Mohammed, also scored a match saving 337 in the opening test in the longest innings in test history. Sobers record was again broken by Brian Lara, when he made 375 in his slaughter of the England attack, during their tour of the West Indies in 1994.

Other record-breakers who have challenged Bradman's record, include Sunil Gavaskar, who went on to break the record of 29 centuries scored by the Don, but took many more tests than the Don to attain this record, with a test average that does not exceed 60. Sachin Tendulkar, who now holds the record of 47 test centuries, and may well cross the half century mark before he hangs up his bat, also took a rather long time to attain his record with a test average which, though higher than Gavaskar's, is still below 60.

Contemporary cricketers get to play many more tests and innings than did Bradman during his test career, even though the calendar span of their career may be the same. This owes in part to the larger number of countries playing test cricket today and the much greater frequency of the various test series around the world. Bradman, in his day, primarily played his test cricket against England, with the odd series played against the West Indies and South Africa and the rest. In such circumstances Bradman, could accumulate his centuries with greater frequency as measured by the number of innings played, than any of the major batsmen I have cited above, and could do so at a much higher average score per innings.

So wherein lies the challenge to Bradman's record? In looking through the test record of these great batsmen, it may be argued that the quality of the bowlers faced by Bradman, was significantly weaker than those faced by the contemporary greats. During his test career, Bradman, faced only one bowler, who could be rated among the all time greats and that was the England and Nottinghamshire, fast bowler, Harold Larwood. Reportedly Larwood could bowl over 100 mph, a pace which was only matched by the Australian fast bowler, Jeff Thompson, Frank Tyson an English test bowler in the mid-1950s, Brett Lee, and a few others, including Shoaib Akhtar of Pakistan, who occasionally cross the 100 mph mark. But this century in speed was rarely attained amongst even the really fast bowlers such as Hall, Lillee, Roberts, Holding, Marshall, Wasim, or Waqar.

Bradman, scored a record breaking number of test runs in the 1930 test series in England, off Larwood, who was then supported by the aging Maurice Tate, the dominant medium fast pace bowler of the 1920s. To cope with the Bradman phenomenon, Douglas Jardine, the captain of the England team to Australia, for the 1932-33 series, introduced what came to be known as "leg theory" backed by "bodyline" bowling.

With Larwood at the centre of an otherwise mediocre pace bowling attack, composed of fast medium or medium fast bowlers such as Bill Voce, Bill Bowes, and G.O. Allen, at a given signal, in the first test match, Jardine switched his entire field to the leg side, with I think, just one player on the offside. The fast bowlers were then asked to bowl fast down the leg side, with the rising ball targeted at body level, hence the term "bodyline."

To face Larwood, bowling at close to 100 mph, targeting the body, with a packed leg side field, was a life-threatening proposition. Using such tactics, even a moderately fast attack led by Voce or Bowes who were not particularly quick, could be dangerous. Faced with this bodyline tactic, Bradman still managed an average of around 50 in the 1932-33 test series. But he hit only one century, a score of 102 in the second test and carried many bruises on his body. Lesser batsmen could hardly face this attack using leg theory and some suffered serious injury.

England eventually won the series 3-1, their only series victory over Australia until 1953, 5 years after Bradmam had retired. But the bodyline tactic aroused the entire Australia nation to great fury and even threatened diplomatic relations. Eventually, bodyline, leg theory bowling was banned by the then Cricket Council. The series all but ended the test career of Larwood and Jardine, though the latter, a supercilious upper class Englishman, appeared to have few regrets and believed that wining the test series justified his tactics.

Whether Bradman would have dealt with Larwood, sans bodyline and leg theory, had he to face him through the decade of the 1930s and continued to score centuries, remains a matter of speculation. Obviously, on the hard Australian pitches compared to the green English pitches, Larwood, who was not only fast but accurate, would have been a formidable opponent even for Bradman. But the Don was spared this hazard and through the rest of his career, mostly batting against England, he faced quite nondescript pace attacks none of whom could be called fast, and until he faced Alec Bedser, between 1946-48, were not even particularly good pace bowlers.

It was reported that in a single series against the West Indies in Australia in 1930-31, Bradman