

= Ron Saggars =

Ronald Arthur Saggars ( 15 May 1917 ? 17 March 1987 ) was an Australian cricketer who played for New South Wales . He played briefly for the Australian team , playing six Tests between 1948 and 1950 . In his Test cricket career he made 24 dismissals ( 16 catches and 8 stumpings ) and scored 30 runs at an average of 10 @.@ 00 .

As a wicket @-@ keeper , Saggars was " tidy and unobtrusive " , and the understudy to Don Tallon on the 1948 Australian tour of England . The touring party , led by Donald Bradman in his last season , was nicknamed The Invincibles and was widely regarded as one of the strongest ever . Saggars played in the Test match at Headingley , where he took three catches , and his only other experience of Test cricket was on the tour to South Africa in 1949 ? 50 , in which Tallon did not take part . Saggars played in all five Tests and took 21 dismissals , but Tallon replaced him for the home Ashes series against England the following season .

In domestic cricket , Saggars twice captained New South Wales in 1948 when the regular captain , Arthur Morris , was playing for Australia , and overall played domestic cricket from 1939 until 1951 .

= = Domestic career = =

Saggars was born in the Sydney suburb of Marrickville in 1917 . He married Margaret Heather ( née Rankin ) in Annandale in 1941 . Outside cricket , Saggars worked in the insurance industry .

= = = Early career = = =

Saggars played twice for the New South Wales Colts team against Queensland Colts in 1937 , before making his first @-@ class debut against South Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground half way through the season in January 1940 . Selected as a specialist batsman ? future Services player Stan Sismey kept wicket ? Saggars made 45 and 57 batting at number six in his debut match , and went on to make two more first @-@ class appearances before the end of the season , ending with 208 runs at an average of 34 @.@ 66 and three catches behind the stumps .

His first full season from 1940 ? 1941 saw him play in eight matches , scoring 413 runs with the bat at 29 @.@ 50 and passing fifty runs in an innings twice . His first match was away against Queensland where he scored 22 and 45 , making three stumpings , taking one catch and performing one run out , followed by scores of one and 33 in the home match , together with two stumpings . He scored 35 and four at home against Victoria , and then 45 in the second innings of the away match . On 22 November 1940 , barely a year into Saggars ' career , New South Wales faced a combined Queensland @-@ Victoria team at Brisbane . Saggars scored 58 as his team reached 429 in response to the oppositions 202 all out . In the Queensland @-@ Victoria team 's second innings , where they reached 416 , Saggars equalled the world record for most dismissals in an innings , taking seven catches . Saggars then went on to score 47 against South Australia , and 68 against Queensland on 1 January 1941 . In his final match before the outbreak of World War II , Saggars scored 63 runs against South Australia . He ended the season with 18 catches with the gloves and 13 stumpings .

= = = World War II = = =

Between 1941 and 1942 , Saggars ' career was interrupted when he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force ( RAAF ) on 6 December 1941 at Sydney . He served at the Elementary Flight School as Leading Aircraftman RA Saggars 421043 , until his discharge on 29 July 1942 , Saggars did not return to domestic cricket in Australia until 1945 , however . In the 1945 ? 1946 season , he played in seven matches , scoring 168 runs at 21 @.@ 00 and taking 12 catches and five stumpings . He then suffered a drop in form with the bat ; in 1946 ? 1947 he scored only 176 runs at 17 @.@ 60 from eight matches . However , he remained effective as a wicket @-@ keeper with 16 catches and seven stumpings . His batting form returned in 1947 ? 1948 , scoring 298 runs from 10 matches

at 27 @. @ 09 , reaching the 90s for the first time . He also enjoyed a very successful season with the gloves , a career high of 21 catches and four stumpings .

= = = Return = = =

Saggers was in stronger form following his tour to England . On 10 December 1948 , Saggers , included in AL Hassett 's XI for Test trial matches and benefits , as well as continuing his career at New South Wales , scored 38 for the latter against Queensland . At the same time , he aided Jack Moroney in his own comeback to cricket at New South Wales by suggesting he subtract three years from his age when he submitted his registration form . Overall in the 1948 ? 1949 season he scored 300 runs from nine matches , his highest season total , at 25 @. @ 00 , and taking 21 catches and six stumpings . Following the South Africa tour of 1949 ? 1950 he returned to Australia again for one final season from 1950 ? 1951 , however played only one match , scoring five runs and taking two catches . Through his entire first @-@ class career of 77 appearances from 1939 until 1951 , he was to make one century in a tour match against Essex and eight half @-@ centuries for New South Wales , ending with 1 @, @ 888 runs at an average of 23 @. @ 89 , together with 146 catches and 75 stumpings .

