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A comparative analysis between the batting performances of the Indian and foreign batters in the Indian premier league: A study based on empirical evidences

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Abstract

Indian Premier League, IPL, the league that revolutionized the Indian sports by combining cricket with entertainment, was introduced in 2008. The multibillion dollar league not only attracts the fans for its competitive nature, but also for its product extensions in the forms of break time entertainment, hospitality, food and beverage, contact people etc. The sponsorship, broadcasting and other commercial rights of the league are sold at high values, making the league and its teams financially profitable. It also provides an opportunity to the cricket fans of India to witness the cricketing prowess of Indian and foreign batters. Thus, it is important to analyse the areas where Indian batters outperform the foreign batters and the areas where the foreign batters excel. The objective of the study is to examine the batting performances of Indian and foreign batters in IPL from 2008 to 2022. After the critical analysis, the study concludes that in terms of batting strike rate, in the top ten, nine are foreign batters and only one is Indian. The foreign batters also outperform the Indian batters in terms of batting average. If over boundaries are considered, in the top ten, five are Indian batters and five are foreigners. It is also important to note that the top two big hitters in the IPL are foreigners. However, the Indian batters performed well in terms of fifties, scoring boundaries and most runs scored in an IPL season. The foreign batters have outperformed the Indian batters in highest individual score in a single innings during the period mentioned above.

Keywords: IPL, Indian, Indian premier league, batters, foreign, performance

Introduction

Cricket is considered as the religion in India, not just as a game ^[1]. Cricketers are regarded as the icons of the society who play an important role in motivating the citizens of the country ^[2]. The introduction of IPL has enhanced the popularity of cricket in India ^[3]. IPL is a twenty- 20 format of the game which was started by the English and Wales Cricket Board in 2003 in the inter-county competition ^[4]. IPL took the T20 format of the game to the next level by combining cricket with entertainment. In present situation cricket is not just a sports. It became a full package of sports and entertainment and thus a new terminology has evolved in the Sports service Industry, ‘‘Sportainment’’. Now the Indian Premier League (IPL) is the most prominent sports tournament which makes business combining cricket and entertainment ^[5].

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) ^[6] introduced the IPL in April 2008 following the formats of the English Premier League (EPL) ^[7] and the National Basketball Association (NBA) ^[8]. IPL is the perfect example of how to monetize a sports property for the financial sustainability of the league as well as the franchisees participating in it.

The popularity of IPL attracts the sponsors, broadcasters and the commercial partners to associate with it. This franchisee-based league ^[9] generates its revenue by selling the sponsorship rights, broadcasting rights and other commercial rights. A part of this revenue is retained by the organizers of the league, while the remaining part of the revenue is distributed among the participating teams for making them sustainable. On the other hand, the teams generate their revenue by selling the sponsorship rights of the teams, gate revenue, merchandizing etc. This financial model is adopted from the EPL and NBA that helps the league and the teams to ensure the long term viability.

A number of researches have already been conducted on different aspects of IPL, including the performance and business aspects, but, still there is a gap in comparing the batting performances of Indian and foreign batters. This study, which is focused on comparing the batting performances of Indian and foreign batters, will highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the batters of these two groups.

Objective of the study

The objective of the study is to critically examine and compare the batting performances of Indian and foreign batters highlighting the areas where the Indian batters outperformed the foreign batters and the areas where the foreign batters excelled.

Methodology

This is a descriptive research based on the secondary data collected from various sources, such as the publications of the IPL, BCCI and the franchisees, from sports websites,

newspapers, magazines, past literatures etc. The statistical information, available in these publications, has taken into consideration for making the study more comprehensive.

The following parameters are considered for evaluating the batting performances:

1. Batting Strike Rate
2. Batting Average
3. Most Sixes
4. Most Boundaries
5. Half Centuries
6. Most Centuries
7. Highest Individual Scores
8. Most Runs

Analysis and Findings

Batting strike rate is considered to be an important parameter to evaluate the batting performance, especially in limited-over cricket. Fig. 1 represents the best batting strike rates of the Indian and foreign batters between 2008 and 2022.

