

ONE-CAP WONDER!

Profile of Alec Coxon by Aaron Gales

Alec Coxon, born in Huddersfield in January 1916, was a talented bowler and an outrageous character in a game that sometimes lacks personalities. His consistent performances throughout his career led to a call-up to represent his country – and he took on the great Sir Donald Bradman and the mighty Australian side who at the time were known as ‘The Invincibles’.



All this was a far cry from the beginning of his career which started with stints as a professional in the Bradford League with clubs such as Brighouse. However, it was here that he honed his skills that would eventually lead him on to bigger and better things. This talent was recognised when, after the ending of the Second World War, he was drafted straight into the Yorkshire side where his impact was immediate.

He was part of the side that won the championship when first-class cricket recommenced. However, although there was no doubt that he was a player with something extra, he often got himself into trouble with the controversial nature of his personality. This was never more clearly demonstrated than after the end of the 1950 cricket season when, after taking 131 wickets, he left Yorkshire acrimoniously. Nobody ever really knew whether he walked away or was sacked but without doubt he fell out with somebody in high places, resulting in him signing for Sunderland, and in doing so becoming the first £1,000 player in the Durham Senior League.

The player's England career was all too brief, taking in only one Test match. He bowled well taking three key wickets, almost snaring the great Donald Bradman and completing 60 overs extremely economically. Many observers felt he was worth far more than the one cap that he earned, and

deserved better than to be dropped after a solitary game. Some believed that his irascible nature, which didn't endear him to selection committees, may have cost him more caps.

One cap or a hundred, though, there is little doubt that Alec Coxon cemented his place in the history of English cricket.