= = International career = =

= = = The Invincibles = = =

Saggers accompanied the 1948 Ashes tour to England as the reserve wicket @-@ keeper behind the first choice , Tallon . In the first County match against Leicestershire he scored six and took two catches , and against Cambridge University he made two stumpings and took one catch . He then played in the match against Essex where Australia reached 721 runs . Saggers made his highest first @-@ class score , 104 not out ? the only first @-@ class century of his career ? in a partnership of 166 runs in 65 minutes with Sam Loxton . Loxton , along with Bill Brown and Donald Bradman , also scored centuries . He then faced Oxford University , scoring six runs and taking one catch , followed by 22 and a stumping at Lancashire , 17 and another stumping at Hampshire , 22 against Yorkshire , 12 and four stumpings against Surrey , and three more stumpings against Gloucestershire .

Saggers ' Test debut took place at Headingley on 22 July 1948 during the Fourth Test of the Invincibles Ashes tour of England . England made 496 runs in their first innings , with Saggers taking catches to remove Denis Compton for 23 and Jim Laker for four . Australia replied with 458 , however Saggers was stumped by England 's wicket @-@ keeper Godfrey Evans off the bowling of Laker for only five runs . England 's second innings reached 365 with Saggers taking one catch to secure the wicket of Ken Cranston . However , an innings of 182 runs from Arthur Morris and 173 not out from Bradman meant that Saggers was not required to bat again in the second innings ; Australia defeating England by seven wickets . Saggers did not play in the remaining international matches of the 1948 Ashes series , and he ended the tour with 209 runs at an average of 23 @. @ 22 , including a career high score of 104 not out against Essex , 23 catches and 20 stumpings , also career records . In his book , Farewell to cricket , Bradman said of Saggers following the tour , " [ he ] had not quite the speed or agility of Tallon but could always be relied on for a solid performance . A most polished and unostentatious player . "

= = = South Africa = = =

Saggers ' next Test came in the 1949 tour of South Africa , where he was Australia 's first choice wicket @-@ keeper for all five Test matches . In light of the successful 1948 tour of England , Saggers commented " give me South Africa now , but I wouldn 't care to insure her future at double the rate I 'd insure Australia 's . " In the first warm up match against Natal Saggers scored 17 and

took four catches , and in the second against North Eastern Transvaal he took one catch and made two stumpings , but was not needed to bat in either innings . He made 32 runs with three stumpings and three catches against the South African XI , made two stumpings but did not bat against the Orange Free State , and then scored one and nought not out against the Transvaal .

The first Test match of the tour , on 24 December 1949 at Johannesburg , saw him score 14 runs in the first innings before falling leg before wicket ( LBW ) to Cuan McCarthy , and taking three catches as South Africa were forced to follow on , Australia winning by an innings and 85 runs . In the Second Test at Cape Town , Saggars did get a chance to bat , with Australia declaring for 526 before he had the opportunity in the first innings . South Africa were forced to follow @-@ on ( bat twice in a row ) and were defeated by eight wickets . He did , however , complete three stumpings in South Africa 's first innings off the bowling of Colin McCool , along with four catches in the match . He also took two catches and completed one stumping in the Third Test , and made two runs in the first innings , though he did not bat in the second as Australia won by five wickets . The Fourth Test , again in Johannesburg , saw Saggars score five not out in the first innings and , though not being required to bat in the second innings as the match ended in a draw , taking two catches .

The Fifth Test was played at the Crusaders Ground at St. George 's Park in Port Elizabeth on 3 March to 6 March 1950 . Scoring four not out in the first innings , Saggars took two catches and completed four stumpings as South Africa were bowled out for 158 and 132 chasing Australia 's first innings 549 . With this innings and 259 run victory , Australia won the test series 4 ? 0 , however Saggars would not play for his national team again upon the return of Tallon . Saggars was caught once , stumped once and out leg before wicket once but was never bowled in his international career . He ended his final year as an international player with 111 runs in first @-@ class cricket overall at 13 @.@ 87 , taking 30 catches and 20 stumpings , both of which were the highest he attained in one calendar year . He was replaced again by Tallon , however his form in turn declined and he was replaced by Gil Langley for the 1952 series against the West Indies . He retired from first class cricket in 1951 , and died in Harbord , New South Wales in 1987 .

= = Test match performance = =