was given an uncomfortable time by Francis, who was, at best, fast medium, and the all rounder Learie Constantine, who was not much more than medium fast but could bowl some serious bouncers. Bradman however, did score two centuries against the West Indies in that series, which was matched by the famous George Headly, then known as the Black Bradman, who also scored two centuries for the West Indies in the test series.

At the end of the day, none of the pace bowlers faced by Bradman during his career were, in any way, comparable to the formidable fast bowlers of the post-war era. Even in Sheffield Shield cricket the Don faced few pace bowlers of quality since the Australian pace attack, led by the likes of McCormick and Tim Wall, were even more feeble than the English attack.

The only taste Bradman had of facing a genuine pace attack, was in the post-war era, in Sheffield Shield cricket, when his team, South Australia played New South Wales where Bradman had to cope with Keith Miller's fiery bowling or Queensland, where he had to deal with the even more formidable pace bowling of Ray Lindwall. Fortunately for Bradman, he never had to face these two as an opening pair in the cauldron of a test match.

In the area of spin bowling, again, at the test level, Bradman faced few bowlers of quality. England's leading spin bowler, in the 1930s was the Yorkshireman, Hedley Verity, a left arm spinner, in the style of Underwood. But few would put Verity in the class of Underwood, Locke, or Bedi. Verity's only claim to fame was to once catch Australia on a famous English sticky wicket where he won the test for England with a haul of 15 wicket. But in Australia, Verity's record was poor.

Other England spin bowlers such as Peebles, or in the post-war era, D.V.P. Wright, the Kent leg spinner, Eric Hollies or Peter Smith, were quite forgettable tradesmen, who retired unsung. The best spin bowlers of the Bradman, era, C.W. Grimmet and Bill O'Reilly were, fortunately for Bradman, Australian, who could only bowl to Bradman in domestic cricket, on the relatively inhospitable Australian pitches which hardly favoured spinners. Had Bradman regularly faced these two wizards on English pitches, it would have tested all his skills.

Sunil Gavaskar: The Giant Killer

In contrast to Bradman, let us look at the bowlers faced by Sunil Gavaskar, when he went on to score his record number of test centuries. Gavaskar, a puny man, was a giant among opening batsmen who faced up to some of the most lethal fast bowlers of all time, mostly without the benefit of the protective gear available to openers today.

He began his career in 1971 with three centuries and a double century against the West Indies, on their home ground, which gave him an average of 124 and India its first series victory over the West Indies, then led by Sobers. In the course of his test career in the 1970s and early 1980s Gavaskar, faced the formidable West Indies attack which initially consisted of Andy Roberts, Michael Holding, Joel Garner and Colin Croft.

In the beginning of the 1980s Croft was replaced by the even more formidable, Malcolm Marshall. This West Indian attack, who between them provided not a moment of respite to any batting order, was perhaps the most formidable bowling attack every assembled in cricket history. During his test career Gavaskar scored 8 centuries and 2 double centuries against the formidable West Indies, a record unmatched by any of his contemporaries.

Gavaskar was no less effective against other attacks. The then Australia attack, which Gavaskar faced in the 1970s led by Lillee and Thompson, was as deadly as the West Indian quartet but then there were just two of them. At

