

= Wilf Barber =

Wilfred Barber , known as Wilf Barber (18 April 1901 ? 10 September 1968) , was a professional first @-@ class cricketer who played for Yorkshire County Cricket Club from 1926 to 1947 . He played two Test matches for England in 1935 against South Africa . An opening batsman with an excellent batting technique , Barber often batted in the middle order . He scored 16 @,@ 402 runs in first @-@ class cricket at an average of 34 @.@ 28 with 29 centuries . Barber made his debut in 1926 and made several appearances over the next few seasons . Despite a sound defence , Barber did not secure a regular first team place until 1932 . He scored a thousand runs for the first time that season , a feat he was to achieve eight times , while he scored over 2 @,@ 000 runs in 1935 . Until the Second World War broke out , Barber continued as a regular member of the Yorkshire side . After the war , he played one more full season before retiring in 1947 . His career continued in club cricket and he went on to coach local sides before his death in 1968 .

= = Career = =

Barber was born on 18 April 1901 in Cleckheaton , Yorkshire . He did not appear for the Yorkshire Second XI until he was 25 , in 1926 , when he scored 600 runs , including a century , and averaged 40 . The same season , he made his first @-@ class debut for Yorkshire against Worcestershire without playing a single innings . He was scheduled to bat later in the innings and was not needed to bat as Yorkshire completed an easy victory . In the next season , he was chosen to play three matches , with a top score of 18 . For the next few years , he was unable to attain a regular spot in the Yorkshire side as there were many batsmen competing for places . In the 1928 season , Barber played 16 matches , mainly when other batsmen were required in representative matches , passing fifty for the first time in an innings of 98 against the West Indians , and followed this with two other fifties . Next season , he scored his maiden first @-@ class century against the South Africans in an innings of 108 , out of a team total of 335 , with no other batsman reaching fifty . In total , he played on 22 occasions and scored 857 runs at an average of 30 @.@ 60 , including a second century , against Glamorgan . However , Barber was in and out of the side over the next two seasons . He did not play 20 matches or reach 500 runs in either season and passed fifty only four times in total .

Matters changed for Barber in the 1932 season , when Yorkshire 's regular , long serving opening batsman Percy Holmes began to suffer with illness . This left a batting place empty and enabled Barber to play more regularly . Wisden Cricketer 's Almanack believed that he thoroughly deserved his place in the team as he scored exactly 1 @,@ 000 runs at an average of 25 @.@ 64 , the first time he reached four figures in a season . He finished fifth in the Yorkshire batting averages , the first time he had been placed so high . His runs also played a part in Yorkshire winning the County Championship in his first full season . After this breakthrough , Barber steadily improved his total of runs and batting average , helping Yorkshire to win the County Championship twice in 1933 and 1935 . In 1933 , he scored 1 @,@ 595 runs at an average of 33 @.@ 93 , and in 1934 he scored 1 @,@ 927 runs at an average of 40 @.@ 14 . In both seasons he finished fourth in the Yorkshire averages . However , Barber 's best season statistically was the following season , 1935 , when he achieved his best aggregate of runs and highest average in an English season , passing 2 @,@ 000 runs in a season for the only time in his career . He scored 2 @,@ 147 runs at an average of 42 @.@ 09 and finished third in the Yorkshire averages . These performances earned him selection for the Players against the Gentlemen at Lord 's Cricket Ground for the only time in his career , where he scored 61 and 18 not out .

Also in 1935 , Barber was chosen to represent England in the Test series against South Africa . He played in the third and fourth Tests after England had lost the second match to be 1 ? 0 down in the series . He was one of six Yorkshire players selected that season . He scored 83 runs in four innings with a highest score of 44 in the fourth Test but England only drew these matches and he was left out of the final game . He also took a wicket with his second (and final) ball in Test cricket , when the match was heading towards an obvious draw . Following these matches , he was chosen to go on the non @-@ Test playing tour by the Marylebone Cricket Club of Australia and New Zealand

that winter under the captaincy of Errol Holmes . He was the senior professional but was not as effective as had been expected in Australia . However , in New Zealand he scored 365 runs in the matches against a New Zealand representative team , at an average of 60 @. @ 83 . He scored 797 runs in all first @-@ class matches , average 41 @. @ 94 , including two centuries .

Although Barber did not play any more Tests , his scoring was consistent in the four seasons up until World War II . In all but 1936 (he scored 993 runs that year) , he scored around 1 @, @ 500 runs and in all but 1938 (he averaged just under 34) , he averaged between 36 and 38 . He was second in the Yorkshire batting averages in 1936 , fourth in 1937 and 1939 but slipped to sixth in 1938 . Following the war , Barber played one more full season , scoring 1 @, @ 170 runs at an average of 30 @. @ 00 in 1946 to be fourth in the Yorkshire averages . It was the eighth and final time he passed 1 @, @ 000 runs in a season . During these seasons , Barber 's runs contributed to Yorkshire being County Champions in four consecutive seasons from 1937 to 1939 and then again after the war in 1946 . He played a further three matches in 1947 to bring his career to a close . From 1932 , when Barber became a regular player , until his last full season in 1946 , he was part of a Championship winning side seven times .

= = Style and achievements = =

Barber scored a total of 16 @, @ 402 runs in his career with 29 hundreds and 182 catches , and was described by Gerald Howat as " the fourth pillar " of the Yorkshire batting in the mid @-@ 1930s (after Herbert Sutcliffe , Maurice Leyland and Arthur Mitchell) . A generally defensive batsman , he played carefully in the tradition of Yorkshire opening batsmen . Jim Kilburn said that Barber was " small in stature but upright in style " . He was a good batsman on the off side and had a very good defensive technique , while his strength on the leg side was noted on his Test debut . Although an opening batsman , he often went in lower down the batting order . He was more comfortable in normal circumstances than in a crisis and did not enjoy batting on difficult pitches . Bill Bowes called him the most correct and orthodox batsman he had seen , even more so than Len Hutton . Barber was a kind , modest man , who never believed that his contribution was good enough , even if he had scored a century . On his death , Wisden described him as having " rendered admirable service . "

Barber 's highest score was 255 against Surrey in 1935 . In this innings , he opened the batting and shared three successive century partnerships . Barber also scored 248 against Kent in 1934 . He had scored 73 in the first innings but Kent had built up a lead of 148 on the second day of the match . Barber , opening the batting with Len Hutton , scored 248 and shared a stand of 267 for the first wicket . As a result , Yorkshire drew the game . Barber shared in seven other century opening partnerships Yorkshire , four of them with Arthur Mitchell , and six other 200 partnerships . This included a stand of 346 in four and a half hours with Maurice Leyland , against Middlesex in 1932 which was a record for Yorkshire 's second wicket . His fielding , generally done in the deep , was described by Wisden as " first rate " . Bowes said that he once went for nearly three years without dropping a catch on the leg side boundary from his bowling .

= = Retirement = =

After his retirement , Barber played club cricket into his fifties , playing for Lidget Green and King Cross until 1952 . He went on to play for Mirfield in the Central Yorkshire League between 1952 and 1955 . There , he was the club 's first professional once it reformed in 1952 . During his time at the club , Barber scored eleven half centuries and won an award for his batting . After he left Mirfield , he became coach to the North Riding Educational Authorities , later working as coach and groundsman at a school in Harrogate . He died , aged 67 , in a hospital in Bradford after a short illness , on 10 September 1968 .