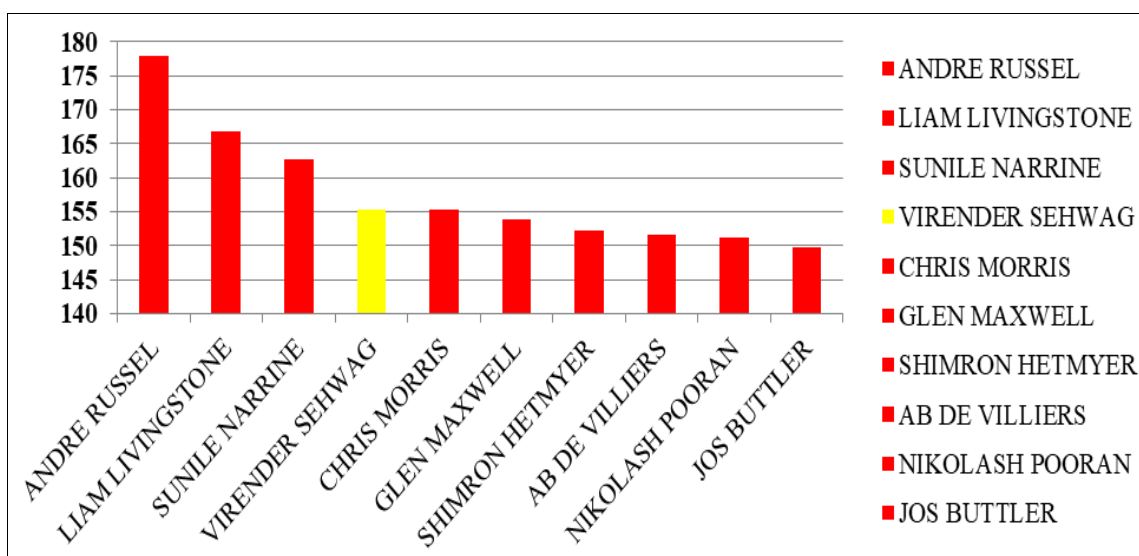


Fig 1: Best batting strike rates of the Indian and foreign batters in the IPL (2008-2022)

From Fig. 1, it is evident that the foreign players have better strike rates than the Indian players. In the top ten, there are nine foreign players and only one Indian player. Dhali *et al.*, Ghosh *et al.* and Utthasani *et al.*, in their studies, also proved that the foreign batters have better strike rates than their

Indian counterparts in IPL [10-12]. Andre Russel, the West Indian all-rounder, topped the list, while Virender Sehwag was the only Indian in the list.

Batting average is another important indicator that shows the consistency of the batters.

