

Australia To Tour Hall Called Best W Indies Paceman

GREAT fast bowlers down the years have brought a spectacular flavour into cricket and they have played major parts in winning Test series.

The current Australian season already has been enlivened by the hectic appearance of West Indies meteor Wesley Hall, who had some of Australia's best batsmen reeling in the Australian XI game at Perth.

Everyone now wants to see this 6ft. 2 in. 196-pounder, aged 23, with his swift, 15-stride run to the wicket, his final bounce to the bowling crease, and his aggressive, long follow-through with much action of arms and hands—in triumph, in despair, or merely in doubt.

Hall, a former telegraphist, who now plays League cricket in England, typifies the surging violence of that dynamic race, the fast bowlers.

He is determined, menacing explosive! Wesley Hall is one who has the "killer" instinct highly developed.

'Killer' Boy

He is a "character," as animated off the field as on it. A now familiar sight is lanky Wesley holding the stage, telling yarns in a husky voice strongly accented, while his mates from Barbados listen and burst into laughter.

Hall, deep-chested, with the strong body tapering to a comparatively slender waist—a physical characteristic of some other tall fast bowlers we have known, Keith Miller, for one—flashed into fame in the Tests against England in the West Indies this year.

Three years before, when only 19, he had failed on a tour of England — for one thing he could not gauge his run to the wicket for the correct final bounce.

He would have missed the 1958 tour of India and Pakistan had Frank Worrell not withdrawn from the team.



LINDWALL

By

Tom Goodman

dies fast bowler to have come to Australia.

In 1930-31, volatile all-rounder Learie Constantine, who led the pace battery, was past his prime — his greatest asset then was his fielding. The 1951-52 West Indies fast bowlers, Trim and Jones lacked class.

Great fast bowling pairs have had immense influence, not only in creating spectator appeal, but in putting their cricket country on top.

Aussie 'Big 2'

Since World War I, Australia's two outstanding pairs were near Lindwall and have been Gregory-McDonald and Lindwall-Miller.

Tall, heavy, bounding Jack Gregory actually was produced by World War I for he was little known until he and McDonald wrecked England's batsmen on the tour of England in 1921.

Tasmanian-born Ted McDonald, who had to bowl into the wind on that tour, subsequently played in Lancashire League cricket and for Lancashire County.

In the Red Rose country his name is honoured among the fast bowling "greats of all time." He had a beautiful flowing run and delivery.

Indeed, when one is asked about bowlers who could have served as models for young, fast bowlers, one thinks immediately of McDonald, Harold Larwood, and Ray Lindwall. Freddie Trueman also has a fine action.

Lindwall and Miller came together in Australia's team in the home series in 1946-7, and they were to be partners on three tours of England — in 1948, 1953, and 1956.

They were at their greatest in 1948, until Miller was affected by a back injury.

Miller, who withdrew from big cricket after the 1956 tour, was one of the greatest all-rounders of all time. As a bowler he was amazingly versatile; he worked up surprisingly pace from a comparatively short, catapulting run.

Lindwall Tops

Lindwall stayed in the game to be recalled to the Australian team for the fourth and fifth Tests against England two seasons ago and to tour Pakistan and India last summer.

He has now retired from first-class cricket, but at 39 he still plays club cricket in Brisbane, and in a recent game he scored 100 and took seven wickets.

He lasted much longer than the great fast bowler usually does. Fast bowlers mature quicker than spin bowlers, but they "burn out."

Of all Australian bowlers who have captured 100 wickets in Tests against England, only one was a fast bowler — Ray Lindwall.



STATHAM

In between the McDonald-Gregory and Lindwall-Miller periods came "body-line."

On that hectic 1932-33 tour of Australia, England had three great men of pace — Larwood, Voce, and Allen — though Allen did not share in the fast leg-theory attack, except to support it by some expert close-in catching.

In 1954-55, two fast bowlers of "character" — Frank Tyson and Brian Statham — routed Australia on her own wickets.

Tyson is finished, but Statham still is an English spearhead, with bolsterous Freddie Trueman as his partner.

Two left-handers — first, Bill Johnston and, later, Alan Davidson, supported the Lindwall-Miller combination. Davidson was to develop his speed.

What of the future?

Davidson, now aged 31, has been joined by controversial, fast left-hander Ian Meckiff, aged 25, and the Sydney right-hander with his thunderbolts, Gordon Rorke, aged 22.

Can they supply a pairing eventually to be rated somewhere near Lindwall and Miller?

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...In Pairs

Great fast bowlers often have come in pairs. In this West Indies team, Hall and Chester Watson are complementary. They have similar features — Watson is ebony faced and he, too, is a six-footer.

Watson has a good bowling action and is fairly fast. But he is not as fast as Hall, and, though hostile, he lacks Hall's touch of fury. Still, Watson already this year has proved a good foil for Hall.

The pairing might have been Hall with Roy Gilchrist, had not Gilchrist two years ago so misbehaved that he was ruled out of international tours.

The turbulent Gilchrist is of short stature; yet West Indies players tell me he was as fast as Hall is now, though he could not maintain his pace for as long as Hall does

TRUEMAN

What a pair of "terrors" they must have been when they routed India's batsmen in 1958!

Hall is the best West In-