the crowd reaction and revelled in it , grinning and flicking his hair . Hutton had the last word , glancing Miller for a four from the final ball of the day . England were 2 / 121 at stumps on the third day , with

Hutton and Compton still at the crease . Miller was widely jeered and heckled as he walked off the field at the end of play ? the crowd regarded his bowling as intimidatory . The crowd surged towards him as he walked up the steps into the dressing room , but no altercation eventuated . O 'Reilly defended Miller 's use of short @-@ pitched deliveries , pointing out that he had not employed a packed leg side field and had allowed the batsman the opportunity to score from hook and pull shots if he was willing to try ; in contrast the packed Bodyline field meant that batsmen would find little reward for such shots and defensive play would only lead to dismissal .

The third day was followed by a rest day on Sunday , so play resumed on the fourth morning , a Monday , with England still 223 runs in arrears . The Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club (NCCC) secretary H. A. Brown broadcast an appeal to the gallery via the public address system , urging them to refrain from barracking Miller .

Let us keep Nottingham a place where Test matches can continue to be played . On Saturday the Australian , Miller , was booed and there was much subsequent publicity in the press . These Australians are great sportsmen . They stood by the Empire in the war and we should always be pleased to greet them . Let us show them how really pleased we are and give them a warmhearted greeting this morning .

The crowd responded by clapping when the Australians took to the field . The chairman of the NCCC reportedly apologised to Bradman in private regarding the crowd reaction to Miller . Taking the new ball in the fifth over of the day , Miller delivered no bouncers in the morning ; the first hour of play was punctuated by bad light and weather . In the overcast conditions , Miller bowled a relatively full length and swung the ball ; one of his deliveries beat Hutton and narrowly missed his stumps . Shortly after the resumption of play amid dark skies , he bowled Hutton with an off cutter . As in the first innings , Hutton played forward to a ball without getting his front foot close to the bat , resulting in the delivery moving through the gap into the stumps . This prompted the entrance of Hardstaff , and on the third ball , he shaped to cut at a wide ball , and it again flew low to second slip as it did in the first innings . However , this time Arthur Morris was in the position because Miller was bowling , and the former dropped the catch . It was part of an eventful over ; Hardstaff played and missed at one ball , inside edged another and then outside edged a ball through the slips for four runs . During the morning session , Bradman used Miller for 11 overs in a row in an attempt to pressure the Englishmen .

Soon after reaching his century late in the day , Compton edged to the slips from Miller 's bowling , but Johnson dropped the catch . Charlie Barnett then edged Johnston into the slips , where Miller completed a difficult catch . Compton then hit Miller for four , provoking the paceman 's first bouncer of the day . Compton hooked it away for two and the next delivery slipped out of Miller 's hand and cleared the batsman 's head on the full , provoking some jeering in the crowd . This type of delivery is known as a beamer and is illegal because it poses a physical danger to the batsman . England reached stumps at 6 / 345 , just one run ahead of the tourists , with Compton on 154 .

The next day , Miller bowled a fast bouncer at Compton , who moved into position to hook , before changing his mind and attempting to evade the ball . Compton lost balance and threw his legs apart , trying to avoid stepping onto his stumps . However , he was unsuccessful and was out hit wicket for 184 . Compton had batted for 413 minutes and hit 19 fours . Fingleton said that it was " a most depressing end to an innings that will live always " . Compton 's fall at 7 / 405 meant that there were no frontline batsmen left , leaving the English bowlers exposed to the visitors ' attack without specialist support . Australia quickly finished off the hosts ' innings ; Miller bowled Laker for four , before Evans reached 50 and England finished at 441 , leaving Australia with a victory target of 98 in three hours . The Australian paceman ended with 4 / 125 for the innings and 7 / 163 for the match , having removed England 's two leading batsmen in both innings and bowled 63 overs ? more than his usual workload ? because Lindwall was injured .

