



Arthur Morris - Australian Test cricket legend 1922 - 2015

Jesse Hogan - Sports writer for The Age - Date August 22, 2015 - 10:20AM

NBHS Old Boy Arthur Morris



Australian cricket is mourning one of its champions.

Arthur Morris, a opening batsman who so regularly helped provided a solid platform for No.3 batsman Don Bradman to thrive during Australian cricket's golden era, died overnight. He was 93.

Morris' passing leaves Neil Harvey as the sole living member of the late 1940s team so dominant they were dubbed the Invincibles.

The left-hander, from Sydney, played 46 Tests for Australia between November 1946 and June 1955. He scored 3533 runs at an average of 46.49, with 12 centuries and 12 half-centuries. Morris formed a mighty opening partnership with Sid Barnes in the Invincibles team. While it lasted for only nine matches, owing the paucity of matches in the period, they notched century stands every 4.3 innings, the best of any Australians.

His most productive partnership came with Bradman. In the 13 times they batted together their average partnership was 104.4. While only two of those were century stands they were both monsters: 223 unbeaten against India at the MCG in 1947-48 and 301 against England in Leeds in 1948. In the latter he made 182 in the second innings as Australia chased down the target of 404 in just six hours on the final day - and achieved it with seven wickets in hand. It stood as the highest successful chase in Test history for almost 40 years.

Cricket Australia on Saturday paid tribute to Morris, who was Australia's 24th captain (he filled in for injured full-time captains), was inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame in 2001 and had been Australia's oldest living player. Morris was the non-striker when Bradman was bowled for a duck by England's Eric Hollies in his final Test Innings, at the end of that 1948 Ashes series.

"We have sadly lost a cherished link with our past," said CA chairman Wally Edwards.

"Arthur Morris was a great man and one of the true greats of Australian cricket who until now had been a treasured connection to an extraordinary era of the game.

"When Australia's best openers are discussed his name will always be one of the first mentioned. An elegant, complete batsman, Arthur peaked in the late 1940s and was the most successful batsman during the series against England that would make him an Invincible."

Edwards offered condolences on behalf of CA to Morris' widow, Judith, and his extended family.

"He will be greatly missed but remembered forever," Edwards said.