

= Ernie Toshack =

Ernest Raymond Herbert Toshack (8 December 1914 ? 11 May 2003) was an Australian cricketer who played in 12 Tests from 1946 to 1948 . A left arm medium paced bowler who was known for his accuracy and stamina in his application of leg theory , Toshack was best known for being as member of Don Bradman 's Invincibles that toured England in 1948 without incurring a defeat , where he reinforced Australia 's new ball attack of Ray Lindwall and Keith Miller .

Born in 1914 , Toshack overcame many obstacles to reach international level cricket . He was orphaned as an infant , and his early cricket career was hindered because of financial difficulties caused by the Great Depression . The Second World War prevented Toshack from competing at first @-@ class level until he was into his thirties . In 1945 ? 46 , the first season of cricket after the end of the War , Toshack made his debut at first @-@ class level and after only seven matches in the Sheffield Shield he was selected for Australia 's tour of New Zealand . In Wellington , he opened the bowling in a match that was retrospectively classed as an official Test match . Toshack became a regular member of the Australian team , playing in all of its Tests until the 1947 ? 48 series against India . He took his career @-@ best match bowling figures of 11 / 31 in the First Test but began to suffer recurring knee injuries , and a medical board had to approve his selection for the 1948 England tour . Toshack played in the first four Tests before being injured . After a long convalescence , he attempted a comeback during Australia 's 1949 ? 50 season , but further injury forced him to retire . He was a parsimonious bowler , who was popular with crowds for his sense of humour .

= = Early years = =

Born in the New South Wales bush town of Cobar on 8 December 1914 , he was one of five children born to a stationmaster , but was orphaned at the age of six . He was raised by relatives in Lyndhurst , in the northwest of the state and played his early cricket and rugby league for Cowra . At this stage of his life , Toshack 's ambition was to play rugby league for Australia . One of his childhood friends , Edgar Newham , also played both sports and wanted to play Test cricket . However , the town 's doctor , a local community leader , advised them that they were targeting the wrong sport , and the two boys followed his recommendation . Newham later played rugby league for Australia .

In his youth he was also a boxer , and earned the nickname " Johnson " for his dark @-@ skinned resemblance to American black heavyweight boxing champion Jack Johnson . In the mid @-@ 1930s , he made brief appearances for the State Colts and Second XI , and played cricket against the likes of Stan McCabe , an inductee into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame . In December 1933 , Toshack played in a colts match for New South Wales against Queensland . He took 3 / 63 and 3 / 36 but was unable to prevent a five @-@ wicket defeat . He then took a total of 3 / 88 in a match for New South Wales Country against their city counterparts , and was promoted into the state 's Second XI . Toshack took a total of 1 / 91 in a match against the Victorian Second XI and did not play for his state again until 1945 .

His cricket aspirations , already hindered due to economic difficulties caused by the Great Depression , were further interrupted when he was wheelchair @-@ bound for months after a ruptured appendix in 1938 . He was not allowed to enlist in the Australian Defence Force during World War II and worked at Lithgow 's Small Arms factory , in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney . Only at the end of the war , aged 30 did he go to Sydney . At the time , he was a medium @-@ fast left @-@ arm bowler and approached Petersham ? as Toshack lived in their locality , they had the right to register him ahead of other clubs . They did not select Toshack , so he joined Marrickville in Sydney Grade Cricket , starting in the third grade team in 1944 ? 45 . Within two matches , he rose to the first grade team . By this time , Petersham regretted their decision to spurn Toshack and lodged a complaint with the cricket authorities , claiming that he was obliged to represent them and ineligible to play for Marrickville . Toshack later recalled that Petersham were " told where to go " .

= = First @-@ class and Test debut = =

Upon the resumption of first @-@ class cricket in 1945 ? 46 , Toshack made his debut for New South Wales against Queensland as an opening bowler aged almost 31 , and was quickly among the wickets . He took four wickets for the loss of 69 runs (4 / 69) in his first innings as his team took a 128 @-@ run lead , but he managed only 0 / 87 from 20 overs in the second innings as New South Wales fell to a four @-@ wicket loss , failing to defend a target of 270 . His first wicket was that of Geoff Cook . Toshack 's most successful match of the season came in the following fixture , against South Australia . Taking 4 / 30 and 4 / 78 as New South Wales won by an innings . He then took 2 / 36 and 3 / 54 in an innings victory over the Australian Services .

