ANALYSIS OF BATTING PERFORMANCE OF CRICKET PLAYERS IN INDIA IN TEST MATCHES

MAHESHA.B.R[1] & Dr.VICTOR DHANRAJ[2]

[1]P.hD. Research Scholar, Physical Director Visveswarpura College of Arts & Science, Bangalore, Karnataka, India.
[2]Research Supervisor, Physical Director Voorhees College & VIT University, Tamilnadu, India.

Abstract

Batting is the act or skill of hitting the cricket ball with a cricket bat to score runs or prevent the loss of one's wicket. The aim of this study was to make an analysis of batting performance of cricket players in India in International level test matches. Performances of top ten batsmen based on the number of runs taken by the batsmen were considered for this study. Indian cricket batsmen top 10 played at International level Test Matches were analysed with statistical tools percentage played to innings, percentage of innings not out, balls faced per innings, run rate per innings, percentage of innings to 100s scored, percentage of innings 5o 50s scored, percentage of innings to 4s scored and percentage of innings to 6s score. The analysis of batting performances of cricket players in India in test matches, they were best in international test matches. It was concluded that the top batmen of Indian Cricket players were fairly better and their performances at international test matches deserves commendation.

Keywords: Indian Batsmen, Batting Performance, International Test Matches.

INTRODUCTION

India was invited to The Imperial Cricket Council in 1926, and made their debut as a Test playing nation in England in 1932, led by CK Nayudu, who was considered as the best Indian batsman at the time. The one-off Test match between the two sides was played at Lord's in London. The team was not strong in their batting at this point and went on to lose by 158 runs. In 1933, the first Test series in India was played between India and England with matches in Bombay, Calcutta (now Kolkata) and Madras (now Chennai). England won the series 2–0. The Indian team continued to improve throughout the 1930s and '40s but did not achieve an international victory during this period. In the early 1940s, India didn't play any Test cricket due to the Second World War. The team's first series as an independent country was in late 1947 against Sir Donald Bradman's Invincibles (a name given to the Australia national cricket team of that time). It was also the first Test series India played which was not against England. Australia won the five match series 4–0, with Bradman tormenting the Indian bowling in his final Australian summer India subsequently played their first Test series at home not against England against the West Indies in 1948. West Indies won the 5-Test series 1–0 (Cricinfo, 1948).

India recorded their first Test victory, in their 24th match, against England at Madras in 1952. Later in the same year, they won their first Test series, which was against Pakistan. They continued their improvement throughout the early 1950s with a series win against New Zealand in 1956. However, they did not win again in the remainder of the decade and lost badly to strong Australian and English sides. On 24 August 1959, India lost by an innings in the Test to complete the only 5–0 whitewash ever inflicted by England. The next decade saw India's reputation develop as a team with a strong record at home. They won their first Test series against England at home in 1961–62 and also won a home series against New Zealand. They managed to draw home series against Pakistan and Australia and another series against England. In this same period, India also won its first series outside the subcontinent, against New Zealand in 1967–68. Batting is the act or skill of hitting the cricket ball with a cricket bat to score runs or prevent the loss of one's wicket. Any player who is currently batting is denoted as a batsman, regardless of their particular area of expertise. Batsmen have to adapt to various conditions when playing on different cricket pitches, especially in different countries: therefore, as well as having outstanding physical batting skills, top-level batsmen will have lightning reflexes, excellent decision-making and be good strategists.

During an innings two members of the batting side are on the pitch at any time: the one facing the current delivery from the bowler is denoted the striker, while the other is the non-striker. When a batsman is out, he is replaced by a teammate. This continues until the end of the innings or until 10 of the team members are out, where upon the other team gets a turn to bat. Batting tactics and strategy vary depending on the type of match being played as well as the current state of play. The main concerns for the batsmen are not to lose their wicket and to score as many runs as quickly as possible.

These objectives generally conflict – to score quickly, risky shots must be played, increasing the chance that the batsman will be dismissed, while the batsman's safest choice with a careful wicket-guarding stroke may be not to attempt any runs at all. Depending on the situation, batsmen may forget attempts at run-scoring in an effort to preserve their wicket, or may attempt to score runs as quickly as possible with scant concern for the possibility of being dismissed.