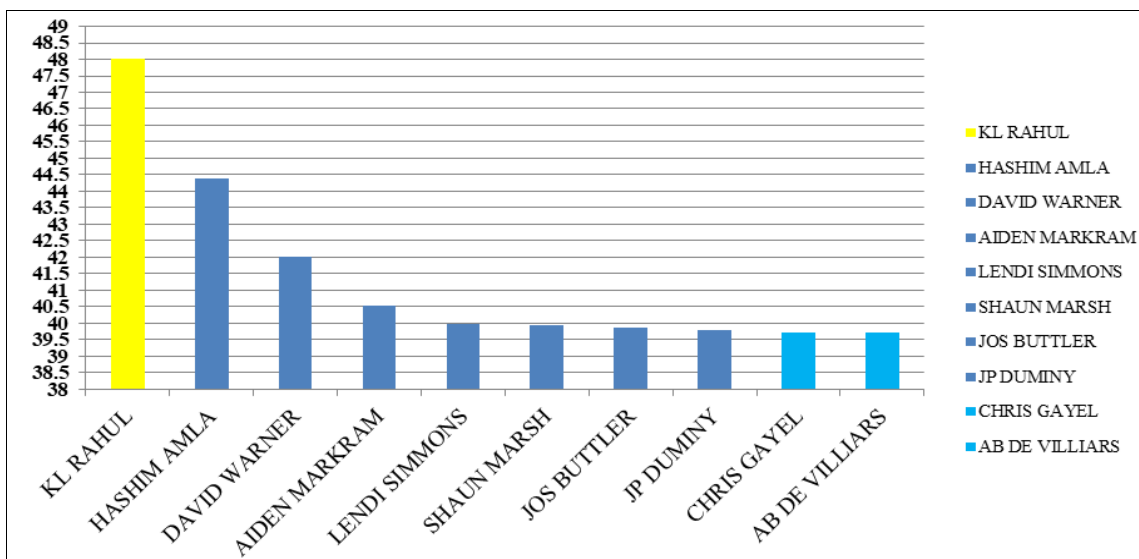


Fig 2: Highest batting averages of Indian and foreign batsmen in the IPL (2008-2022)

Fig. 2 represents the top ten highest batting averages of the better in the IPL. From fig. 2, it is evident that out of the top ten batters with highest batting averages in the IPL from 2008 to 2022, nine are foreigners and only one is Indian. It is

important to note that in the above mentioned period, K.L. Rahul is the batter with highest batting average in the IPL. IPL is a limited-over format of cricket in which every batter tries to hit over boundaries to score quickly.

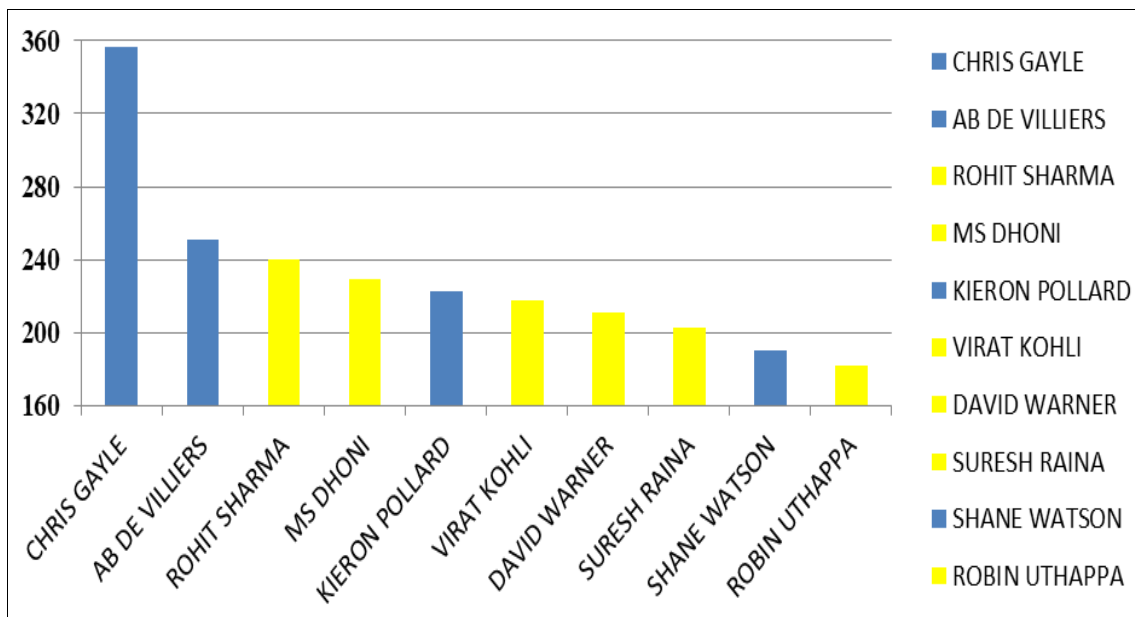


Fig 3: Most over boundaries scored by the Indian and foreign batters in the IPL (2008-2022)

Fig. 3 represents the top ten batters in the IPL from 2008 to 2022 with maximum number of over boundaries. This list of top ten is equally divided between the Indian and the foreign batters. From fig. 3, it may also be said that Chris Gayle, till date, has scored maximum number of over boundaries in the

IPL during this period. Among the Indian batters, Rohit Sharma scored the maximum sixes. Scoring half centuries may be considered as another important parameter of a batter based on which the performance of the batter can be evaluated.