As the players were walking back to the pavilion after England 's innings , Miller received another hostile reception . One spectator threatened him with violence , prompting the Australian to grab him by his coat collar , challenging him to enter the Australian dressing room . The spectator declined . Miller was not required to bat as Australia went on to win by eight wickets .

After the heavy bowling workload at Trent Bridge , Bradman rested Miller for the innings win against

Northamptonshire , which started the day after the Test . Miller returned for another match against Yorkshire , albeit with a lighter bowling load . He scored 20 in the first innings and made a duck in the second . Nevertheless , he opened the bowling in the first innings with the intention of keeping the pressure on Hutton . Miller was unable to dismiss his arch @-@ rival , but Ernie Toshack did . The paceman was barracked by the spectators , who shouted " What about Larwood " in response to the repeated short @-@ pitched bowling during his six wicketless overs . Bradman spared Miller from bowling in the second innings because of a back complaint , attempting to preserve him for the upcoming Test at Lord ' s .

= = Second Test = =

After a day of rest following the second Yorkshire match , Australia proceeded to the Second Test at Lord ' s , with Miller still unable to bowl . He came in to bat in the first innings with Australia at 3 / 166 on the first afternoon after electing to bat . Bedser bowled three consecutive outswingers ; the fourth ball swung the other way , and Miller was hit on the pads not offering a shot , believing that the ball would have curved away past the stumps . The umpire upheld England ' s appeal for leg before wicket (lbw) and Miller was out for four . O 'Reilly said that Miller 's display was more akin to that of a tail @-@ ender with minimal skill than that of a frontline batsman , and blamed his poor form with the bat on an excessive bowling workload imposed on him by Bradman . Australia went on to make 350 , but suffered a blow when Lindwall 's injury flared up in the first over . However , Lindwall continued through the pain . Bradman threw Miller the ball , hoping that the all rounder would reverse his decision not to bowl and take inspiration from Lindwall . The injured bowler returned the ball , citing his back . His gesture generated news headlines among journalists who believed that he had disobeyed Bradman .

Although Bradman claimed that the exchange had been amicable , others disputed this . Teammate Barnes later claimed that Miller had retorted by suggesting that Bradman ' a very occasional slower bowler ' bowl himself . Barnes said that the captain " was as wild as a battery @-@ stung brumby " and warned his unwilling bowler that there would be consequences for his defiance . According to unpublished writings in Fingleton 's personal collection , Bradman chastised his players in the dressing room at the end of the play , saying " I 'm 40 and I can do my full day 's work in the field . " Miller reportedly snapped " So would I ? if I had fibrositis " ; Bradman had been discharged from the armed services during World War II on health grounds , whereas most of the team had been sent into battle . Miller had crash @-@ landed while serving as a fighter pilot in the Royal Australian Air Force in England and had suffered chronic back trouble since then .

England fell to 4 / 46 after Lindwall and Johnston 's new ball burst , but Compton and Yardley fought back to take the score to 133 without further loss . Compton edged Johnston into the slips , where Miller took a low catch , dismissing the batsman for 53 . Soon after , Johnston removed Evans for nine , caught by a diving Miller after lashing out at a wide ball outside off stump to leave the hosts at 7 / 145 .

Australia bowled England out for 215 at the beginning of the third day to take a 135 @-@ run first innings lead . This had increased to 431 when Miller came to the crease with the score at 3 / 296 during the afternoon . English captain Yardley was on a hat @-@ trick , having removed Hassett first ball after the fall of Barnes . Miller survived a loud lbw appeal on the hat @-@ trick ball before hitting a six into the grandstand and reaching stumps on 22 , with Australia at 4 / 329 . He resumed on the fourth morning with Brown and reached lunch on 63 with the tourists at 4 / 409 . Miller was reprieved when he lofted a ball high into the air ; Tom Dollery stood right under it and dropped the catch . During this time , the new ball became available , but England opted not to use it immediately , as the wet conditions had made it slippery . However , after a period of spin , the new ball was taken , and Miller hit three boundaries to pass 50 , and the run rate lifted . It appeared that aside from the need to score quickly in preparation for the declaration , Miller found the new ball easier to see than its muddied predecessor . Miller hooked Coxon repeatedly , and drove Bedser for many runs . After lunch , Miller proceeded to attack at every opportunity before the declaration . He was out for 74 , playing a hook shot that was caught by Bedser at square leg from Laker . Australia

declared at 7 / 460 to set England a target of 596 .