By the end of the season , in March 1946 , Toshack had taken 35 wickets in seven first @-@ class matches , at an average of 18 @.@ 82 , making him the second highest wicket @-@ taker behind George Tribe with 40 . He performed consistently and took at least four wickets in each match , his innings best was 4 / 30 . Toshack was selected for a non @-@ Test tour of New Zealand . He played in three provincial tour matches against Auckland , Canterbury and Wellington , all of which were won by an innings . He took match figures of 7 / 91 against Auckland and 8 / 58 against Wellington .

In the final match of the tour , Toshack found himself opening the bowling for Australia with fellow debutant Ray Lindwall in a match against New Zealand at Wellington that was retrospectively recognised as a Test two years later . The eight years since Australia 's last Test saw a new post @-@ war generation of international cricketers make their debut . Toshack was one of seven Australians playing their first Test . New Zealand were routed inside two days on a damp pitch , having been dismissed for 42 in their first innings after winning the toss and choosing to bat . Toshack 's first Test wicket was that of opposing captain Walter Hadlee , who was caught by Keith Miller . Toshack took three further wickets to end with innings figures of 4 / 12 . He did not bat as Australia made 8 / 198 . New Zealand were then bowled out in their second innings for 54 , with Toshack taking 2 / 6 as Australia took an innings victory . He dismissed Eric Tindill and Ces Burke in both innings . The performance ensured that Toshack would become an integral part of Australia 's attack for the next three years . Toshack ended the tour with 23 wickets at 10 @.@ 34 in four matches .

Toshack started the 1946 ? 47 season strongly , taking 5 / 46 and 4 / 70 as New South Wales opened the season with a five @-@ wicket win over Queensland . He removed Australian wicket @-@ keeper Don Tallon twice . After going wicketless in a rain @-@ curtailed match for his state against England , Toshack was selected to make his Ashes debut in the First Test at Brisbane . With the emergence of leading all rounder Keith Miller , Toshack was relegated to first change bowler as Miller began his much celebrated partnership with Lindwall . Toshack was unbeaten on one in his first innings with the bat when Australia were bowled out for 645 on the third day .

On a sticky wicket , Toshack initially struggled , bowling his characteristic leg stump line . England struggled to 117 runs for the loss of five wickets (5 / 117) at the end of the fourth day despite many interruptions caused by rain . Norman Yardley and captain Wally Hammond had defied the Australian bowlers since coming together at 5 / 66 . On the fifth and final morning , captain Don Bradman advised him to pitch straighter and at a slower pace . Before play began Bradman took him down the pitch and showed him exactly where he wanted him to bowl and even make him bowl a practice over alongside to make sure he got it right . Having started the day wicketless , Toshack dismissed Yardley and Hammond in the space of 13 runs to break the English resistance and finished with an economical 3 / 17 from 17 overs as England were bowled out for 141 . Bradman enforced the follow @-@ on , and with Lindwall indisposed , Toshack took the new ball with Miller . He continued where he finished in the first innings , taking four of the first six wickets (Bill Edrich , Denis Compton , Hammond and Yardley) as the English top order were reduced to 6 / 65 . He ended the innings with 6 / 82 as England were bowled out twice in a day to lose by an innings and 332 runs . The remaining four Tests were less successful : only in one innings did he take more than one wicket . In the Second Test at Sydney the pitch favoured spin bowling and Toshack only bowled 13 overs without taking a wicket as Australia claimed another innings victory . He took match figures