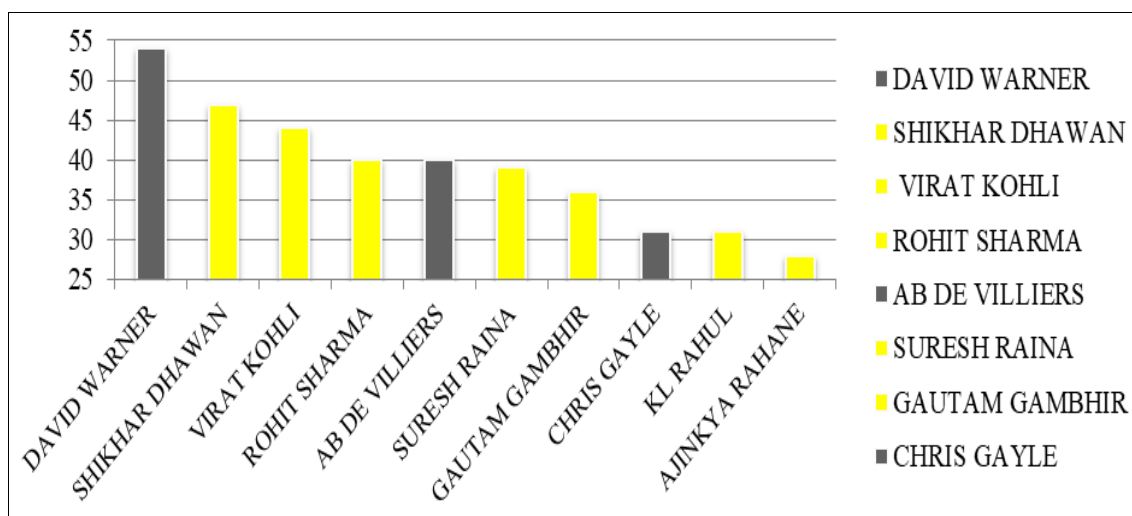


Fig 4: Most half centuries scored by the Indian and foreign batters in the IPL (2008-2022)

From fig. 4, it can be observed that the Indian batters outperformed the foreign batters in IPL in the time duration mentioned above in terms of scoring half centuries. In this list of top ten, 70% are the Indian batters, while 30% are the foreign batters. Till 2022, David Warner is the foreign batter

who scored maximum number of half centuries, while Shikhar Dhawan is the Indian batters who scored the maximum number of half centuries among the Indians and placed second in the list after David Warner.

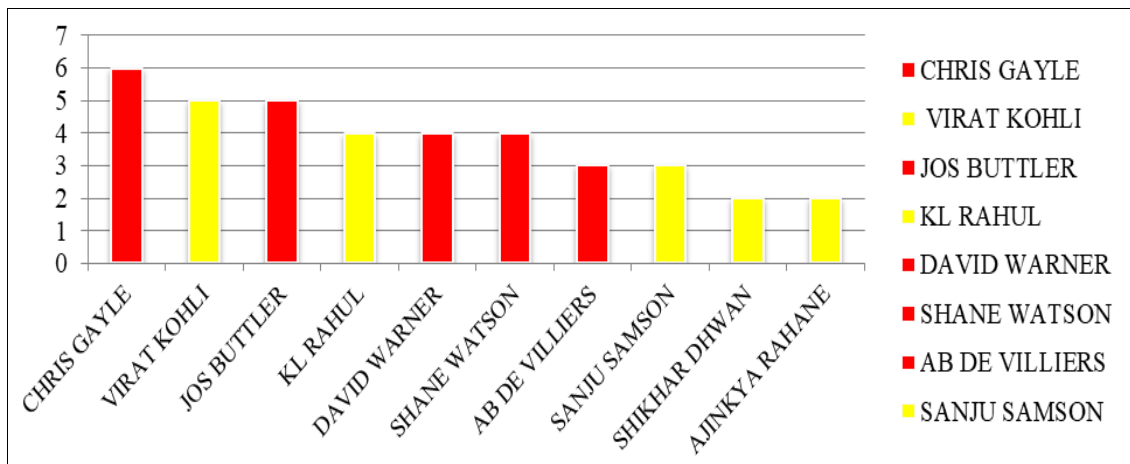


Fig 5: Most Centuries scored by the Indian and Foreign Batters in the IPL (2008-2022)