England reached 3 / 106 by stumps on the fourth day , but the final day started poorly when Compton edged the second ball of the day ? bowled by Johnston ? to a diving Miller at second slip . Compton aimed a square drive , but the delivery was Johnston 's variation ball , which went away instead of into the batsman . It took the outside edge and flew to a diving Miller , who knocked the ball upwards before falling on his back and completing the catch as the ball went down . Compton stood his ground and waited for the umpire to confirm whether Miller had caught the ball cleanly , and was duly given out by the unhesitating umpire . O 'Reilly described Miller 's effort as " perhaps the very best slips catch of the whole series and ... a real match @-@ winner . " Just as in the first innings , Compton ? s dismissal precipitated a collapse , and Australia dismissed England for 186 to complete victory by 409 runs .

After the end of the Lord 's Test , Miller attended a concert and party , before returning to the team hotel after dawn the next morning , just before breakfast . Bradman noticed this and addressed him as " Keith " , rather than his nickname Nugget . Australia was due to play Surrey at The Oval on the same day . Bradman won the toss and elected to field . Instead of deploying him to his usual slips position , the Australian skipper sent Miller to field on the fine leg boundary as a punishment for his late night out . Between overs , the banished player had to walk to the opposite end of the ground to be in position for the bowler from the other end . One of the spectators felt sorry for him and lent his bicycle , which the Australian used to cycle around the edge of the ground between overs . Soon after , Bradman brought his all rounder into a fielding position closer to the playing centre . Miller eventually scored nine in his only innings and was asked to bowl just one over in the second innings , as Australia completed victory by ten wickets . He had a quiet period on the cricket field during July , which generated less media stories than his celebrity appearances at social functions and classical music concerts during this time . The match against Surrey was immediately followed by a match against Gloucestershire in Bristol , where Miller scored 51 , featuring in a partnership of 136 with Morris (290) . Australia piled on 7 / 774 declared , its largest score of the season , before proceeding to victory by an innings and 363 runs . Acting captain Hassett allowed Miller to rest and he did not bowl during the match .

= = Third Test = =

The efforts of Miller and Lindwall against Hutton throughout the season had led the English selectors to drop the Yorkshireman for the Third Test at Old Trafford . The Australians were surprised by the move and thought that it was a blunder , as they rated Hutton to be England ? s best batsman .

Miller had a quiet match . He did not bowl in the first innings as England batted first and posted 363 . The closest he came to a catch was when Yardley edged to him in slips on the half @-@ volley . When Australia batted , he came to the crease and joined Morris with the score at 3 / 82 and the pair took the score to 3 / 126 at stumps on the second day . He was on 23 and Morris had made 48 . The run rate picked up in the last 50 minutes of the day as the pair added 44 runs ; Miller was the more attacking of the Australian duo during this time . The next day , Australia struggled against the new ball in the first hour . Miller was beaten three times in one Bedser over before Dick Pollard trapped him for 31 , prompting a middle @-@ order collapse of 3 / 37 , before the tourists recovered to end at 221 , avoiding the follow on by eight runs .

