

END OF OVER: 20 | 16 Runs 1 Wkt | RPS: 163/6 | RR: 8.15

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| MK Tiwary | 40 (23b) | Sandeep Sharma | 4-0-33-2 |
| R Bhatia | 0 (0b) | MM Sharma | 4-0-34-0 |
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5.43pm Pune have made 19 more than par on this pitch, and equaled their first innings average in the IPL. That could finally mean something different for them - they've never won batting first. This pitch is not easy and this is a good chance of overturning that record. The ball sat in the pitch during the middle overs, and Manoj Tiwary says it is two-paced. He's a good authority on this pitch - a fantastic innings. Strike-rate of above 170 in an innings that only consisted of five boundaries. He played two dot balls.

Stokes, though, has made the kind of mark the world has come to expect of him in recent times. A fifty off 32 deliveries when his team was in trouble. Together, they've set this up nicely. Be back soon.

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| 19.6 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Tiwary, 1 run, yorker outside off stump, can only squeeze this down the |
|  | ground to Maxwell at long-on, who is onto it quickly and throws it on the bounce to the | |
|  |  | keeper's end to keep it down to one |
|  |  |  |
| 19.5 | W | Sandeep Sharma to Christian, OUT, oh good catch. This is overpitched at off stump, |
|  | Christian will back himself to hit this out of the park any day. On this occassion, he gets the | |
|  |  | bottom of the bat. It loops in front of Maxwell at long-on, but he watches it closely and moves |
|  |  | down with it to catch it inches off the floor |
|  |  | DT Christian c Maxwell b Sandeep Sharma 17 (11m 8b 2x4 1x6) SR: 212.50 |
|  |  |  |
| 19.4 | 6 | Sandeep Sharma to Christian, SIX, ...and goes short. And wide. Outside off. Sits up for |
|  | Christian who walks across ever so slightly and pulls this well in front of square and over the | |
|  |  | boundary |
| goes over the wicket | | |
|  |  |  |
| 19.3 | 4 | Sandeep Sharma to Christian, FOUR, more in the slot this time. Waiting for the low full toss |
|  | at leg stump, gets it, lifts it over the keeper | |
| 19.2 | 4 | Sandeep Sharma to Christian, FOUR, nicely improvised. He wants to paddle, but this one |
|  | is full and wide outside leg and he has to reach for it. Manages to do it, tickles it fine | |
| 19.1 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Tiwary, 1 run, yorker at leg stump from around the wicket, jammed out to |
|  | deep midwicket | |

Tiwary's strike rate in this innings - 180.95 so far - is his best for any of his IPL innings so far lasting more than three balls

END OF OVER: 19 | 14 Runs | RPS: 147/5 | RR: 7.73

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| MK Tiwary | 38 (21b) | MM Sharma | 4-0-34-0 |
| DT Christian | 3 (4b) | AR Patel | 4-0-27-1 |
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| 18.6 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Tiwary, 1 run, another back of the hand slower ball, tossed up full at off stump, this | | |  |  |
|  |  | time he's through the sweep early and he gets it off the toe of the bat to long-on | | | |  |  |  |
| 18.5 | |  | 4 | Sharma to Tiwary, FOUR, no one is holding on to this though. Back of the hand slower ball, | | |  |  |
|  |  | back of a length at middle stump, steps out and pulls it past Axar who can't get to it with a | | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | slide to his right at deep midwicket |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 18.4 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Christian, 1 run, slower ball, full at middle stump, gets low and sweeps this with | | |  |  |
|  |  | good connection. It's dipping at Vohra at deep square leg but he keeps his eyes on the ball | | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | and holds on to it on the bounce while diving forward | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 18.3 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Tiwary, 1 run, bouncer at middle stump, jammed into the floor on the leg side with | | |  |  |
|  |  | a hook | | |  |  |  |  |
| 18.2 | |  | 6 | Sharma to Tiwary, SIX, top-class batting. Mohit misses the yorker marginally and he's nice | | |  |  |
|  |  | and deep in the crease, waiting under this and unleashes a beautiful swing to lift it over long- | | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | on |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18.1 | |  | | Sharma to Christian, 1 run, low full toss at leg stump, punched strongly, straight to long-on | | |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 18 | 5 Runs 1 Wkt | RPS: 133/5 | RR: 7.38 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
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|  | MK Tiwary | |  | 26 (17b) | AR Patel | 4-0-27-1 |  |  |
|  | DT Christian | | | 1 (2b) | MM Sharma | 3-0-20-0 |  |  |
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There were two dot balls in the Stokes-Tiwary partnership, and three dot balls in the last over.

