

2-26/201

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BRISBANE - FIRST TEST REPORT:

Len Hutton wins the toss at Brisbane and, believing the pitch to be full of life, puts the Aussies in first. A decision that soon means trouble for England, with Arthur Morris one of the chief trouble-makers. Favell is his opening partner. Speed-man Tyson to Morris.

Tyson again to Morris who, although not in absolute top form, puts the scoreboard to work again. Runs are already coming thick and fast, for the pitch has proved as dead as the dodo, a treat for the batsmen. They run two, but its over the boundary line. Now another blow for England: Denis Compton has fractured a finger while fielding. That makes him more or less a passenger for the rest of the match. Now big hearted Alec Bedser takes over. A no-ball gives Morris a wonderful chance.

Steadily, though not always, too surely, the score mounts. Bedser and Bill Edrich wait for a chance as Statham bowls to Favell. Up goes the ball, and Colin Cowdrey has taken the catch. One wicket down for 51 Last man 23. A nice bit of work by Cowdrey who gets a pat on the back from Statham.

Keith Miller joins Morris. Statham, off-balance, fails to take a hard return. Might have been a chance. Miller is seen in his stride and showing the style that's shattered English hopes so often in the past. Tyson gets his ration of Miller punishment.

Bailey to Miller, and there's a few more runs to swell the Aussies score to 601 for 8 declared. Particularly now that Compton's out of action, that's an almost insurmountable target for the tiring, hard-pressed Englishmen.