of 2 / 127 on a flat pitch in the Third Test in Melbourne , removing world record holder Len Hutton and Compton . During the match , Toshack came in to bat in the second innings with Australia nine wickets down . He defended stubbornly and ended unbeaten on two as his partner Lindwall went from 81 to 100 to score the fastest Test century by an Australian , in 88 balls . Toshack was more productive in the drawn Fourth Test in Adelaide , where he took match figures of 5 / 135 from 66 eight ball overs in extreme heat , including the wicket of Hammond twice , Edrich and Joe Hardstaff junior . Ahead of the final Test , Toshack removed Compton , Edrich and Godfrey Evans in a drawn match for Victoria against the tourists . He took only one wicket in the Fifth Test as Australia sealed the series 3 ? 0 with a five @-@ wicket win . Toshack finished the series with 17 wickets at a bowling average of 25 @.@ 71 . His first @-@ class season was not a productive as in his debut year ; he took 33 wickets at an average of 30 @.@ 93 in eleven matches , making him the sixth highest wicket @-@ taker for the season . Toshack had a particularly unsuccessful time in the two Sheffield Shield matches against arch @-@ rivals Victoria , which were lost by heavy margins of an innings and 114 runs , and 288 runs respectively . In the first match he took 0 / 133 after Australian team @-@ mate Miller hit three sixes from his opening over . In the second match he took a total of 3 / 144 . Victoria went on to win the title .

The following 1947 ? 48 season , Toshack warmed up for the Test campaign against the touring Indians by taking 2 / 64 and 4 / 65 for New South Wales in an innings win , dismissing Hemu Adhikari twice . He retained his position in the national team , and in the First Test at Brisbane on a wet pitch , Toshack took ten wickets for the only time in his Test career . In reply to Australia 's 8 / 382 declared , India had been reduced to 5 / 23 by Lindwall , Miller and Bill Johnston before Vijay Hazare and captain Lala Amarnath took the score to 53 without further loss , prompting Toshack 's introduction into the attack . He dismissed both and removed the remaining lower @-@ order batsmen to end with 5 / 2 in 19 balls as India were bowled out after adding only five further runs . Bradman enforced the follow on and India reached 1 / 27 before a spell of 6 / 29 from Toshack reduced them to 8 / 89 , including the wickets of Hazare , Amarnath and Khanderao Rangnekar for a second time . India were bowled out for 98 as Australia won by an innings and 226 runs . Injury persistently curtailed Toshack during the season , and he missed a month of cricket , including the next two Tests . He returned for the second match against arch @-@ rivals Victoria , and took 6 / 38 and 2 / 71 to play a key role in a New South Wales victory by six wickets . His victims in the first innings included Test batsmen Lindsay Hassett , Neil Harvey and Sam Loxton as New South Wales took a decisive 290 @-@ run lead . He dismissed Hassett and Ken Meuleman in the second innings to help set up victory . Toshack only played in one further Test during the season , the Fourth , where he was less successful with match figures of 2 / 139 . He dismissed centurion Dattu Phadkar as Australia went on to win the series 4 ? 0 . When fit , Toshack was a heavy wicket @-@ taker ; his 41 wickets at 20 @.@ 26 placed him second only to Bill Johnston 's 42 among Australian bowlers for the season .

= = Invincibles tour = =

By the end of the Indian series , knee injuries had begun to hamper Toshack , and he only made the trip to England for the 1948 tour on a 3 ? 2 majority vote by a medical team , despite being one of the first selected by the board . Two Melbourne doctors ruled him unfit , but three specialists from his home state presented a more optimistic outlook that allowed him to tour . The tour was to guarantee him immortality as a member of Bradman 's Invincibles . He grew tired of signing autographs during the voyage , and entrusted a friend with the task . As a result , there are still sheets circulating with his name mis @-@ spelt as Toshak . Between the new @-@ ball attacks of Lindwall , Keith Miller and Johnston every 55 overs , Toshack played the role of stifling England 's scoring . In one match against Sussex , his 17 overs yielded only three scoring shots . He finished the match bowling 32 overs while conceding 29 runs . At Bramall Lane , Sheffield , he recorded the best innings analysis of his first @-@ class career , taking 7 / 81 from 40 consecutive overs , bemusing the Yorkshire spectators with the his accent and distinctive " Ow Wizz Ee " appealing . Bradman considered his 6 / 51 against the Marylebone Cricket Club at Lord 's as the best

performance of all . He removed the leading English batsmen Len Hutton and Denis Compton , as well as Martin Donnelly and Ken Cranston . In particular , Toshack was involved in an extended battle with Compton before dismissing him ; Bradman said that their duel was " worth going a long way to see " . This performance helped Australia to take an innings victory over a team that was virtually a full @-@ strength England outfit and allowed Australia to take a psychological victory in a dress rehearsal ahead of the Tests .