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| 17.6 | 0 | Patel to Tiwary, no run, steps out, not to the pitch as. Throws his arms at this as it skids in |  |
|  | towards him, no substantial connection, rolls feebly into the leg side and the bowler gets | |  |
|  |  | across |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 17.5 |  | Patel to Christian, 1 run, arm ball at middle stump, glanced to deep square |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 17.4 | 0 | Patel to Christian, no run, arm ball, good length at off stump, wants to tuck it into the leg side, |  |
|  | gets an inside edge onto leg | |  |
| 17.3 | W | Patel to Stokes, OUT, gone! Stokes' love-affair with the toe of the bat has led to his downfall. |  |
|  | This is good length, wide outside off stump. Wants to butcher this on the up through the off | |  |
|  |  | side, but he catches it low and lobs back at the bowler who will have taken way harder ones |  |
|  |  | than these in his time |  |
|  |  | BA Stokes c & b Patel 50 (58m 32b 2x4 3x6) SR: 156.25 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 17.2 |  | Patel to Tiwary, 1 run, good length at middle stump, pushed into the leg side off the back foot |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 17.1 |  | Patel to Stokes, 1 leg bye, short ball at leg stump, wants to send his some way over the roof, |  |
| 1lb |  |
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|  |  |  |  | but it raps him on the thigh guard |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17.1 | |  | | Patel to Stokes, 1 wide, good length, fired flat outside off stump this time, past the pat again | | |  |  |
|  | 1w |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 17.1 | |  | 1w | Patel to Stokes, 1 wide, good length, fired down the leg side, past the attempted slog sweep, | | |  |  |
|  |  | good take down the leg side | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 17 | 5 Runs | RPS: 128/4 | RR: 7.52 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | BA Stokes | |  | 50 (30b) | MM Sharma | 3-0-20-0 |  |  |
|  | MK Tiwary | |  | 25 (15b) | MP Stoinis | 3-0-28-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 16.6 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Stokes, 1 run, a fifty for Stokes. Low full toss outside off stump, angling across, | | |  |  |
|  |  | once more he reaches, once more he gets it off the bottom to long-on | | | |  |  |  |
| 16.5 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Tiwary, 1 run, oh the perfect cover drive, but only one. Overpitched outside | | |  |  |
|  |  | off stump, nicely behind this and gets it bang off the middle. But extra cover dives low to his | | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | right and gets a hand |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 16.4 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Stokes, 1 run, slower ball, full outside off stump, he gets this one off the bottom too | | |  |  |
|  |  | as he hoicks across the line. Straight to deep midwicket | | | |  |  |  |

Akshay: "The Million-Dollar-Baby coming good for Pune! He might be the difference maker this year. A score of 160 from here is pretty much possible from here and that will be great."

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| 16.3 | 1 | Sharma to Tiwary, 1 run, overpitched outside off, opens the face and tries to tickle this past |
|  | short third man, but finds him | |
| He's damaged his bat too, time for a change | | |
| 16.2 | 1 | Sharma to Stokes, 1 run, yorker outside off stump, forces him to drag this down to long-on off |
|  | the bottom of the bat | |
| 16.1 | 0 | Sharma to Stokes, no run, good length, just outside off, right in the slot for his big swing, but |
|  | this cuts away slightly and beats the outside edge | |

Punjab conceded at 8.90 per over in the last four overs in the 2016 season - the best among all teams in first innings

END OF OVER: 16 | 15 Runs | RPS: 123/4 | RR: 7.68

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| MK Tiwary | 23 (13b) | MP Stoinis | 3-0-28-1 |
| BA Stokes | 47 (26b) | T Natarajan | 3-0-26-1 |
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| 15.6 | 4 | Stoinis to Tiwary, FOUR, back of a length, into the pads, gets slightly inside the line and |
|  | bisects fine leg and deep square | |





