

= Bill Johnston with the Australian cricket team in England in 1948 =

Bill Johnston was a key member of Donald Bradman 's famous Australian cricket team , which toured England in 1948 . The Australians went undefeated in their 34 matches during the English summer ; this unprecedented feat by a Test side touring England earned them the sobriquet The Invincibles .

Johnston was a left @-@ arm bowler who engaged in fast bowling when the ball was new and conducive to pacemen , before reverting to orthodox spin when the ball became old . He was Australia 's third fast bowler in the Tests , reinforcing the new ball attack of Keith Miller and Ray Lindwall , who were regarded as one of the finest pace pairings of all time . Bradman typically used Miller and Lindwall in short bursts against the English batsmen with the new ball . The hosts had agreed to make a new ball available every 55 overs , more frequently than usual . This allowed the Australian pacemen more frequent use of a shiny ball that swung at high pace . Johnston typically delivered pace after the Lindwall and Miller had first use of the new ball , before resorting to spin later in the innings . In order to keep Lindwall and Miller fresh , Bradman had Johnston deliver the most overs by any bowler .

Johnston was the equal @-@ leading wicket @-@ taker in the Tests (27 along with Lindwall) and Australia 's most prolific wicket @-@ taker in the first @-@ class matches with 102 . The latter feat made him the last Australian to take a century of wickets on an Ashes tour . In recognition of his achievements , Johnston was chosen as one of the five Wisden Cricketers of the Year . Wisden said " no Australian made a greater personal contribution to the playing success of the 1948 side " .

= = Background = =

During the Australian summer of 1947 ? 48 , Johnston played in four of the five Tests against the touring Indian cricket team . He was a major part in Australia 's 4 ? 0 series win ; the second highest wicket @-@ taker with 16 scalps , Johnston had the best bowling average of 11 @.@ 37 . Ray Lindwall led the wicket @-@ takers with 18 . As a result , Johnston was selected for the 1948 tour of England . During the trip , Johnston roomed with Doug Ring who was a team @-@ mate in the Richmond and Victorian cricket teams . As Ring was a leg spinner , he and Johnston were in direct competition for a place in the playing XI .

= = Early tour = =

Australia traditionally fielded its first @-@ choice team in the tour opener , which was customarily against Worcestershire . When Johnston was omitted for the opening match , it appeared he would not be in Bradman 's Test plans . Australia went on to win by an innings , setting the tone for their tour .

Bradman brought Johnston into the team for the second tour match against Leicestershire . He made 12 runs and was the last man out as Australia ended on 448 . After a lower order collapse of 5 / 38 against the local spin attack , Johnston came in and put on 37 in partnership with Keith Miller , allowing his colleague to reach his double century . Johnston bowled six wicketless overs for 15 as the hosts fell for 130 . Made to follow on , Leicestershire made 147 to lose by an innings . Johnston took his first wicket of the tour , trapping Jack Walsh leg before wicket (lbw) to end with 1 / 42 from 27 overs . Johnston played a leading role in Australia 's victory in the next match , against Yorkshire , on a damp pitch favourable to slower bowling . In this match , Johnston resorted to bowling left arm orthodox spin . The hosts elected to bat and he bowled almost unchanged , sending down 26 of the 54 @.@ 3 overs , 14 of which were maidens . He took 4 / 18 as Yorkshire were bowled out in difficult batting conditions for 71 . His wickets included batsmen Alec Coxon and Willie Watson , who went on to become England Test cricketers . The match remained finely balanced after Australia made 101 , with Johnston unbeaten on five . He was again miserly in the second innings , bowling 15 @.@ 2 overs with seven maidens and taking 6 / 18 . His victims included leading English batsman Len Hutton , and Coxon and Watson for the second time as the hosts were bowled out for

89 . Johnston had ended the match with 10 / 40 . After collapsing to 6 / 31 ? effectively seven wickets down as Sam Loxton was injured and unable to bat ? Australia scraped home by four wickets . It was the closest Australia would come to defeat for the whole tour .