Miller returned to the bowling crease in England 's second innings . He immediately broke through Washbrook 's defences , only to see the ball graze the stumps without dislodging the bails . After two Miller outswingers had evaded the outside edge of Washbrook , the batsman appeared unsettled . One bouncer was hit over square leg in an uncontrolled manner for a four , and another flew in the air , narrowly evading Loxton at fine leg . However , Miller did not take a wicket and ended with 0 / 15 from 14 overs , but again caught Compton . Not for the first time during the season , the Australian paceman earned the ire of the crowd after launching a series of short @-@ pitched balls at Edrich , apparently in retaliation for the Englishman 's bouncing of Lindwall . The paceman struck Edrich on the body before Bradman intervened and ordered him to stop his short @-@

pitched barrage . In another incident , Miller was playing poker with the Englishmen during a rain delay . When the weather cleared , Hassett beckoned him to return to the field for the resumption of play . The request was refused , and the poke match continued against the English players who were not currently batting . He won the pot and pocketed the money , before hurriedly running onto the ground late . When he was on the field and approaching the centre , Miller pulled the money out of his pockets . He brandished the notes to the crowd and taunted his English colleagues . The match ended in a draw after the entire fourth day and half of the fifth day was washed out . England declared upon the resumption of play on the final day and set Australia a target of 317 for victory . The tourists reached 1 / 92 to ensure a draw .

Between Tests , Australia had one tour match against Middlesex at Lord 's . Bradman rested Miller as Australia won by ten wickets , giving him an eight @-@ day break between the Tests .

= = Fourth Test = =

The teams moved to Headingley for the Fourth Test at Leeds . Hutton was recalled and the home team won the toss and batted first . England tallied 496 , its highest score of the series . Miller took the last wicket of Yardley to finish with 1 / 43 . Generally unthreatening throughout the innings , he bowled only 17 @.@ 1 overs ; the other frontline bowlers sent down at least 33 each . The innings started badly for Miller . He bowled below his full pace and his opening over yielded three full tosses . In Miller 's first over , Hutton scored the first boundary of the day , driving past mid @-@ off . He felt his legs for muscle strains , and after two overs that O 'Reilly described as " very innocuous " , Miller was taken off . Nursing fitness concerns , Miller was forced to bowl medium @-@ paced off breaks on the second day as England proceeded to 2 / 423 and appeared to be in complete control , before losing 8 / 73 . In reply , Australia was struggling at 3 / 68 on the third morning . Neil Harvey ? playing his first Ashes Test ? joined Miller at the crease . Both had walked out in the same over , as Pollard removed Bradman and Hassett in the space of three balls . Australia was more than 400 behind , and if England were to remove the pair quickly , they would expose Australia 's lower order and give themselves an opportunity to win by taking a hefty first innings lead . Harvey asked his senior partner " What 's going on here , eh ? Let 's get stuck into ' em " . The pair launched a counterattack , with Miller taking the lead . He hoisted Laker 's first ball over square leg for six . Miller shielded the left @-@ handed Harvey from Laker , as his partner was struggling against the off breaks that were turning away from him , especially one that spun , bounced , and beat his outside edge . The all rounder drilled one off @-@ drive from Laker for four , and after mis @-@ hitting the next to the amusement of the crowd , struck the off spinner flat over his head , almost for six into the sightscreen . This allowed Australia to seize the initiative , and Harvey joined in during the next over . The left @-@ hander hit consecutive boundaries against Laker , the second of which almost cleared the playing area . He followed this with another boundary to reach 44 . Miller then lifted Laker for a six over long off , hitting a spectator in the head , and another over long on from Yardley 's bowling to move from 42 to 54 . He drove the next ball through cover for four . Yardley responded by stacking his leg side with outfielders and bowling outside leg stump , challenging Miller to another hit for six . The batsman obliged , but edged the ball onto wicket @-@ keeper Evans ' head ; Edrich dived forward and caught the ball on the rebound at short fine leg . The crowd was in raptures at both the batting and Edrich 's catch .