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| 15.5 | 1 | Stoinis to Stokes, 1 run, hangs deep in the crease again, swivels and slogs this length ball to |
|  | long leg | |
| 15.4 | 1 | Stoinis to Tiwary, 1 run, back of a length at middle stump, clears the front leg and pulls it to |
|  | deep midwicket | |
| 15.3 | 1 | Stoinis to Stokes, 1 run, slower ball, full outside off stump, goes for the switch hit. More |
|  | flourish than result. Straight to sweeper cover | |
| 15.2 | 6 | Stoinis to Stokes, SIX, get out of the way! This has gone about chest height over the long- |
|  | on boundary. Just wide of the fielder there, but there is no way he was going to chance his | |
|  |  | fingers at that. Whew. Steps out, picks the slower ball and slaps it on the up |
|  |  |  |
| 15.1 | 2 | Stoinis to Stokes, 2 runs, back of a length at his pads, he whips it to deep midwicket's left and |
|  | comes back for a sharp second. A direct hit might have caused trouble, but his slide and the | |

half-volley throw are enough this time

Stokes strikes at 9.16 per over for England in the last five overs. And at 10.68 for Durham.

END OF OVER: 15 | 10 Runs | RPS: 108/4 | RR: 7.20

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| BA Stokes | 37 (22b) | T Natarajan | 3-0-26-1 |
| MK Tiwary | 18 (11b) | AR Patel | 3-0-23-0 |
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| 14.6 | |  | | Natarajan to Stokes, 1 run, in the blockhole at off stump, squeezed out to extra cover | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 14.5 | |  | 1 | Natarajan to Tiwary, 1 run, back of a length outside off, rolled his fingers on it, dabbed down | | |  |  |
|  |  | to third man | | |  |  |  |  |
| 14.4 | |  | 6 | Natarajan to Tiwary, SIX, oh what a shot! Why swat across the line when you can do that? | | |  |  |
|  |  | Natarajan bowls this full and wide - he does one or two of these every over - Tiwary hangs | | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | low, gets to the pitch and slices this over the point boundary | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14.3 | |  | | Natarajan to Stokes, 1 run, yorker at leg stump, clipped off his toes to deep square leg | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 14.2 | |  | 1 | Natarajan to Tiwary, 1 run, good length outside off stump, pushed on the up, bottom of the | | |  |  |
|  |  | bat, to extra cover | | |  |  |  |  |
| 14.1 | |  | 0 | Natarajan to Tiwary, no run, good length outside off, Tiwary continues to offer the angled bat | | |  |  |
|  |  | on this pitch. Premeditates the paddle sweep, but it's too wide and he's beaten | | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 14 | 14 Runs | RPS: 98/4 | RR: 7.00 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | MK Tiwary | |  | 10 (7b) | AR Patel | 3-0-23-0 |  |  |
|  | BA Stokes | |  | 35 (20b) | T Natarajan | 2-0-16-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