The tourists travelled to London to play Surrey at The Oval , and they amassed 632 after batting first . Johnston bowled without success in the first innings . In the second innings he claimed both openers to reduce the hosts to 2 / 11 after Bradman had forced them to follow on . He returned later in the innings to remove Alec Bedser and Jim Laker , ending with 4 / 40 as Surrey were defeated by an innings . Johnston was rested for the following match against Cambridge University , which Australia won by an innings .

Johnston returned as Australia crushed Essex by an innings and 451 runs , their largest winning margin for the summer . After setting a world record for the most number of first @-@ class runs in one day ? s play (721) , of which Johnston contributed nine , Bradman ? s men bowled Essex out for 83 and 187 after enforcing the follow on . Johnston managed a match total of only 1 / 36 . This was followed by another innings victory , this time over Oxford University . After scoring 13 in Australia 's 431 , Johnston bowled the most overs by an Australian in the match , taking 2 / 40 and 2 / 44 across a total of 42 overs .

Johnston was the left out for the next fixture , which was against the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) at Lord 's . The MCC fielded seven players who would represent England in the Tests , and were basically a full strength Test team , while Australia fielded their first @-@ choice team , with Johnston omitted . It was a chance for the Australian bowlers to gain a psychological advantage , with Len Hutton , Denis Compton and Bill Edrich ? three of England 's first four batsmen ? all playing . Australia won by an innings to give an indication of their strength .

Four county matches remained before the Tests , giving the players more chances to press their claims for selection . Johnston was recalled for Australia 'a first non @-@ victory of the tour , which was against Lancashire . After the first day was washed out , Johnston made 24 in a 25 @-@ run ninth @-@ wicket partnership with wicket @-@ keeper Ron Saggers , which took Australia from 8 / 170 to 9 / 195 . The tourists were eventually bowled out for 204 . During his innings , Johnston swung lustily and hit three sixes . In reply , Lancashire reached 4 / 144 before Johnston took five of the last six wickets to help dismiss the home side for 182 , securing a slender lead for the tourists . Johnston ended with 5 / 49 from 29 overs , the most by any of the Australians , and was not required to bat in the second innings .

Johnston was rested for the subsequent match against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge , which was drawn . He returned against Hampshire and played a major role in Australia 's eight @-@ wicket win . The home team were put into bat on a drying pitch by vice @-@ captain Lindsay Hassett ? Bradman had rested himself for the match . Johnston bowled for almost the whole innings , sending down 38 @.@ 4 of 85 @.@ 4 overs . He took wickets at regular intervals to end with 6 / 74 as Hampshire were bowled out for 195 . Johnston was unbeaten on two as Australia lost 8 / 47 and collapsed to 117 all out , trailing by 78 runs . It was the first time that the tourists had conceded a first innings lead for the season . In the second innings , Johnston bowled unchanged at his end for the entire innings , providing steady breakthroughs to end with 5 / 43 as Hampshire were bowled out for 103 . This left Australia a target of 182 , and they batted fluently in their second innings to win by eight wickets . Johnston ended with match figures of 11 / 117 . He was rested in the innings win over Sussex , in the last fixture before the First Test .

= = First Test = =

Johnston was not in Bradman 's planned Test team . However , the Australian skipper changed his mind on the morning of the First Test in Trent Bridge when rain was forecast . Johnston was played in the hope of exploiting a wet wicket . Johnston had taken 10 / 40 against Yorkshire and 11 / 117 against Hampshire on similar surfaces . He showed his credentials by taking a match total of 9 / 183 from 84 overs to help Australia to grind out a victory by eight wickets . England elected to bat first and after strike bowler Ray Lindwall broke down on the first day , the burden on Johnston grew .

