

THE FOURTH TEST

Every foot of spectator space is taken up at Headingley (the boggy ground of England Test Cricket) as Bradman leads his invincibles on to the field.

England's opening batsmen, Hutton and Washbrook, walk out to a North Country send off. Whatever doubts the selectors may have had about them, Yorkshire and Lancashire confidence in this pair has never been shaken.

Hutton is back in form. He faces Lindwall with supreme confidence. From the outset he shows himself master of the bowling. At the other end Washbrook (in fashion as jaunty as the angle of his cap) sets out to give spectators just what they expect of an England cricketer.

Bradman is forced to experiment. Miller is relieved of the ball; Toshack takes a spell, but the opening pair continue to pile up the runs and Hutton makes his half century.

Washbrook never makes an uncertain stroke. His fifty is reached in classic style.

With the score over one hundred and sixty, Lindwall takes the new ball. His second delivery of the over gets a wicket - Huttons, and the crowd which had hoped to cheer Hutton for a century, swallows its disappointment and gives him the ovation due to an almost faultless score of eighty one, and the highest opening stand against Australia since nineteen thirty eight. Edrich takes over and the partnership and settles down to the bowling in solid and competent style. Washbrook, with sixteen boundaries to his credit, hits his ninety-ninth run. Tension rises as he plays the ball which clocks his century. Bradman leads the applause which recognizes a great player and the fact that England batsmen have found their form at last.