13.6





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|  |  |  | 1 | Patel to Tiwary, 1 run, full at off stump, gets to the pitch, turns his wrists and finds deep | | |  |  |  |
|  |  | square | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Stokes has played only one dot ball in this innings | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| 13.5 | |  | | Patel to Stokes, 1 run, good length at leg stump, taps it to deep midwicket off the back foot | | | |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 13.4 | |  | | Patel to Stokes, SIX, shot. Full outside off, gets on one knee and lifts this over the bowler | | |  |  |  |
|  | 6 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 13.3 | |  | 4 | Patel to Stokes, FOUR, short at middle stump, hurries him slightly but he has seen enough of | | | |  |  |
|  |  | this to pull it between the two deep fielders | | | |  |  |  |  |
| 13.2 | |  | 1 | Patel to Tiwary, 1 run, good length outside off, goes deep in the crease and flicks across the | | | |  |  |
|  |  | line to the open leg side. Dangerous shot on this pitch | | | | |  |  |  |
| 13.1 | |  | 1 | Patel to Stokes, 1 run, good length, flat and angled across off stump, punched off the back foot | | | |  |  |
|  |  | to long-off | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 13 | 9 Runs | RPS: 84/4 | RR: 6.46 | | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | BA Stokes | |  | 23 (16b) |  | T Natarajan | 2-0-16-1 |  |  |
|  | MK Tiwary | |  | 8 (5b) |  | Swapnil Singh | 2-0-14-1 |  |  |
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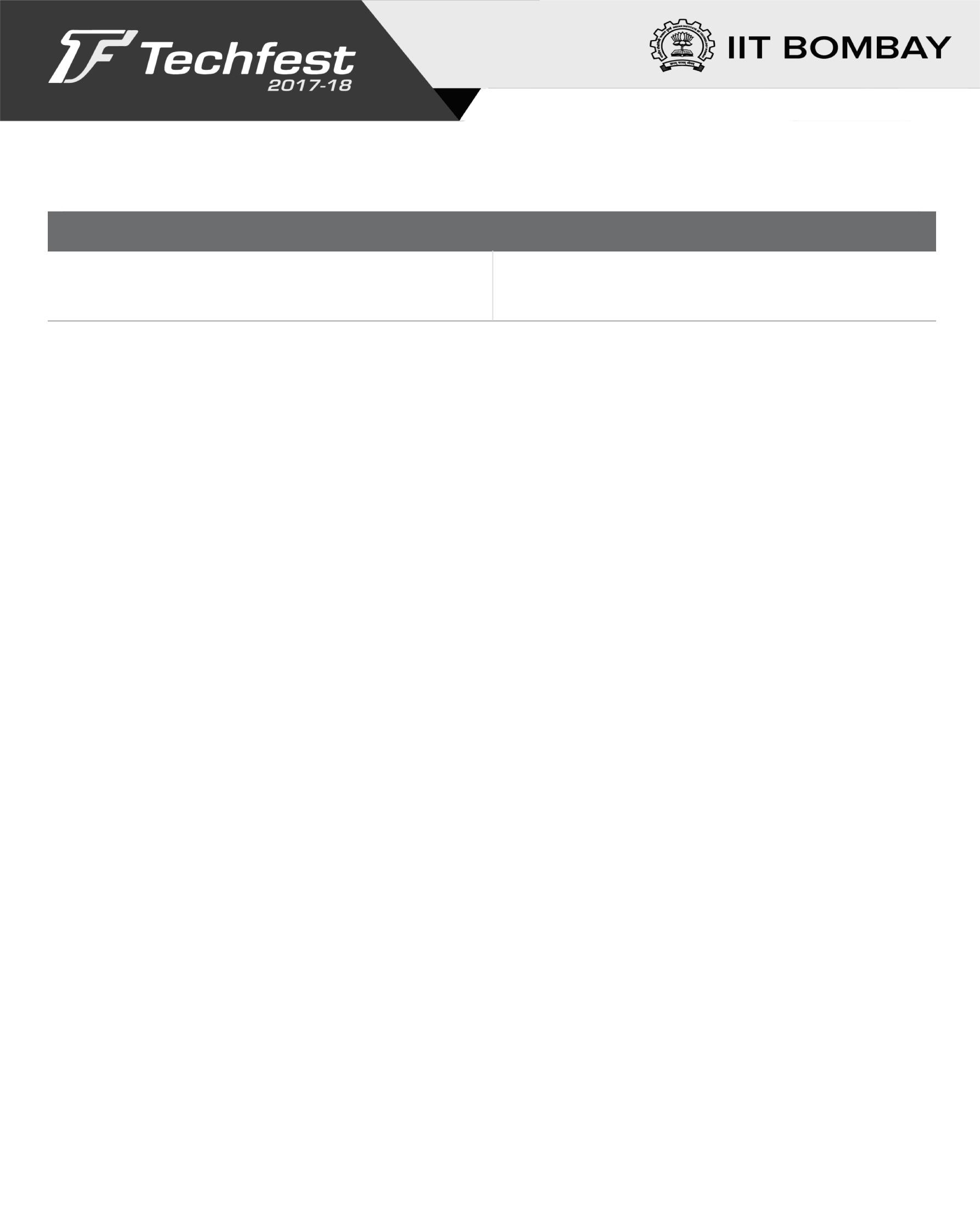
Supradeep: "By the look of the pitch, I think the kings xi batting who like pace on the ball is going to have a very tough time when they come to bat. Rajat Bhatia and Imran Tahir will be licking their fingers already." ---

As stated at the start of the game - 144 is the average here. Team batting first has won seven out of ten times though.