England had reached 2 / 46 when Johnston was brought into the attack for his first over . He

bowled Bill Edrich , knocking out the off stump while the batsman was on the front foot . Two balls later , Johnston removed Joe Hardstaff junior without scoring , caught by Miller in slips after attempting a cut shot ; 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 . Journalist and former Australian Test leg spinner Bill O 'Reilly said : " Johnston had trimmed and embroidered the efforts of his opening bowlers and had swung the fortunes of the game completely in Australia 's favour " .

Johnston then knocked over Charlie Barnett 's stumps as the batsman leaned onto the front foot and inside edged the ball into his stumps for eight ; this brought Godfrey Evans ? who was given two lives ? to the crease at 6 / 60 . Evans hit Johnston hard in the air to cover , where the ball went through Bradman for a boundary . The second catching opportunity went in the same direction before traveling through Bradman 's hand and striking him in the abdomen . However , Johnston eventually snared Evans , who hit a ball strongly , but straight to short leg where Arthur Morris took the catch close in , as England reached 8 / 74 .

However , a rearguard action took England to a total of 165 , before Johnston removed Alec Bedser to end the innings . Johnston finished with 5 / 36 , in a display characterised by his accuracy and variations in pace and swing . When Australia batted , Johnston and Ernie Toshack wagged a last @-@ wicket partnership of 33 runs in only 18 minutes . They played in a free @-@ wheeling manner before Bedser trapped Toshack lbw to end the home team 's innings on 509 , leaving the tourists with a 344 @-@ run lead and Johnston unbeaten on 17 .

Johnston took the new ball with Miller and delivered 59 overs in the second innings to take 4 / 147 in Lindwall 's absence . Johnston bowled without success in the first half of the innings ; the closest he came to a wicket on the third afternoon when Len Hutton and Denis Compton were putting on a century partnership was when Compton aimed an uppish square drive from Johnston that flew in the air wide of cover point . On the fourth day , England continued to make steady progress and Johnston was unsuccessful although he was able to make the ball move sideways in the morning under cloudy conditions . He was then attacked by Hardstaff , who drove several fours through the off side and forced Bradman to remove Johnston . He returned to remove Barnett and English captain Norman Yardley late on the fourth day as the hosts ' neared 300 . Barnett was caught by Miller in the slips and Johnston took a return catch to remove the English skipper . Johnston bowled 30 overs , the most of any bowler for the day , as England reached the penultimate evening on 345 / 6 , a lead of one run . The next morning , Johnston removed Evans and bowled Jack Young to end England 's innings at 441 on the final day . Johnston bowled the most overs of any player and was the leading wicket @-@ taker for the match as Australia took a 1 ? 0 lead ? the Australian batsmen reached the target of 98 with eight wickets in hand .

After the First Test , Johnston was the leading wicket @-@ taker as Australia completed an innings victory over Northamptonshire . He took 3 / 25 in the first innings , before dismissing the home side 's top four batsmen in the second innings to reduce them to 4 / 108 ; they were eventually bowled out for 169 . Johnston ended with 4 / 49 . This was followed by a drawn match against Yorkshire , in which Johnston scored an unbeaten 15 , before bowling almost unchanged in the home side 's first innings . Johnston bowled 41 @.@ 1 out of 90 @.@ 1 overs and ended with 3 / 101 , including the wickets of Test players Alec Coxon and Watson . The match ended in a draw . Johnston bowled three overs for 15 in the second innings ; Bradman chose not to push for a win and declared late in the second innings so that his bowlers would not have to exert themselves to any significant extent before the next Test .

= = Second Test = =

In the Second Test at Lord 's , Australia batted first and Johnston scored his Test career best of 29 in another tail @-@ wagging performance in the first innings . After coming to the crease with the score at 8 / 275 on the second morning , Johnston added 45 runs with wicket @-@ keeper Don Tallon before the latter fell to Bedser . He was joined by last man Toshack and they put on 30 before Johnston was stumped ? having overbalanced while leaning onto the front foot and trying to hit a

ball for six ? from the bowling of Doug Wright to end Australia 's innings at 350 . Both Johnston and Toshack threw the bat at the ball , which often went in vastly different directions compared to where they had aimed their shots . Both men ? not known for their batting ability ? played without inhibitions , joyfully revelling in their luck . One sequence of two overs from Edrich was taken for 28 runs , with many balls being unintentionally spooned over the slips or the covers .

