

= Ernie Toshack with the Australian cricket team in England in 1948 =

Ernie Toshack was a member of Donald Bradman 's famous Australian cricket team , which toured England in 1948 and was undefeated in their 34 matches . This unprecedented feat by a Test side touring England earned Bradman 's men the sobriquet The Invincibles .

A left @-@ arm medium @-@ pace seam bowler , Toshack was a member of the first @-@ choice team , and played in the first four Test matches before succumbing to a persistent knee injury . Toshack contained the English batsmen with leg theory in between the new ball bursts of Keith Miller and Ray Lindwall . He took 11 wickets in the Tests ; his most notable performance was the 5 / 40 he took in the second innings of the Second Test at Lord 's . However , his knee failed in the first innings of the Fourth Test when he took 1 / 112 . He was unable to bowl in the second innings and missed the Fifth Test , marking the end of his Test career .

For the entire tour , Toshack took 50 first @-@ class wickets at a bowling average of 21 @.@ 12 with four five @-@ wicket innings hauls , including a best of 7 / 81 against Yorkshire at Bramall Lane . He also took 6 / 51 in the first innings of the match against the Marylebone Cricket Club , who were almost entirely represented by English Test cricketers , playing a key part in an innings victory . With little batting ability , Toshack usually batted last in Australia 's line @-@ up and scored 78 runs at a batting average of 8 @.@ 66 , the worst first @-@ class aggregate and average among the tourists . However , in the Tests , he was dismissed only once and averaged 51 @.@ 00 with a series of tail @-@ wagging performances , including his career best of 20 not out .

= = Background = =

A left @-@ arm medium @-@ pacer , Toshack made his first @-@ class cricket debut in the 1945 ? 46 upon the resumption of cricket after World War II . His performances were enough to ensure his selection for the tour of New Zealand in early @-@ 1946 , where Toshack made his Test debut in the one @-@ off match against the hosts ' national team . From then on , Toshack was a regular member of the national team and played in every Test over the next two summers , fitness permitting . Toshack played in eight of the 11 Tests during this period , taking 36 wickets . Towards the end of the Test series against India in 1947 ? 48 in Australia , knee injuries began to hamper Toshack , and he was in doubt for the 1948 tour of England . He only made the trip after a 3 ? 2 majority vote by a medical panel , despite being one of the first players chosen by the selectors on cricketing merit . Two Melbourne doctors ruled him unfit , but three specialists from his home state of New South Wales presented a more optimistic outlook ; this allowed him to tour . As a member of Bradman 's Invincibles , the tour was to immortalise him in cricketing history . He grew tired of signing autographs during the sea voyage to England , and entrusted a friend with the task . However , his friend was unaware of the correct spelling of his name ; as a result , there are still sheets in circulation signed Toshak . The team manager Keith Johnson gave Toshack a talking to over this incident .

= = Early tour matches = =

Australia traditionally fielded its first @-@ choice team in the tour opener , which was customarily against Worcestershire . Toshack was included , reinforcing the new ball attack of Lindwall and Miller and the off spin and leg spin of Ian Johnson and Colin McCool respectively . Australia bowled first , and Toshack took two quick wickets to reduce the hosts to 3 / 158 after a 137 @-@ run second wicket partnership . Toshack ended with 2 / 39 as Australia dismissed Worcestershire for 233 . He was not required to bat as Australia made 8 / 462 declared , and then took 1 / 40 in the second innings as the tourists started their campaign with an innings victory , setting the tone for the summer .

Toshack was then rested for the second tour match against Leicestershire , which Australia won by an innings . He then missed the next match against Yorkshire , as Australia came closest to losing a match on the tour , scraping home by four wickets on a damp wicket .