5.05pm And we have the second time-out

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| 12.6 |  | Natarajan to Stokes, 1 run, low full toss at middle stump, punched straight to long-on |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 12.5 | 1 | Natarajan to Tiwary, 1 run, back of a length outside off, mistimed under edge into the off side |  |
|  | as he plays on the back foot | |  |
| 12.4 | 4 | Natarajan to Tiwary, FOUR, good looking shot. This is full and wide outside off stump, |  |
|  | similar to Rahane's dismissal, but Tiwary has leaned in and kept low. He also has more pace - | |  |
|  |  | uses it to lift it inside-out and get it wide of sweeper |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 12.3 |  | Natarajan to Stokes, 1 run, slower ball, full at the pads, flicked to deep square leg |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 12.2 | 1 | Natarajan to Tiwary, 1 run, yet another inside edge on this slow pitch. Back of a length, |  |
|  | angled across off stump, wants to run it to third man, chops it into the leg side | |  |
| 12.1 |  | Natarajan to Stokes, 1 run, full and angled in at leg stump, feet rooted to the crease but gets |  |





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|  | the flick off the middle of the bat, gets it wide of long-on | |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 12 | 4 Runs 1 Wkt | RPS: 75/4 | RR: 6.25 | |  |  |  |
| BA Stokes | 20 (13b) | Swapnil Singh | 2-0-14-1 |  |
| MK Tiwary | 2 (2b) | MP Stoinis | 2-0-13-1 |  |

You might remember Dhoni [smashing Axar Patel for 60466](http://www.espncricinfo.com/indian-premier-league-2016/engine/current/match/981005.html) to blast Pune to a last-over win last season. Despite that, his record against left-arm spin isn't great. Overall (in all T20 cricket), his economy rate against left-arm spin is 6.49, as against 6.77 against right-arm spin, 8.70 against right-arm pace, and 9.10 against left-arm pace.

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| 11.6 | |  | | Swapnil Singh to Stokes, 1 run, full and flat at leg stump, flicked to deep midwicket | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 11.5 | |  | 1 | Swapnil Singh to Tiwary, 1 run, back of a length at middle stump, goes on the back foot, and | | |  |  |
|  |  | just manages to push it past the bowler for a single. Slight mix-up there but safe in the end | | | | |  |  |
| 11.4 | |  | 1 | Swapnil Singh to Stokes, 1 run, good length at middle stump, taoped to deep midwicket off | | |  |  |
|  |  | the back foot | | |  |  |  |  |
| 11.3 | |  | 1 | Swapnil Singh to Tiwary, 1 run, good length, angled in at leg stump, pushed into the leg side | | |  |  |
|  |  | off the front foot | | |  |  |  |  |
| 11.2 | |  | W | Swapnil Singh to Dhoni, OUT, takes it on the fourth attempt. Tossed up at off stump, | | |  |  |
|  |  | looks to force this through the off side. He's reaching out for it. Not to the pitch, lobs it back to | | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Swapnil who probably is a bit flustered that he has foxed Dhoni. Makes a meal of an easy take, | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | but hangs on in the end |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | MS Dhoni c & b Swapnil Singh 5 (17m 11b 0x4 0x6) SR: 45.45 | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 11.1 | |  | 0 | Swapnil Singh to Dhoni, no run, back of a length at off stump, punched off the back foot to | | |  |  |
|  |  | extra cover | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 11 | 8 Runs | RPS: 71/3 | RR: 6.45 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | BA Stokes | |  | 18 (11b) | MP Stoinis | 2-0-13-1 |  |  |
|  | MS Dhoni | |  | 5 (9b) | Swapnil Singh | 1-0-10-0 |  |  |
|  |  | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Rajat Bhatia dreams of this pitch every night | | | |  |  |  |  |
| 10.6 | |  | 0 | Stoinis to Stokes, no run, good length outside off, sits up like a short ball, slapped on the up, | | |  |  |
|  |  | straight to mid-off | | |  |  |  |  |
| 10.5 | |  | 4 | Stoinis to Stokes, FOUR, rolls his fingers on this, good length, wide outside off. Beats him for | | |  |  |
|  |  | pace, beats him for line, gets his edge - still ends up giving four through third man | | | |  |  |  |
| 10.4 | |  |  | Stoinis to Dhoni, 1 run, back of a length at middle stump, tucked off the back foot to deep | |  |  |  |