With Keith Miller injured and playing purely as a batsman , Johnston took the new ball , sharing it with Lindwall . He was unable to take a wicket initially , but the English openers were uncomfortable when he and Lindwall were taking the new ball . Following the tea break , he returned with the second new ball after Compton and Yardley had put on an 87 @-@ run partnership to stabilise the middle @-@ order . Johnston took Compton 's outside edge and Miller completed the catch in slips . The left armer then claimed Evans , caught by a diving Miller after the Englishman had taken a swing of the bat wide outside off stump ; this left the hosts at 7 / 145 . Johnston ended with 2 / 43 from 22 overs as England were bowled for at 215 early on the third morning . After Australia declared at 7 / 460 on the fourth afternoon to leave the home side a target of 596 , Johnston troubled the English openers with the new ball , but did not take a wicket .

Lindwall and Johnston extracted steep bounce with the new ball , troubling the English batsmen . Fielding in the slips , Lindwall dropped Hutton from Johnston 's bowling before the English batsman had scored . Johnston usually moved the ball into the right @-@ handed batsmen , but on this occasion the ball went straight on and took the outside of the edge of Hutton 's bat . Hutton had trouble with both Australian pacemen , and played and missed multiple times in the deteriorating light . In a fidgety display , he played loosely outside the off stump and missed four times in one Johnston over , before Lindwall dismissed him .

Yardley ? s men resumed at 3 / 106 on the final day . On the second ball of the final morning , bowled by Johnston , Compton aimed a square drive , but the delivery was Johnston 's variation ball , which went away instead of into the batsman . The ball flew off the outside edge to a diving Miller , who knocked the ball up before falling on his back and completing the catch as the ball came 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 official . O 'Reilly described Miller 's effort as " perhaps the very best slips catch of the whole series and ? a real match @-@ winner . " Johnston then removed Bedser for nine to end with 2 / 62 as Australia won by 409 runs and took a 2 ? 0 series lead .

After 16 days of cricket in 20 days , from the First to the Second Test , Johnston was rested from the next two matches against Surrey and Gloucestershire , which Australia won by ten wickets and an innings respectively .

= = Third Test = =

Johnston returned for the Third Test at Old Trafford , where the home team elected to bat first . In an effective containing performance , Johnston took 3 / 67 from 45 @.@ 5 overs in the first innings . England had looked assured in the first hour , before Johnston ? again taking the new ball with Lindwall ? bowled Cyril Washbrook with a yorker to leave England at 1 / 22 . Johnston had been bowling from over the wicket , and his left @-@ arm deliveries had generally been swinging back into the right @-@ handed Washbrook . However , the opening batsman did not detect Johnston ? s variation ball , which was released from wide of the crease and angled across more sharply without curling back in . Washbrook played inside the line of the ball , which hit his stumps . Australia nearly had two wickets in the same over as the new batsman Edrich struggled . He played loosely outside the off stump to the first ball from Johnston but did not get an edge , and on the third delivery , Edrich survived again . Receiving a ball on middle and leg stump , he tried to defend it straight back down the pitch , rather than the conventional stroke to the leg side , and managed to edge the ball past the slips for four . Johnston repeatedly hurried Edrich with his pace , forcing the batsman to make many last @-@ moment movements to either hit the ball or withdraw from a shot during the formative stage of his innings .