Toshack returned as the Australians travelled to London to play Surrey at The Oval , and he had his first outing with the bat on English soil , coming in last and scoring eight to help wicket @-@ keeper Don Tallon add 33 for the final wicket before Australia were bowled out for 632 . Toshack bowled without success in the first innings and took one wicket in the second innings , that of Arthur McIntyre , to end with match figures of 1 / 54 as Surrey were defeated by an innings . Toshack then took 2 / 32 in the first innings against Cambridge University , and did not bat as Australia declared at 4 / 414 . He then took 0 / 9 from eight overs in the second innings , as Australia completed another innings victory . He then played in the match against Essex where Australia made 721 runs on the first day to set a new world record for the most runs scored in a day of first @-@ class cricket . However , Toshack only contributed four runs batting at No. 11 . In the first innings , Toshack took the last five wickets to fall , including the top @-@ scorer Ray Smith for 25 , ending with 5 / 31 from 10 @.@ 5 overs as the hosts capitulated for 83 , unable to cope with his swing . Australia enforced the follow on and Toshack took a further 2 / 50 in the second innings as Australia won by an innings and 451 runs , the largest margin of the tour . He then faced Oxford University , scoring two runs in Australia 's 431 . Toshack then took three lower order wickets in the first innings to end with 3 / 34 from 22 overs , sending down more overs than any other Australian . He took 3 / 37 in the second innings as Australia completed another innings victory after enforcing the follow on . The Oxford batsmen had trouble with the seam movement of Toshack .

Toshack was retained for the match against the Marylebone Cricket Club 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 . It was a chance to gain a psychological advantage , with Len Hutton , Denis Compton and Bill Edrich , three of England 's first four batsmen in the Tests , all playing . Toshack was the last man in and made two , accompanying Lindwall in a 20 @-@ run final wicket stand as Australia totalled 552 .

After the MCC had reached 2 / 91 , Toshack broke through the middle order . He had Compton caught behind by Don Tallon for 26 , before trapping the incoming batsman Martin Donnelly ? a New Zealand Test player ? leg before wicket for five , and then having Hutton caught by vice @-@ captain Lindsay Hassett for 52 a run later , leaving the hosts at 5 / 104 . After the hosts recovered to 6 / 148 , Toshack removed Test all rounder Ken Cranston , Test wicket @-@ keeper Billy Griffith and spinner Jack Young to leave the MCC at 9 / 166 . The MCC were eventually dismissed for 189 , conceding a first innings lead of 363 runs . Toshack had taken 6 / 51 from 27 overs , and Bradman only allowed him four overs of rest . The Australian captain opted to enforce the follow on and allowed Toshack a lighter load in the second innings , bowling 15 overs and taking 1 / 43 . He removed Edrich as the MCC fell for 205 in 60 @.@ 2 overs to lose by an innings and 158 runs . Toshack had sent down the most overs by any Australian bowler in both innings . Bradman regarded Toshack 's first innings performance as his best of the tour . Toshack again focused on the leg stump , which some English observers decried as being negative . However , former Australian Test batsman Jack Fingleton said that Toshack 's line was close enough to leg stump that most balls had to be played .

In the next match against Lancashire , Toshack made four in Australia 's 204 , before claiming both openers after they had put on 48 , including Test batsman Cyril Washbrook . Toshack ended with 2 / 40 as the match ended in a draw after the first day was washed out . It was Australia 's first non @-@ victory of the tour . After six consecutive matches in the space of 21 days , Toshack was rested for the next two matches against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge and Hampshire ; the matches ended in a draw and an eight @-@ wicket Australian win respectively .

Toshack returned for the final county match against Sussex before the First Test . He did not take a wicket but pinned down the local batsmen as Lindwall blasted them out with match figures of 11 / 59 . Eight of Lindwall 's victims had their stumps knocked over . Toshack bowled 15 overs for 23 runs in the first innings as the hosts were skittled for 86 . He did not bat as Australia made 5 / 549 and then returned in the second innings for 17 overs that yielded only three scoring shots for a total of six runs . He finished the match with a total of 0 / 29 from 32 overs .

= = First Test = =

Toshack 's performance in the First Test at Trent Bridge was a quiet one , taking a single wicket in each innings . England won the toss and elected to bat . Toshack trapped the home captain Norman Yardley leg before wicket with a ball that straightened after pitching , ending with 1 / 28 as England were bowled out for 165 . Toshack then came to the wicket at 9 / 476 and was involved in an aggressive final wicket partnership of 33 with Johnston , scoring 19 runs ? his best at Test level to date ? in just 18 minutes , batting in a carefree and freewheeling manner , before falling lbw to Alec Bedser , ending Australia 's innings on 509 with a 344 @-@ run lead .