Fig. 5 represents most number of centuries scored by the Indian and the foreign batters between the period of 2008 and 2022. The following fig. shows that out of the top ten batters

with most number of centuries, 50% are Indians and 50% are foreigners. Chris Gayle scored maximum number of centuries during this period.

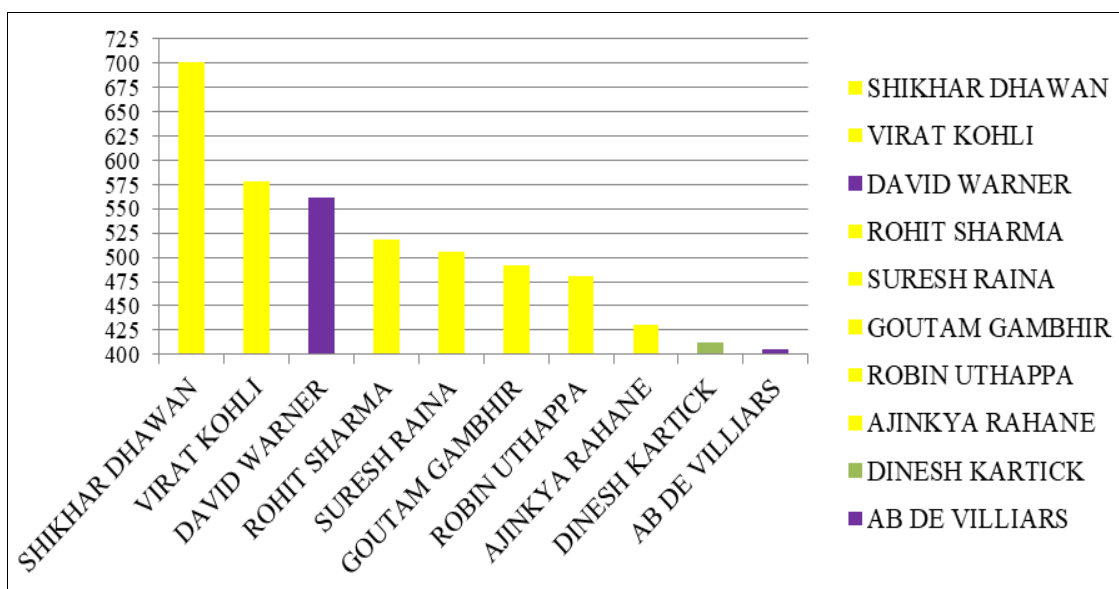


Fig 6: Maximum number of boundaries scored by an Indian and Foreign Batters in the IPL (2008-2022)

IPL is the short version of cricket where often the batters try to score boundaries and over boundaries. Fig. 6 represents the batters who scored maximum number of boundaries during the period of study. It is evident from the fig. that Sikhar

Dhawan scored maximum number of boundaries during this period and he is followed by Virat Kohli and David Warner respectively.