Johnston returned with the second new ball after lunch to remove Tom Dollery with another yorker ,

leaving England at 4 / 97 . This dismissal mirrored that of Washbrook ? s in that Dollery failed to detect Johnston ? s variation ball , and thus played for swing when there was none . Late in the day , Johnston took the catch as Lindwall removed Evans , who had taken a wild slash to leave England at 7 / 216 . In the final minutes of play , Johnston extracted an edge from Compton on 64 , but Tallon dropped the catch . On the second morning , Tallon dropped Compton ? then on 73 ? for the third time , off the bowling of Johnston , who eventually ended the England innings on 363 by removing Young . Compton had added a further 81 after being dropped from Johnston 's bowling to end unbeaten on 145 . Johnston had bowled the most overs of the Australians and been the most economical .

In reply , Australia were in trouble at 7 / 208 when Johnston came to the crease to join Lindwall , with five more runs needed to avoid the follow on . As Sid Barnes was unable to bat due to injury , Australia were effectively eight wickets down . Johnston helped Lindwall advance Australia beyond the follow @-@ on before Bedser removed both . Johnston was reprieved in his brief innings when he edged a delivery from Dick Pollard in the direction of Edrich at first slip , but Evans dived across , trying to catch the ball at full stretch in his right hand . The wicket @-@ keeper could not hold onto the ball , and the resulting deflection further to the right wrong @-@ footed Edrich , who was moving the other way , and it went past him . From second slip , Jack Crapp dived left behind Edrich but the ball landed a few centimetres beyond his fingers . However , in the next over Bedser , Johnston edged the ball in the same manner and Crapp caught the ball easily . Johnston was out for three as Australia ended with 221 to narrowly avoid the follow on by eight runs . He was wicketless in the second innings , taking 0 / 34 as England declared at 3 / 174 and set Australia 317 for victory on the last day after the fourth day was completely washed out by rain . The match ended in a draw with Australia at 1 / 92 , after many rain interruptions .

Johnston played in Australia 's only match before the Fourth Test , which was against Middlesex . He dismissed Jack Robertson , Edrich and John Dewes to leave the hosts at 4 / 92 and ended with 3 / 43 as they were bowled out for 203 . In the second innings , he took two early wicket ? including Compton ? to reduce the hosts to 3 / 27 before ending with 2 / 28 as Australia bowled Middlesex out for 135 . Bradman ? s men went on to win by ten wickets .

= = Fourth Test = =

In the Fourth Test at Headingley , England batted first on a pitch regarded as being ideal for strokeplay , and Australia 's bowlers had little success on the first day . Early in the day , Johnston appeared to be having back problems . He had bowled the most overs of any bowler on the tour and his loss would have meant a heavy workload for his remaining colleagues . His apparent discomfort led onlookers to opine that he should have been given more rest in the county matches . After an opening partnership of 143 , England consolidated to reach 1 / 268 in the last over of the day before Johnston removed Washbrook for 143 . Johnston did not taste further success in the first innings and ended with 1 / 86 from 38 overs as the home team ended on 496 , their highest score of the series .

In reply , Australia were still more than 100 runs behind when Johnston joined Lindwall with the score at 8 / 355 , late on the third day . Lindwall hit out , scoring 77 in an innings marked by powerful driving and pulling , dominating the stand of 48 with Johnston , who made only 13 . Johnston accompanied Lindwall for 80 minutes , before the injured Ernie Toshack survived the last 50 minutes until stumps , with Johnston running for him . Despite Toshack and Johnston ? s lack of familiarity with having and acting as a runner respectively , and the resulting disorders in running between the wickets , Lindwall was able to manipulate the strike so he faced most of the balls . Johnston able to survive against the English pacemen with relative ease when he was batting , leading O ? Reilly to lament the absence of leg spinner Doug Wright , whose guile and flight was held in high regard by the Australians . Lindwall was the last man out on the fourth morning with the total on 458 , leaving Australia 38 runs in arrears on the first innings .