During the second innings , Bradman thought that rain might come so he utilised Toshack to bowl defensive leg theory . He did so to slow the scoring so that England would not have a lead by the time the rain came to create a sticky wicket , otherwise Australia would have been forced to chase a target on a difficult pitch with irregular bounce and pace . As the umpires were obliged to not call off play unless the light was so poor as endanger the batsman , the lack of pace of Johnson and Toshack forced proceedings to continue as they posed no injury threat to the batsmen . Early on the fourth morning , Toshack were able to make the ball deviate regularly while bowling to Hutton and Denis Compton , but Bradman opted to have Miller take the new ball in the fifth over of the day as soon as it was available , taking Toshack off . Later , Toshack was used defensively while Miller attacked from the other end . Bradman 's response to a boundary being hit from Toshack was to further stack the leg side with fielders in defensive positions , and scoring was slow as Toshack bowled accurately . Toshack took the wicket of Joe Hardstaff junior for 43 , who holed out to Hassett on the leg side , having supported Denis Compton in a partnership of 93 . The ball looped up in the air and travelled half @-@ way to the square leg boundary , but Hassett managed to keep track of its trajectory through the fog . Toshack ended with 1 / 60 from 33 overs as Australia were one bowler short after an injury to Lindwall had prevented him from bowling since the first afternoon . England were bowled out for 441 and Australia reached the target of 98 with eight wickets in hand .

Toshack was rested for the first tour match after the First Test against Northamptonshire , which Australia won by an innings . He returned against Yorkshire at Bramall Lane , Sheffield , making four as Australia batted first and scored 249 . He then recorded the best innings analysis of his first @-@ class career , taking 7 / 81 from 40 consecutive overs , bemusing the Yorkshire spectators with his Australian accent and distinctive " Ow Wizz Ee " appealing . He removed both openers , including Hutton , and then bowled Yorkshire and England captain Norman Yardley to leave the hosts at 3 / 107 . After Yorkshire reached 4 / 149 , Toshack took four more wickets as the hosts collapsed to be all out for 206 . Wicket @-@ keeper Ron Saggers stood up to the wickets and stumped Ted Lester before Toshack removed three lower @-@ order batsmen . Toshack did not bat or bowl again as the match petered into a draw . Bradman decided to bat until late on the third afternoon and secure a draw instead of pressing for a win ; Yorkshire only batted for 27 overs in their second innings and the crowd booed Bradman for not pursuing a victory . With the match safe , Bradman elected to rely mainly on his second @-@ choice bowlers to conserve his frontline bowlers ' energy for the next Test .

= = Second Test = =

Australia won the toss and batted first in the Second Test at Lord 's . They were on the back foot at 7 / 258 at stumps on the first day . On the second morning , the Australian lower order counter @-@ attacked ; Toshack joined Johnston with the score at 9 / 320 and they put on 30 runs before Johnston was stumped . Australia regained the momentum , adding 92 runs in 66 minutes of hitting in the morning . One sequence of two overs from Edrich was taken for 28 runs , with many balls unintentionally spooned over the slips or the covers . Both players swung wildly at the ball , which often went in vastly different directions to where they had aimed their shots . Both made new Test best scores ; Toshack scored 20 not out . Both Johnston and Toshack ? not known for their batting ability ? played without inhibitions , joyfully revelling in their luck . England were then bowled out for 215 . Toshack was wicketless , but was the most economical of the bowlers , conceding only 23 runs from his 18 overs . Toshack operated after the first new ball was taken , and as England had

fallen to 4 / 46 , they played him cautiously in an attempt to rebuild the innings . Australia then declared at 7 / 460 in their second innings with Toshack not required to bat , leaving England a target of 596 .

England progressed to 1 / 52 in their run @-@ chase before a double strike by Toshack . Edrich and Washbrook fell in quick succession to leave England at 3 / 65 . Edrich edged to Johnson low down in the slips and Tallon took a difficult catch to remove Washbrook . Edrich decided to stand his ground after the catch was taken , thinking that he may have hit a bump ball into the ground before it flew to Johnson , but the umpire ruled otherwise and gave him out . Washbrook inside edged a Toshack full toss directly downwards at Tallon 's ankle . Bradman described the catch as " miraculous " because Tallon had to reach so low , so quickly , in order to complete the catch . English commentator John Arlott speculated that Edrich and Washbrook may have lost concentration after Lindwall was replaced by Toshack , lulled into a false sense of security once Australia 's leading bowler was no longer operating . England then recovered to be 3 / 106 at stumps on the fourth day .