The partnership had yielded 121 runs in only 90 minutes , and Wisden likened it to a " hurricane " . Cricket commentator John Arlott described the innings as the most memorable that he had witnessed . He said " Miller played like an emperor ... Every stroke would have been memorable but each one had bettered its predecessor " , saying that his batting had raised cricket " to a point of aesthetic beauty " . Fingleton said that he had never " known a more enjoyable hour " of " delectable cricket " . He acclaimed Miller 's innings as " one of the rarest gems in the Test collection of all time " and " a moment to live in the cricket memory " . O 'Reilly said that Miller and Harvey had counter @-@ attacked with " such joyful abandon that it would have been difficult , if not absolutely impossible , to gather from their methods of going about it that they were actually retrieving a tremendously difficult situation " .

The momentum swung in Australia's favour. Harvey scored 112, while Loxton made 93, hitting a further five sixes from Laker. Lindwall added 77 late in the afternoon as Australia finished at 9 / 457 on the fourth day, having added 394 in one day's play. At the start of the second innings, Miller bowled a tight opening spell and the English openers scored only five from his six overs as they tried to establish a solid start. Miller took 1 / 53 in the second innings, removing Bedser and catching Compton yet again as Australia was set a world record chase of 404 on the final day in just 345 minutes. A 301 @-@ run second wicket partnership between Morris and Bradman set up the run @-@ chase and Miller came in with the score at 2 / 358. He made only 12 but Australia won by seven wickets to set a new world record and take a 3 ? 0 series lead.

The day after the Test, the Australians moved onto their next match against Derbyshire, where Miller scored 57 and took 3 / 31 in the first innings. He took the first two wickets to reduce the hosts to 2 / 26 before they recovered to 240 in reply to Australia's 361. In the second innings he bowled only two overs as Australia won by an innings. In a rain @-@ affected draw against Glamorgan, Miller took 2 / 41 in the hosts' first innings of 197 before compiling a hard @-@ hitting 84. Coming in to join Hassett with the score at 2 / 67, he struck five sixes and seven fours. He hit one of the sixes with one hand, sending it 20 rows into the crowd. Taking his bottom hand off the bat, he had effectively played a left @-@ handed tennis @-@ style backhand. This sent the ball from Allan Watkins off his pads into the fine leg region. Miller then attacked the local captain Wilf Wooller, hitting him over the sightscreen with straight drives from consecutive balls and lofting a third six over long off. He was finally dismissed while attempting another six; Australia's first innings was washed out at 3 / 215.

Miller was rested for the nine @-@ wicket win against Warwickshire. He returned against Lancashire. On the final day, Lancashire batsman Jack Ikin had reached 99 after being repeatedly hit by bouncers. Bradman took the new ball and gave it to Miller, who refused to bowl, saying that he felt Ikin deserved a century. The Australian skipper gave the ball to Lindwall, who promptly removed Ikin for 99. Miller had a light workload for the match, scoring 24 and 11, and taking a total of 1 / 32 from 16 overs. In the next game, he came in with Australia in difficulty at 5 / 133, and scored 55 in faster than even time against Durham in the last match before the Fifth Test. The match was a two @-@ day fixture that was not given first @-@ class status. Miller took 1 / 17 as the hosts fell to 5 / 73 in reply to Australia's 282 when rain ended the match at the end of the opening day.

= = Fifth Test = =

The teams proceeded to The Oval for the Fifth Test. England elected to bat on a rain @-@ affected pitch. Analysts questioned the move and predicted that Bradman would have bowled if he had won the toss.

Dewes and Hutton opened for England. Yardley attracted criticism for exposing the debutant Dewes to the new ball attack of Lindwall and Miller. Dewes took a single from Lindwall's opening over and thus faced the start of the second over, which was bowled by Miller, who had troubled him in the past. During the Victory Tests in 1945, Miller had repeatedly dismissed Dewes, and during a match for Cambridge University against the Australians earlier in the season, the English batsman used towels to pad his torso against the Australian paceman's short balls. During his short innings, Dewes was visibly nervous and kept on moving around, unable to stand still.

