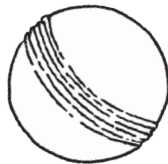


THE 
AMAZING
 PAT 
 CUMMINS

Chris Maher

Illustrated by
Jules Faber

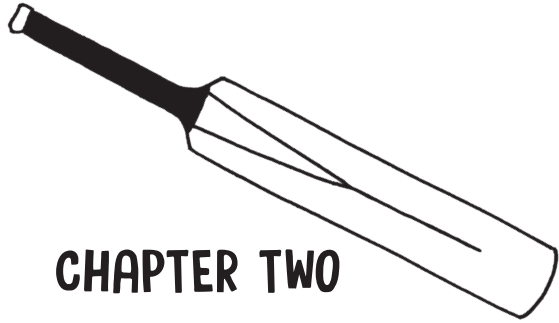


WELBECK



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CHAPTER TWO

A MOUNTAIN BOY

Pat Cummins grew up in the small town of Mount Riverview at the foot of the Blue Mountains, with his parents, two brothers and two sisters.

One day, when he was only four year's old, he rushed home from preschool with a great prize: four bags of lollies – one for each of his siblings.

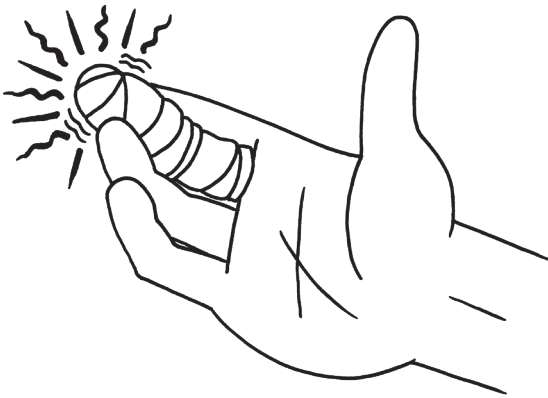
He was so excited he opened the bathroom door to show his younger sister the lollies he had for her. She wasn't happy he'd opened the door so she slammed it shut.

Only – she slammed it on his hand!

OUCH!

The door chopped off the end his finger!

ARGHHHH!

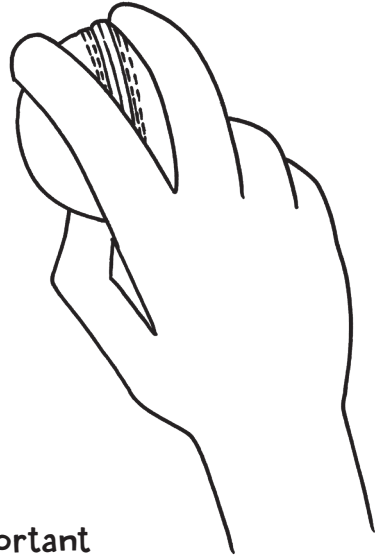


It was an accident – his sister certainly didn't mean to do it. But it hurt just the same.

Pat grew up missing the end of his middle finger and his nail. That might be annoying for most people, but for a fast bowler that digit is crucial. The tip of the middle finger is the last thing to touch the ball before it leaves a fast bowler's hand.

That finger can determine what the ball is going to do.

Luckily the missing end of Pat's finger never affected his bowling. Or if it did, it only made it better! Instead of the middle finger being the last finger to touch the ball, it's his index finger. Pat has said that may make his natural ball more of an inswinger than an outswinger.



So why is it so important to swing the ball?

Bowlers who can swing the ball tend to get more wickets, because the batter has trouble working out where the ball is going. Sometimes the ball moves just enough to miss the middle of the bat and it snicks the edge, and they get caught.