Yardley and Tom Dollery took the score to 4 / 133 on the final morning before Toshack bowled the former for 11 . He then trapped Alec Coxon two balls later in the same over for a duck , leaving England at 6 / 133 . Coxon shuffled across his stumps and missed his first delivery , which hit him in front of the stumps and prompted a loud lbw appeal , and did the same thing to the next ball , and the umpire upheld the Australians ' second appeal . During this spell , Toshack conceded only seven runs from eight overs , but was taken off as Bradman wanted to take the new ball and utilise Lindwall and Johnston . The match ended when Doug Wright hit Toshack to Lindwall and England were bowled out for 186 , sealing a 409 @-@ run win for Australia . Toshack ended with 5 / 40 from 20 @.@ 1 overs with Miller unable to bowl due to injury . During the second innings performance , Toshack employed two short legs and a silly mid @-@ off . Arlott said that while Toshack had the best figures , Lindwall was the pivotal figure , at the latter " so patently disturbed Hutton he struck a blow at the morale of the English batting that was never overcome . "

A match against Surrey started the day after the Second Test ended , but Bradman nevertheless asked Toshack to bowl 20 overs as Surrey batted first . He took 2 / 76 including opposition captain Errol Holmes . In reply to the hosts ' 221 , Toshack made one in Australia 's total of 389 . He then removed Arthur McIntyre and Eric Bedser in the second innings and ended with 2 / 29 as Australia won by ten wickets . Toshack was then rested after playing 12 days of cricket in two weeks , missing the innings victory over Gloucestershire .

= = Third Test = =

Toshack had a moderately successful Third Test , in which England elected to bat first . England lost two early wickets , and when Toshack came on , Jack Crapp repeatedly defended a sequence of deliveries to Arthur Morris at silly point . As the hosts were in trouble , they played cautiously and Toshack 's first five overs were all maidens . Crapp then hit Toshack to Sid Barnes at short leg , but the catch was dropped . However , Crapp did not capitalise as Toshack conceded only eight runs in a sequence of eight overs .

Halfway through the day , England fell to 5 / 119 , and captain Yardley came in . He hit Toshack in the air , but Barnes was unable to complete the reflex catch at short leg . However , this error did not cost many runs . Yardley lofted Toshack into the on @-@ side and the hands of Johnson at forward square leg to fall for 22 with the score at 6 / 141 . Toshack 's defensive bowling had caused the English skipper to lose patience and his departure for 22 left the score on 141 / 6 . Toshack bowled Dick Pollard late in the innings to finish with 2 / 75 from 41 overs ? including 20 maidens ? as England ended with 363 . Toshack was unbeaten on zero and was only at the crease for one minute as Australia replied with 221 . In the second innings , Toshack removed Compton for a duck , caught in the slips by Miller , and ended with 1 / 26 as the rain @-@ affected match ended in a draw . He also had Washbrook dropped in the slips cordon by Johnson , one of several times that the batsman was reprieved during the innings .

After bowling 53 overs in the Third Test , Toshack was rested for the match against Middlesex . It

was the only tour match before the Fourth Test , and Australia won by ten wickets .

= = Fourth Test = =

Toshack 's knee injury flared again in the Fourth Test at Headingley after England elected to bat . On the first morning , England opener Len Hutton edged Toshack through the slips and was then dropped on 25 . Hutton eventually reached 81 as the opening pair put on 168 . Toshack was wicketless as the hosts closed the first day at 2 / 268 . The following morning , he was removed from the attack after night @-@ watchman Bedser hit him for three consecutive fours . After the lunch break , Toshack bowled Jack Crapp with an inside @-@ edged half volley for five to leave England at 5 / 447 . Toshack ended with an ineffective 1 / 112 from 35 overs as England made 496 . He was the most expensive and uneconomical of the frontline bowlers and it was his most uneconomical performance in the Tests . He aggravated his knee injury and was later taken to London for cartilage surgery , ending his bowling duties for the match and his Test career .