Australia lost the services of Toshack after he broke down with a knee injury in the first innings , increasing the burden on the remaining bowlers as England sought to extend their lead on the fourth

day . For the second time in the match , Washbrook and Hutton put on a century opening partnership . After reaching 50 , Washbrook hooked a short ball from Johnston and top edged it , but Bradman failed to take the catch . However , Washbrook soon repeated the shot from the bowling of Johnston with fatal results . The ball again went in the air , and Neil Harvey quickly ran across the ground and bent over to catch it at feet height while on the run , removing the opener for 65 . Fingleton said that Harvey ' s effort " was the catch of the season " or , indeed , would have been had Harvey not turned on several magnificent aerial performances down at The Oval [in the match against Surrey] " . O ' Reilly doubted " whether any other player on either side could have made the distance to get to the ball , let alone make a neat catch of it " . He further said the " hook was a beauty and the catch was a classic " .

England moved to 4 / 277 when a mini @-@ collapse occurred . Yardley made seven before he was removed by Johnston , caught by a leaping Harvey while attempting a big shot . Johnston then removed Ken Cranston , caught behind for a duck to leave England at 6 / 278 . When Johnston removed Compton for 66 , caught by Miller at cover , the hosts were 7 / 293 with no recognised batsmen remaining , having lost 4 / 33 . England recovered to reach 8 / 362 at the close of the fourth day . The next day , Yardley declared at 8 / 365 , leaving Johnston with the pick of the bowling figures , 4 / 95 from 29 overs . This left the tourists a target of 404 from 345 minutes . Australia went on to break the world record Test run @-@ chase record by scoring 3 / 404 to take a 3 ? 0 lead with 15 minutes to spare .

Johnston went on to play in the match against Derbyshire immediately after the Headingley Test , taking 3 / 41 and 1 / 35 as Australia enforced the follow on and won by an innings . He was rested for the next game against Glamorgan , which ended in a rain @-@ affected draw without reaching the second innings . Johnston returned and took 2 / 41 in the first innings against Warwickshire , before taking 4 / 32 in the second innings , including three of the last five wickets , as the hosts fell from 5 / 118 to 155 all out . The left armer bowled almost unchanged during the second innings , sending down 39 of the 85 @.@ 5 overs , including 16 maidens . His wickets included New Zealand Test batsman Martin Donnelly and Indian and Pakistani dual international Abdul Hafeez Kardar , as Australia went on to win by nine wickets . Johnston was then rested from two consecutive matches , against Lancashire and Durham , both of which were rain @-@ affected draws .

= = Fifth Test = =

Johnston rounded off his Ashes series with the Fifth Test at The Oval . English skipper Norman Yardley elected to bat on a rain @-@ affected pitch , a decision many regarded as surprising . Precipitation in the past week rendered play before midday impossible . Former Australian Test batsman and leading commentator Jack Fingleton speculated that the tourists would have bowled if they had won the toss .

The damp conditions meant required a large amount of sawdust to be laid down to help the players keep their grip . Along with the rain , the humid conditions assisted the Australian bowlers , who were able to make the ball bounce at variable heights .

After Miller removed John Dewes with the score at 1 / 2 , Bradman made an early bowling change and introduced Johnston . Edrich joined Hutton and they played cautiously until the former attempted to hook a short ball from Johnston . He failed to get the ball in the middle of the bat and it looped up and travelled around 10 metres (33 ft) . Lindsay Hassett caught the ball just behind square leg , after diving sideways and getting both hands to the ball . This left England at 2 / 10 . After the lunch break , Johnston dismissed debutant Allan Watkins without scoring after the batsman played across the line to be trapped lbw , leaving England at 6 / 42 . Johnston ended with 2 / 20 from 16 overs as England were skittled for 52 . After being unbeaten without scoring in Australia ' s innings of 389 , Johnston was again among the wickets when England ' s second innings late on the second day .

England started their second innings with a deficit of 337 runs and reached 1 / 54 by the premature end of the second day due to bad light . The following morning , they made slow and steady progress as Johnston bowled his finger spin from around the wicket with a well @-@ protected off

side . The four men in the off side ring had much work to do as Hutton hit the ball there repeatedly . The English batsmen progressed and Johnston had one confident appeal for lbw against Compton , but there were few scares .