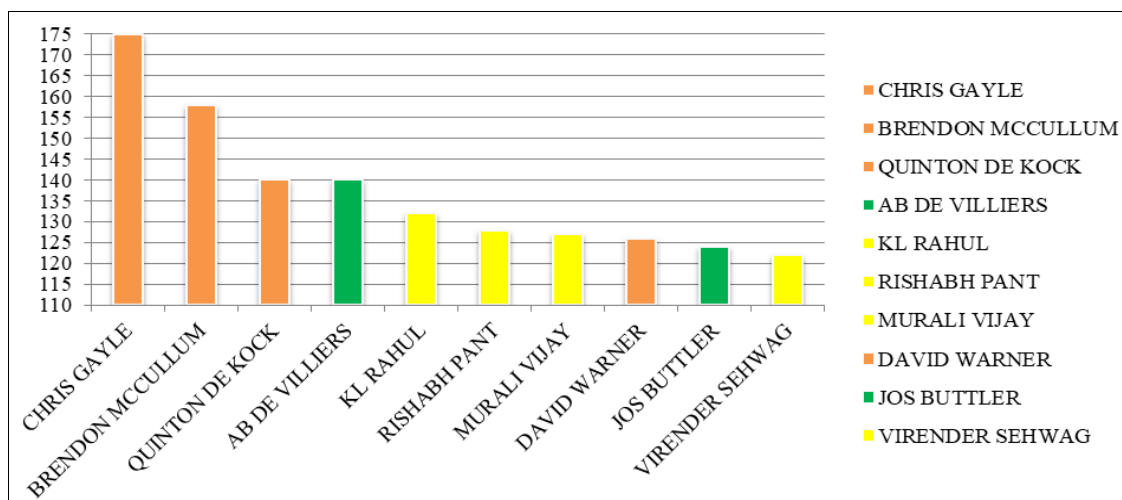


Fig 7: Highest individual score of Indian and Foreign Batsman in Indian Premier League (2008-2022)

Fig. 7 considers the highest individual score by the Indian and the foreign batters in the IPL from 2008 to 2022. Out of the

top ten batters in this parameter, 60% are foreigners and 40% are Indians.

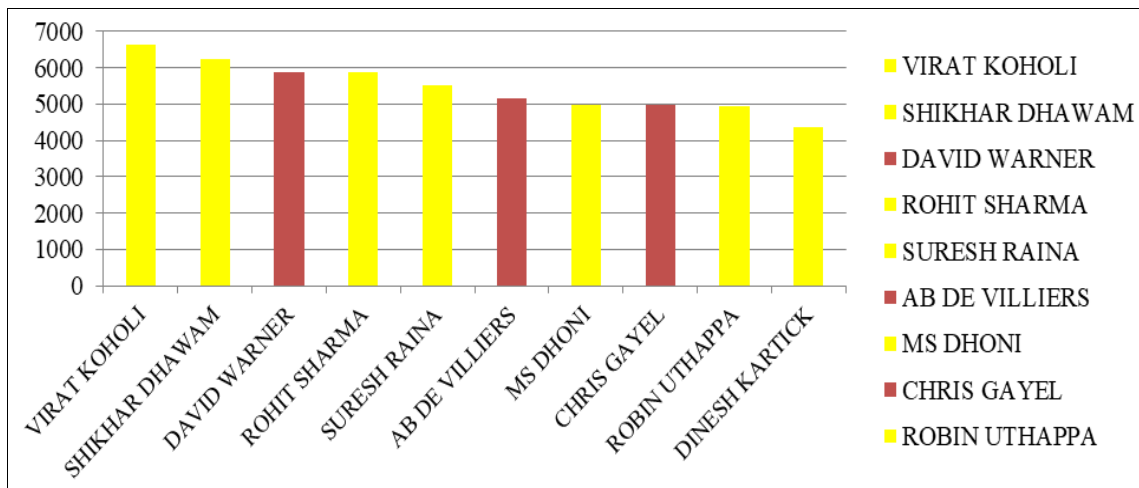


Fig 8: Most runs scored by the Indian and foreign batters in the IPL (2008-2020)

Fig. 8 represents most runs scored by the Indian and the foreign batters in the IPL between 2008 and 2022 and from the fig., it can be observed that Virat Kohli is the top scorer in the IPL till 2022. In this category, out of the top ten, 70% are Indians and 30% are the foreigners.

Conclusion

This study clearly reveals that the foreign batters are more aggressive in terms of scoring over boundaries which is a must for the success in IPL. They are ahead of the Indian batters in terms of strike rate, batting average and highest individual score in a single inning. However, Indian batters are ahead of the foreign batters in terms of hitting boundaries, half centuries and most runs scored in IPL.

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