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|  |  |  | square |  |  |  |  |
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| 10.4 | |  | Stoinis to Dhoni, 1 wide, bouncer, way down the leg side, lets it go | |  |  |  |
| 1w |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10.3 | | 1 | Stoinis to Stokes, 1 run, short and angled across him. He wants to bludgeon this through | |  |  |  |
|  |  | midwicket, but there isn't enough pace in this pitch for back foot shots. Thick inside edge to | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  | fine leg |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10.2 | |  | Stoinis to Dhoni, 1 run, good length at off stump, taps it into the leg side, very late, soft hands | | |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 10.1 | | 0 | Stoinis to Dhoni, no run, back of a length at off stump, comes on slowly after pitching, forced | | |  |  |
|  |  | to tap back to the bowler | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 10 | 10 Runs | RPS: 63/3 | RR: 6.30 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | BA Stokes | | 13 (8b) | Swapnil Singh | 1-0-10-0 |  |  |
|  | MS Dhoni |  | 3 (6b) | MP Stoinis | 1-0-5-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Kunal: "The only reason I think for such a low strike rate would be that he hasn't come out in the first 14 with wickets in hand and has had to rebuild. Which is because he bats too low ;)"

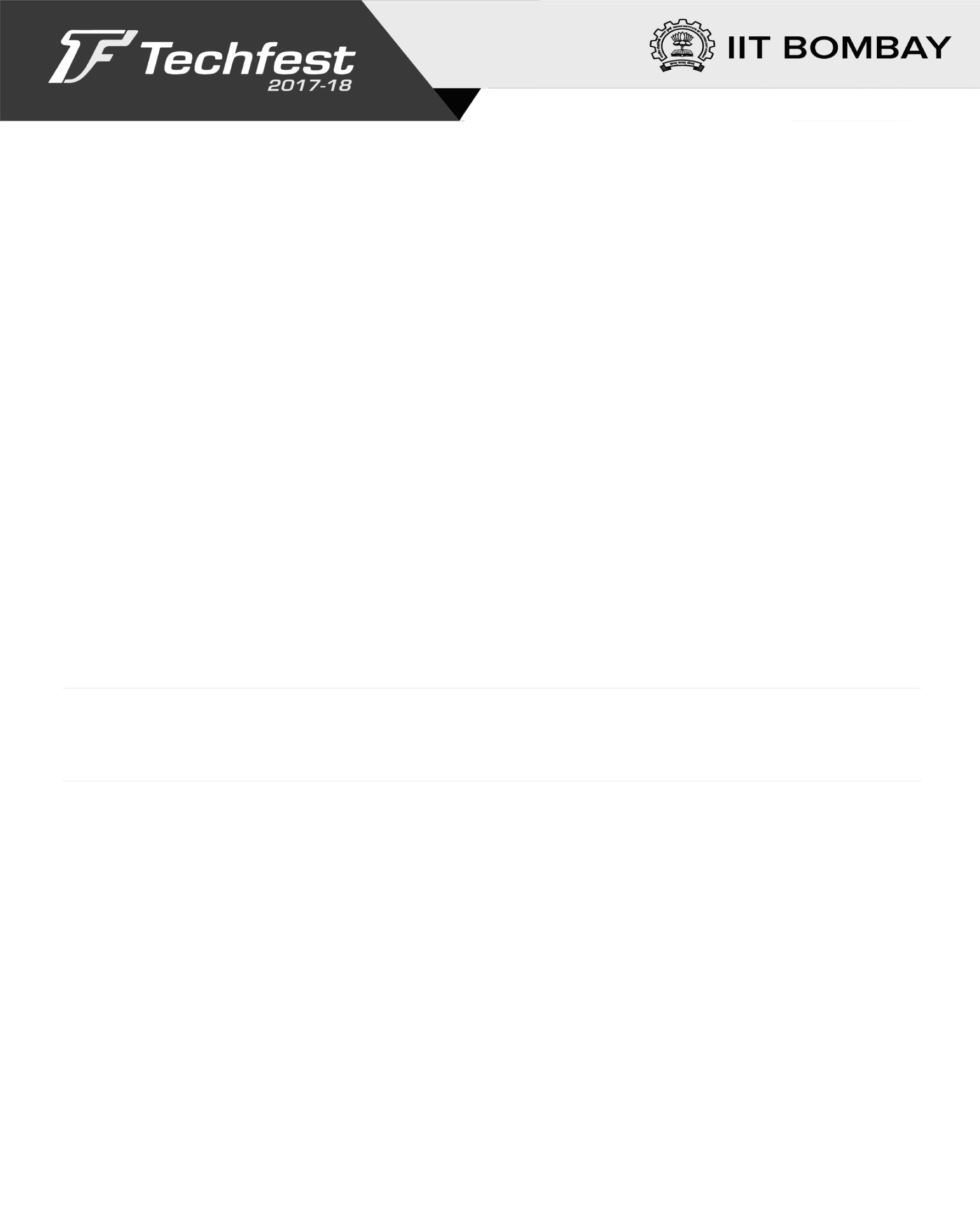
Rajeev: "There's perhaps a reason for why he bats slow in the first 15 overs. He usually bats at 5, so if he comes in before 10, 3 or 4 wickets would have gone so ultimately he has to consolidate before he can go off. If his role changes to that of a top order batsman, those stats will change too."