As with all other cricket statistics, batting statistics and records are given much attention and provide a measure of a player's effectiveness. The main statistic for batting is a player's batting average. Thus, the fundamental aim of each batsman is to find a means of safely scoring runs against each bowler he faces. To do this, the batsman must take into consideration the bowler's strategy, the position of the fielders, the pitch conditions, and his own strengths and weaknesses. The strategy he will decide on will incorporate a number of preconceived attacking responses to the various deliveries he may anticipate receiving, designed specifically to score runs with minimal risk of being dismissed. The success of this strategy will be dependent upon both the accuracy of its conception and the technical ability with which it is carried out. The level of aggression of his strategy will be informed by the target run rate and the calculated risk of losing his wicket, which will be dependent upon the match situation. As such, strategies vary between the three forms of international cricket, T20, Test cricket and One Day International cricket. This paper is to make an analysis on batting performance of cricket players in India in Test matches. To achieve the purpose the investigator delimited the study to the following

1. Only cricket players who were considered as batsmen at International level Test Matches were considered for this study.
2. Performances of top ten batsmen based on the number of runs taken by the batsmen were considered for this study.
3. The study considered the secondary data available in internet resources as on 10th February, 2018 were taken for consideration.
4. For further study of Indian cricket batsmen top 10 played at International level Test Matches, the following were calculated and compared:
   a) Percentage of top 10 Indian batsmen played matches to innings played.
   b) Percentage of Innings to Not out
   c) Balls faced per innings.
   d) Run rate per innings.
   e) Percentage of innings to 100s scored
   f) Percentage of innings to 50s scored
   g) Percentage of innings to 4s scored
   h) Percentage of innings to 6s scored

METHODOLOGY

In order to analyse the performance of Indian cricket players in International Test matches, data on current batsmen numbering 23 were collected. Among the 23, 4 were not batted during 2018 and 1 was not batted during 2017 and 2018. Based on the runs scored, top 10 batsmen who played in International Test matches were considered for this study. Table I shows the descriptive statistics for 10 Indian cricket players who topped based on their runs.

TABLE I
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS SHOWING TOP 10 BATSMEN OF INDIAN CRICKETERS IN TEST MATCHES

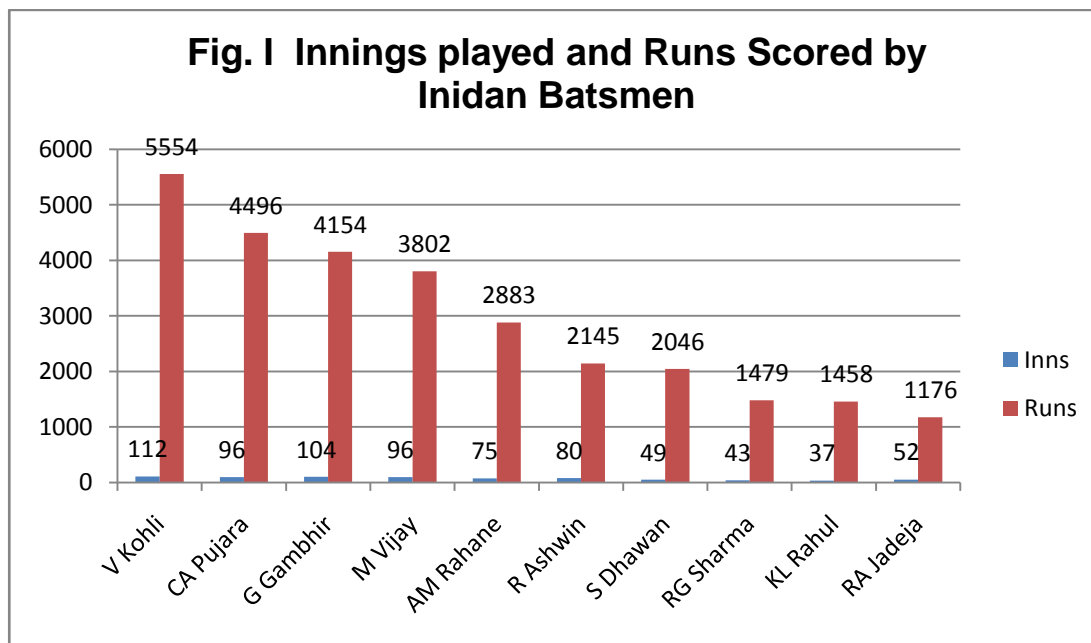| Player	Span	Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	BF	SR	100	50	0	4s	6s
V Kohli	2011-2018	66	112	8	5554	243	53.4	9532	58.26	21	16	6	618	17
CA Pujara	2010-2018	57	96	7	4496	206*	50.51	9475	47.45	14	17	4	533	9
G Gambhir	2004-2016	58	104	5	4154	206	41.95	8067	51.49	9	22	7	518	10
M Vijay	2008-2018	56	96	1	3802	167	40.02	8219	46.25	11	15	5	444	32
AM Rahane	2013-2018	44	75	9	2883	188	43.68	5465	52.75	9	12	5	330	23
R Ashwin	2011-2018	57	80	10	2145	124	30.64	3900	55	4	11	3	240	13
S Dhawan	2013-2018	29	49	1	2046	190	42.62	3070	66.64	6	5	4	274	9
RG Sharma	2013-2018	25	43	6	1479	177	39.97	2682	55.14	3	9	4	144	29
KL Rahul	2014-2018	23	37	1	1458	199	40.5	2584	56.42	4	10	3	167	11
RA Jadeja	2012-2017	35	52	12	1176	90	29.4	1809	65	0	8	3	121	32