Toshack 's performance in the First Test at Trent Bridge was a quiet one , taking a wicket in each innings . He was involved in an aggressive final wicket partnership of 32 with Johnston , scoring 19 runs , his best at Test level to date in just 18 minutes . Toshack 's best Test performance was his 5 / 40 in the second innings of the Second Test at Lord 's when Miller was unable to bowl after being injured , including the wickets of Cyril Washbrook , Bill Edrich , captain Yardley and Alec Coxon . During this performance , he employed two short legs and a silly mid @-@ off . He had a moderately successful Third Test , taking figures of 3 / 101 in the only Test that Australia did not win . His knee injury flared again in the Fourth Test after taking an ineffective 1 / 112 in the first innings , he was unable to bowl in the second innings of an Australian win . He made a recovery and it was hoped that he would be able to play in the Fifth Test , but he injured again himself in the lead @-@ up match against Lancashire . He was taken to London for cartilage surgery , ending his tour and his Test career . An inept batsman with an average of 5 @.@ 78 in first @-@ class fixtures , Toshack managed a Test average of 51 on the 1948 tour after being out 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 an uninhibited tenth @-@ wicket stand with Johnston . 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 . Toshack totalled 50 wickets at the average of 21 @.@ 12 for the tour .

The knee injury prevented Toshack from playing during the 1948 ? 1949 Australian domestic season . The Australian team to tour South Africa in 1949 ? 50 was named at the end of the previous season , and Toshack was omitted after a season on the sidelines . At the start of the 1949 ? 50 season , when his Test teammates were sailing across the Indian Ocean to South Africa , Toshack made a strong start to his first @-@ class comeback . He took 4 / 41 and 5 / 59 in a Shield match against Queensland in Brisbane , removing Ken Mackay and Wally Grout twice , helping to seal a close 15 @-@ run win . In the second match , against Western Australia , Toshack took 4 / 68 in the first innings before his injury resurfaced . New South Wales won the match despite Toshack 's inability to bowl in the second innings . The injury cost Toshack dearly ; it forced him to retire from first @-@ class cricket and cost him a Test recall . Toshack had been offered a position on the South African tour as a reinforcement for Johnston , who had been involved in a car crash . Instead , Miller took the position and played in all five Tests .

Toshack subsequently joined a firm of builders and spent 25 years as a foreman and supervisor on construction sites around Sydney . He also wrote about cricket and enjoyed cultivating his vegetable garden in the northern Sydney suburb of Hornsby Heights . Toshack died on 11 May 2003 . He was survived by his wife Cathleen Hogan , whom he married in 1939 , their only daughter , three granddaughters and two great @-@ granddaughters .

= = Style = =

Bowling primarily from over the wicket , his accuracy , changes of pace , and movement in both directions , coupled with a leg stump line to a packed leg @-@ side field , made scoring off him difficult . He achieved his success in a manner not dissimilar to Derek Underwood a generation later . His accuracy and stamina allowed Ray Lindwall and Keith Miller , one of Australia 's finest fast bowling pairs of all time , to draw breath between short and incisive bursts of pace and swing . Standing 6 feet 2 inches (188 cm) , he was particularly effective on sticky wickets , reducing his speed to slow medium pace and using a repertoire of off cutters , inswingers , outswingers and leg breaks . Bowling a leg @-@ stump line from over the wicket with a leg side cordon of two short legs and a silly mid @-@ on , he was described by Bradman as " unique in every way " . Bradman

further added " I cannot remember another of the same type ... He worried and got out the best bats , was amazingly accurate and must have turned in fine figures had not his cartilage given way . " He usually bowled with four men on the off side including a slip , and five on the leg . When the pitch was wet , he moved a further man to the on side to field at leg slip .

Nicknamed the " Black Prince " because of his tanned skin , Toshack 's looks and sense of humour made him a crowd favourite , as did his theatrical appealing , which was more reminiscent of later eras of cricketers . His vocal appealing prompted the journalist and former Australian Test batsman Jack Fingleton to dub him " The Voice " , while teammate Sid Barnes called him " The film star " because of his looks . His sense of fun was often on show . While on the 1948 tour , he would often wear a bowler hat , grab a furled umbrella , and place a cigar in his mouth , parodying an Englishman .

= = Test match performance = =