Miller caused a stoppage after his first ball to sprinkle sawdust on the slippery and damp crease. With his second ball, he bowled Dewes who was playing across the line's middle stump for one with an inswinger to leave England at 2 / 1. He then removed Jack Crapp caught behind from an outside edge for a 23 @-@ ball duck, leaving England at 4 / 23 as play was adjourned for lunch. The paceman ended with 2 / 5 from eight overs as Lindwall (6 / 20) cut down the home team for 52 with a display of express swing bowling. In his last Test innings for the summer, Miller scored five before overbalancing, falling forward, and being stumped. Australia made 389 and led by 337 on the first innings on the second afternoon. Bowling for the second time, Miller struck Crapp in the head with a bouncer, before bowling him for nine. He then extracted an edge from Hutton who

fell for 64 , having top @-@ scored in both innings ? to wicket @-@ keeper Tallon , leaving England at 4 / 153 . Miller ended with 2 / 22 as Australia won by an innings and took a 4 ? 0 series win .

= = Later tour matches = =

Seven matches remained on Bradman ? s quest to go through a tour of England without defeat . Miller was rested for the innings victory over Kent , but played against the Gentlemen of England at Lord 's against an amateur team with many Test players . He scored 69 , putting on 157 with Hassett , before being dismissed after attempting a third consecutive hooked boundary . Australia declared at 5 / 610 and Miller took a match total of 3 / 76 in another innings victory , including the wickets of Yardley and Martin Donnelly . In the following match against Somerset , Miller had a light workload , scoring an unbeaten 37 at No. 8 as Australia made 5 / 560 declared , and then bowling only eight overs and taking one wicket as Australia claimed victory by an innings and 374 runs after bowling out the hosts for 115 and 71 . He was then rested from the match against South of England , which ended in a rain @-@ affected draw .

Australia 's biggest challenge in the post @-@ Test tour matches was against the Leveson Gower 's XI . During the last Australian tour in 1938 , this team was effectively a full @-@ strength England outfit , but this time Bradman insisted that only six current Test players be allowed to represent for the hosts . The Australian skipper then fielded a full @-@ strength team . Miller returned for the match at Scarborough , but did little , scoring one in his only innings and bowling eight overs without success in a match that ended in a rain @-@ affected draw .

This left only two non @-@ first @-@ class matches against Scotland to complete the tour . Miller played in the first game and scored six in his only innings and did not take a wicket , before being rested for the second match . Australia won both matches by an innings . As a result , Australia finished the tour with 25 wins and nine draws . They had gone through the summer without defeat .

When asked about the three most beautiful things in England , Miller said " The hills of Derbyshire , the leg sweep of Denis Compton and Princess Margaret " . He had gained a high profile in England during the Victory Tests of 1945 , when he played with a carefree manner in the aftermath of six years of devastating war . Coupled with his good looks , this made him a popular celebrity throughout the country . In 1948 , he was sought out for many social functions , such as at music or theatrical performances , and at dinner receptions with members of the Royal Family , peerage and political leaders . His friendship with Princess Margaret ? the second daughter of King George VI ? was the subject of widespread media speculation as to whether a romantic liaison was involved .

= = Role = =

During the tour , Miller generally played in the Tests as an opening bowler alongside Lindwall and as a middle @-@ order batsman , coming in at No. 4 or No. 5 . His batting ability was such that he played as a specialist batsman even when he was unable to bowl due to injury , such as during the Second Test . Miller wanted to play purely as a batsman , feeling that the workload of bowling would hinder his productivity with the willow . However , Bradman was intent on going through the tour undefeated , and utilised his bowling options to the full , to maximise the Australians ? chances of winning . Lindwall and Miller were the first @-@ choice pace duo , regarded as one of the greatest speed pairings in the history of cricket , whereas the latter was just one of many accomplished batsmen in the team . As a result , the Australian skipper valued his all rounder more as an opening bowler . Miller ended the Tests with 184 runs at 26 @.@ 28 and 13 wickets at 23 @.@ 15 from 138 @.@ 1 overs and took eight catches .

