

Chapter: 1

My First Steps

Summary

Sunil Gavaskar was born on 10, July 1949. When Sunil Gavaskar was born in a hospital nurses misplaced the new born with another mother, i.e., the wife of a fisherman in the same ward. In his place, the nurses led the fisherman's baby.

It could have led to a big misfortune but a relative of the Gavaskar family Mr. Narayan Masurekar formed out of the mistake because he had noticed a tiny hole on Gavaskar's left ear lobe.

Gavaskar wonders what could have become the fate of the two babies if the real was not discovered. Would the fisherman bring him up like a cricketer? What could his own parents have done with the fisherman's baby?

Gavaskar remembers another incident. His mother used to bowl to him in the small gallery of their house where they played their 'daily match' with a tennis ball.

Since the area was small his mother would heel to bowl or rather let the ball to him. Once he laid one straight back and caught her bend on the nose, which started bleeding.

Although it was a tennis ball, the distance between the two of us was very short which accounts for the force with which the ball hit her.

Gavaskar was frightened but his mother shrugged his pain off, washed her face and as the bleeding stopped, she continued the game.

Gavaskar's father was a good club cricketer in his days and a keen student of the game.

Gavaskar's uncle, Madhav Mantri, played for India in four official test, though not very successfully.

Whenever he went to his uncle's house his favourite pastime used to be take out his uncle's pullovers and caress them with a sense of longing.

His uncle once told him that one has to sweat and earn the Indian colours and work hard to earn the distinction. It was a lesson that Gavaskar learnt from his uncle.

Right from beginning, Gavaskar wanted to become a batsman and hated losing wickets.

This became such an obsession with his bat, that if the rest of the boys got him out, he would fight and eventually walk home with the bat and the ball. This would bring the game to an abrupt end since nobody else had a ball and a bat.

The boys cursed him names, but the tension did not last long and the boys got on very well.