They reached 2 / 125 after lunch , when Compton ? who was on 39 ? aimed a hard cut shot from Johnston 's bowling , which flew off the edge into Lindwall 's left hand at second slip for a " freak slip catch " . This triggered a collapse late in the afternoon , which saw the hosts lose 4 / 25 to end the third day at 7 / 178 . England resumed on the fourth morning with only three wickets in hand , still needing 159 runs to make Bradman ? s men bat again . Johnston quickly removed the last three wickets , Alec Bedser , Yardley and Eric Hollies to seal an Australian victory by an innings and 149 runs . Only ten runs were added in the brief morning session ; Hollies fell for a golden duck after skying a ball to Morris , immediately after Yardley became the ninth man to fall . Johnston ended with 4 / 40 from 27 @. @ 3 overs and he was the most economical of the bowlers . Given the time lost to inclement weather on the first day , Australia had won the match in less than three days of playing time . Overall , Johnston finished with 27 Test wickets at an average of 23 @. @ 33 , equal to Lindwall but at a higher average .

= = Later tour matches = =

Seven matches remained on Bradman 's quest to go through a tour of England without defeat . Australia batted first against Kent and made 361 . Johnston then took three wickets with the new ball to help reduce the hosts to 5 / 16 , before ending with 3 / 10 from six overs . Forced to follow on after being bowled out for 51 in 23 overs , Kent were reduced to 4 / 37 by three early Lindwall wickets . Johnston ended with 1 / 28 as the home team capitulated for 124 and lost by an innings . The victory over Kent was followed by a match against the Gentlemen of England . Johnston was rested as Australia completed another innings victory . He returned for the match against Somerset , which resulted in a third consecutive innings win . After Australia had declared at 5 / 560 , Johnston took the opening wicket of Harold Gimblett before returning to take the last two scalps of the first innings from consecutive balls , bowling his finger spin . He ended with 3 / 34 as Somerset fell for 115 and were forced to follow on . Johnston bowled the second over of the second innings . As Johnston had taken wickets with his last two balls in the first innings , his first delivery was the hat @-@ trick ball . Gimblett negotiated the first ball safely , before being trapped lbw for a duck on the next . Johnston had thus taken three wickets in four balls . He bowled unchanged throughout the innings to end with 5 / 34 from 17 @. @ 4 overs as Somerset were bowled out for 71 . Johnston took the final wicket to fall ? Horace Hazell ? trapped for a duck , which brought up his 100th first @-@ class wicket for the tour .

In the match against the South of England , Johnston took 1 / 63 ? Edrich being his only wicket ? after Australia declared at 7 / 522 . Bradman ? s men dismissed the hosts for 298 and rain ended the match before the second innings could start .

Australia 's biggest challenge in the post @-@ Test tour matches was against the Leveson @-@ Gower 's XI . During the last tour in 1938 , this team was effectively a full @-@ strength England outfit , but this time Bradman insisted that only six current England Test players be allowed to represent the hosts . After his opponents had finalised their players , Bradman named a full @-@ strength team . In a rain @-@ interrupted match , Johnston bowled Edrich for 15 . He ended with 1 / 20 as the hosts folded for 177 . Johnston made an unbeaten 26 in a partnership of 30 with Lindsay Hassett as Australia replied with 8 / 489 declared . Time ran out with the Leveson @-@ Gower 's XI at 0 / 75 in the second innings .

The tour ended with two non @-@ first @-@ class matches against Scotland . In the first , Australia scored 236 before Johnston took 6 / 15 from 12 @. @ 5 overs . He took the last four wickets as the home team fell from 6 / 81 to be all out for 85 . Johnston bowled four wicketless overs in the second innings as Australia completed victory without needing to bat for a second time . In the second match , he signed off on his tour in a low key manner , taking a wicket in each innings to end with a match total of 2 / 48 as Australia completed another innings triumph .