During the Tests , Miller usually batted at No. 5 , except in the Fourth Test when he batted at No. 4 due to the injury @-@ enforced absence of opener Barnes , which resulted in a reshuffle in the batting order . Miller totalled 1 @,@ 088 first @-@ class runs for the tour , the seventh highest aggregate , although his average of 47 @.@ 30 was only the eighth highest in the squad . During the tour matches , he batted in a variety of positions , as did all of the squad , because Bradman used a rotation system to rest his team because many matches were played consecutively .

When fit, Miller opened the Test bowling with Lindwall, and the pair bowled in short and fiery bursts with the new ball. The English cricket authorities had agreed to make a new ball available every 55 overs. The pre-existing rule stipulated that a replacement ball would be available every 200 runs, which usually took much more time to accumulate. This played directly into the hands of the Australians with their vastly stronger pace attack, as a new ball is ideal for fast bowling. Bradman thus wanted to preserve his two first-choice bowlers for a fresh attack every 55 overs. With 13 wickets in the Tests, Miller was third among the Australians behind Lindwall and Johnston, who took 27 apiece. Due to his fragility, Miller was used sparingly compared to the other four Australian frontline bowlers: Lindwall, Johnston, Toshack and Johnson. Toshack and Johnson each delivered more than 170 overs despite playing in one less Test, while Lindwall bowled 224 and Johnston 306 in five matches. In all first-class matches, Miller took 56 wickets at 17.58 and held onto 20 catches. There were many consecutive matches during the tour with no intervening rest day, so Bradman ensured that his leading pace duo remained fresh for the new ball bursts in the Tests by giving them a smaller proportion of the bowling during the tour matches. During all first-class matches, Johnston bowled 851 @ 1 overs, Johnson 668, Lindwall 573 @ 4 and Toshack 502, while Miller bowled only 429 @ 4 overs. Doug Ring, who was only selected in one Test, bowled 542 @ 4 overs, while all-rounders Colin McCool and Loxton bowled 399 @ 4 and 361 @ 2 overs respectively. McCool did not play in any Tests, while Loxton was only entrusted with 63 overs against England. As such, in some tour matches, Miller was not asked to bowl at all, in order to keep him fresh for the Tests.

After the tour, Bradman was full of praise for Miller, although somewhat critical of his aggressive batting, which the Australian captain thought to be reckless:

One of the most volatile cricketers of any age. Long, rangy, athletic type who drove the ball with tremendous power, tried to hit sixes with abandon. Many of them would have been prodigious. Would have been a far better player had he curbed this propensity and showed more judgement in his hitting. Dangerous bowler with the new ball, swinging it both ways not much short of [Ray] Lindwall's speed. [...] In 1948 he was the best slip field in the world. Altogether, a crowd-pleasing personality... whose limitations were caused mainly by his own failure to concentrate.

Bradman criticised Miller's hitting of sixes (26), feeling that his mercurial all-rounder lacked restraint and concentration. In contrast, Fingleton praised Miller's attitude to cricket, saying "He is never one to accept runs when they are there for the taking... I acknowledge myself the supreme believer in Miller as a cricketer. He had given me joy in the game approached by others." With respect to his persistent bouncing of Hutton and Compton, Fingleton said that it was up to England to develop bowlers of express pace, which they lacked at the time, to retaliate against or deter the Australians from pursuing such tactics. Miller's persistent disagreements with Bradman soon caught up with him, despite the latter's retirement after the tour. During Bradman's testimonial match, Miller bowled three consecutive bouncers at his retired captain, dismissing him with the last of these and drawing an angry look. Bradman was one of three members of the national selection panel, and Miller was dropped for the next series against South Africa in 1949-50. Although Bradman denied voting for the omission, most of the players in the team did not believe this.