Late on the third day , Toshack was part of a rearguard Australian action that minimised England 's first innings lead . He came to the crease at 9 / 403 to accompany Lindwall , featuring in a 55 @-@ run stand and lasting the final 50 minutes until stumps , with Johnston running for him . Australia were 9 / 457 at stumps , with Lindwall on 76 and Toshack on 12 . Lindwall farmed the strike by trying to hit boundaries and twos during the over , but Yardley did not resort to the tactic of setting a deep field to yield a single to Lindwall to get Toshack on strike . 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 that he faced most of the balls . On the next morning of play , Toshack did not add to his score before Lindwall was dismissed and Australia ended at 458 in the third over of the day , leaving the tourists 38 runs in arrears on the first innings . Toshack did not bowl in the second innings as England made 8 / 365 and set Australia a target of 404 for victory on the last day . Australia achieved the runs with seven wickets in hand , setting a new world record for the highest successful run @-@ chase in Tests .

After the injury at Headingley , Toshack was out of action for two weeks , missing the matches against Derbyshire , Glamorgan and Warwickshire . These fixtures ended in an innings victory , a rain @-@ affected draw and a nine @-@ wicket win respectively . He returned against Lancashire and scored two in Australia 's 321 . He then bowled seven overs in the first innings , taking 0 / 17 . He aggravated his injury and did not bowl in the second innings and did not play again for the tour . As a result , Toshack missed the last Test and eight further tour matches , three of which were not first @-@ class . Australia won the Fifth Test by an innings in Toshack 's absence to win the series 4 ? 0 , and proceeded through the remaining tour matches undefeated .

= = Role = =

A left @-@ arm medium @-@ pace seamer , Toshack was a member of Bradman 's first @-@ choice team and he played in the first four Tests before being struck down by a persistent knee injury . Toshack contained the English batsmen using leg theory in between the new ball bursts of Miller and Lindwall , usually bowling second change after Miller , Lindwall and Johnston . The English press decried Toshack 's style of bowling as negative , but Jack Fingleton said that " he is generally so close to the stumps that nearly every ball has to be played " .

During the Tests , Toshack took 11 wickets at 33 @.@ 09 ; his most notable performance was his 5 / 40 in the second innings of the Second Test at Lord 's . Of the four frontline pacemen , Toshack had the second best economy rate , although with his leg stump bowling , he also had a strike rate of 94 @.@ 45 , while the other three fast bowlers all had strike rates below 70 . It was a similar tale in the first @-@ class statistics , with the second best economy among the seven frontline bowlers , but the worst strike rate . For the entire tour , Toshack took 50 wickets at 21 @.@ 12 with four five @-@ wicket innings hauls , including a best of 7 / 81 against Yorkshire at Bramall Lane . He also took 6 / 51 in the first innings of the match against the Marylebone Cricket Club , which was almost entirely represented by English Test cricketers . Toshack took two catches on tour , none of them in

the Tests .

An inept batsman with an average of 5 @. @ 78 in his first @-@ class career , Toshack managed a Test average of 51 @. @ 00 on the 1948 tour after being dismissed only once , behind only Arthur Morris , Sid Barnes , Bradman and Neil Harvey . The unbeaten 20 he managed in the Lord 's Test was his best first @-@ class score , made in a freewheeling tenth @-@ wicket stand with Johnston .

During the tour , Toshack had few opportunities with the bat , invariably being placed at either No. 10 and No. 11 in the order alongside Johnston , another tailender with little batting ability.N- Neither player ever passed 30 in their career , and they were the only two players who failed to make a half @-@ century during the tour . As Australia 's other specialist bowlers were Lindwall , McCool , Johnson and Doug Ring , all of whom made centuries and more than 18 fifties each during their first @-@ class career , Toshack and Johnston were invariably rooted at the bottom of the order . As Australia often won by an innings , and declared in the first innings many times due to their batting strength , Toshack only had 12 innings in his 15 first @-@ class fixtures , never batted in the second innings , and scored 78 runs at 8 @. @ 66 . Of the 78 runs , 51 came from four Test innings in Toshack 's four Tests .

Due to the fragility of his knee , Toshack was used sparingly in the tour games , playing in only 11 of the 29 non @-@ Test matches on the tour , the least of any player . Toshack was unable to play in the last nine matches of the tour , having injured himself in the second match against Lancashire .

= = = Statistical note = = =

= = = General notes = = =