Mat: Match Inns: Innings; NO: Not out; HS: High Score, Ave: Average, BF: Balls Faced, SR: Strike Rate.

Runs scored by the top 10 batsmen of India ranges from 1176 to 5554 runs played in 35 to 66 test matches. The highest score of Indian batsmen ranged from 90 to 243 with average scores ranging from 29.4 to 53.4 runs. Gambhir, who played for 13 years, did not batted during the year 2017 and 2018 while Jadeja

played for the country 6 years was not batted during the year 2018. The names of the batsmen and their run scores were graphically presented in Figure I for better understanding of the results.

Fig. I Innings played and Runs Scored by Inidan Batsmen

The results were further analysed to find out Percentage of Innings to Not out, Balls faced per innings, Run rate per innings, Percentage of innings to 100s scored, Percentage of innings to 50s scored, Percentage of innings to 4s scored and Percentage of innings to 6s scored, which enabled the investigator to compare the tope level batsmen on their performances.

TABLE II
ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE OF 10 TOP BATSMEN OF INDIA

Player	Span	Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	% of Inns	% NO	Ave BF per inn	RRBF	%100	%50	4s Ave Inn	6s Ave Inn
V Kohli	2011-2018	66	112	8	5554	58.93	7.14	85.11	0.58	18.75	14.29	5.52	0.15
CA Pujara	2010-2018	57	96	7	4496	59.38	7.29	98.70	0.47	14.58	17.71	5.55	0.09
G Gambhir	2004-2016	58	104	5	4154	55.77	4.81	77.57	0.51	8.65	21.15	4.98	0.10
M Vijay	2008-2018	56	96	1	3802	58.33	1.04	85.61	0.46	11.46	15.63	4.63	0.33
AM Rahane	2013-2018	44	75	9	2883	58.67	12.00	72.87	0.53	12.00	16.00	4.40	0.31
R Ashwin	2011-2018	57	80	10	2145	71.25	12.50	48.75	0.55	5.00	13.75	3.00	0.16
S Dhawan	2013-2018	29	49	1	2046	59.18	2.04	62.65	0.67	12.24	10.20	5.59	0.18
RG Sharma	2013-2018	25	43	6	1479	58.14	13.95	62.37	0.55	6.98	20.93	3.35	0.67
KL Rahul	2014-2018	23	37	1	1458	62.16	2.70	69.84	0.56	10.81	27.03	4.51	0.30
RA Jadeja	2012-2017	35	52	12	1176	67.31	23.08	34.79	0.65	0.00	15.38	2.33	0.62

Mat: Match Inns: Innings; NO: Not out; HS: High Score, Ave: Average, BF: Balls Faced, SR: Strike Rate.

In order to compare the batting performance of top 10 batsmen, run rate of balls faced by each player was calculated and presented in Table 4.4. The results showed that the average balls faced by batsmen ranged from 34.79 to 98.70 and run rate per each ball faced ranges from 0.46 scored by Vijay and 0.67 scored by Dhavan. The percentage of 100 scored per innings ranged from 0.0 to 18.75. The highest percentage is by Kohli followed by Pujara with 14.58. The percentage of 50 scored per innings ranged from 10.20 to 27.03, the lowest scored by Dhawan and highest by Rahul.

CONCLUSION

It was concluded the top batmen of Indian

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Cricket players were fairly better and their performances at international test matches deserves commendation.

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