= = Role = =

Johnston played as a left @-@ arm fast bowler when the ball was new and conducive to pace bowling , before reverting to finger spin when it became old and lost its shine . He was Australia 's third fast bowler in the Tests , reinforcing the new ball pairing of Keith Miller and Ray Lindwall , who were regarded as one of the finest pace duos of all time . Bradman typically used Miller and Lindwall in short and sharp new ball bursts against the local batsmen . England had agreed that a new ball would be available every 55 overs , a milestone that usually came more frequently than the old regulation of 200 runs for every ball . This allowed Australia ? who had the superior pace attack ? more frequent use of a shiny ball , which swung at high pace . Johnston typically bowled pace after the first @-@ choice pair had finished their new ball spell , before reverting to spin when the ball was worn . He took 27 wickets at 23 @.@ 33 in the Tests , making him the equal @-@ leading wicket @-@ taker along with Lindwall , who averaged 19 @.@ 62 . The Australian pacemen ? s tally was substantially more than the next best , recorded by England 's Alec Bedser , who took 18 wickets at 38 @.@ 22 .

In both the Test and county matches during the 1948 tour , Johnston carried the heaviest workload , bowling nearly 200 overs more than any other squad member . He was the leading wicket @-@ taker in all first @-@ class matches with 102 wickets at 16 @.@ 42 , and the last Australian to take a century of wickets on a tour of England . His average was only slightly inferior to that of Lindwall , who took 86 wickets at 15 @.@ 68 . The roles Johnston fulfilled are borne out in his economy rate and strike rate . He was more economical than Miller and Lindwall , who took wickets more frequently .

Johnston 's performances prompted Bradman to call him " Australia 's greatest left @-@ hand bowler " . As a result of his ability to bowl spin and pace , teammate Neil Harvey thought the team effectively had 13 players , saying " we reckoned Bradman was worth two [batsmen] and Bill Johnston was worth two [bowlers] " . Harvey rated Johnston the best team man in the squad , and Bill Brown praised Johnston 's work ethic in bowling for long periods after Lindwall and Miller had been given the best opportunities with the new ball . Spin bowling teammate Ian Johnson described him as " the finest team man and tourist " in cricket and valued his personality , while Miller described him as " the most popular man in cricket " . Johnston sometimes amused his colleagues by demonstrating his double jointedness , wrapping his feet around the back of his neck . He was reputed to have nearly drowned when he attempted this in the communal bath at Lord 's .

After carrying a heavy workload in the early stages of the tour , Johnston was used more sparingly in the latter stages . As the tour progressed , Johnston improved his control and restrained England 's batsmen between the new ball bursts of Lindwall and Miller . Johnston was chosen as one of the five Wisden Cricketers of the Year . Wisden said " no Australian made a greater personal contribution to the playing success of the 1948 side " . Fingleton wrote that Australia had never sent a greater left @-@ hander to England .

During the tour , Johnston had few opportunities with the bat , invariably batting at either No. 10 and No. 11 alongside Toshack , another tail @-@ ender with little batting ability.N- Neither player ever passed 30 in their first @-@ class career , and they were the only two Australians who failed to pass 50 during the tour . As Australia 's other frontline bowlers were Miller , Lindwall , Colin McCool , Ian Johnson and Doug Ring , all of whom scored centuries and more than 20 fifties each during their first @-@ class career , Toshack and Johnston were rooted at the bottom of the batting order . As Australia often won by an innings , and declared in the first innings many time due to their batting strength , Johnston only had 18 innings in his 21 first @-@ class fixtures and scored 188 runs at 18 @.@ 80 , the third lowest average and aggregate . He scored 62 runs in the Tests at 20 @.@ 66 , including his highest first @-@ class score of 29 in the Second Test at Lord ? s .

= = = Statistical note = = =

= = = General notes = = =