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| 9.6 | 6 | Swapnil Singh to Stokes, SIX, you don't bowl there to Stokes. Tossed up generously at |  |
|  | middle stump, he clears the front leg and launches this over the midwicket boundary | |  |
| 9.5 |  | Swapnil Singh to Dhoni, 1 run, good length, angled in at leg stump, pushed to deep square leg |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 9.4 | 1 | Swapnil Singh to Stokes, 1 run, good length at leg stump, pushed to deep midwicket off the |  |
|  | back foot | |  |
| 9.3 | 1 | Swapnil Singh to Dhoni, 1 run, back of a length outside off, cuts it past the diving point |  |
|  | fielder, finds sweeper | |  |
| 9.2 | 0 | Swapnil Singh to Dhoni, no run, good length at off stump, steps out early, not to the pitch, |  |
|  | defended back to the bowler | |  |
| 9.1 | 1 | Swapnil Singh to Stokes, 1 run, full at leg stump, hammered straight to long-on, all along the |  |
|  | ground | |  |

Swapnil Singh, slow left-arm, around the wicket

END OF OVER: 9 | 5 Runs 1 Wkt | RPS: 53/3 | RR: 5.88





|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MS Dhoni | 1 | (3b) | MP Stoinis | 1-0-5-1 |
| BA Stokes | 5 | (5b) | AR Patel | 2-0-9-0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Stoinis' economy rate in Australia is 7.80 from 16 innings. In India, before today, it was 8.43 from seven innings.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 8.6 | 0 | Stoinis to Dhoni, no run, good length, angled in at leg stump, pushed back down the pitch as |  |
|  | that comes on slowly | |  |
| 8.5 |  | Stoinis to Stokes, 1 run, good length at off stump, pushed on the up to long-on |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 8.4 | 1 | Stoinis to Dhoni, 1 run, almost chops it on. Good length outside off, pokes at it from the |  |
|  | crease, the inside edge evades the stumps and rolls down to fine leg | |  |
| 8.3 |  | Stoinis to Dhoni, no run, good length at middle stump, defended back to the bowler |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 8.3 | 1w | Stoinis to Dhoni, 1 wide, good length, angled down the leg side, past his thigh guard...might |  |
|  | have flicked it, there was a sound. But the umpire didn't make anything of it | |  |

There have always been calls for Dhoni to bat higher up, but there might be a reason he doesn't do it so often. From the first to 14th over, he has scored his runs at 5.99 per over - S/R 99.90 - through his IPL career. Is that slow build-up worth his explosive finishes?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 8.2 | 1 | Stoinis to Stokes, 1 run, good length outside off, punches on the up, misfield at extra cover |
|  | allows a single | |

fly slip for Stokes

4.40pm The strategic time out has been taken. And here's something to chew on: Stoinis had never got Smith out in any competition before this.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 8.1 | |  | W | Stoinis to Smith, OUT, gone! Holed out to deep square. This is back of a length, angles | | |  |
|  |  | down the leg side but sits in the pitch and straightens. It was awkward and climbed on Smith | | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  | who was through his leg glance. Gets it high on the bat and Vohra runs to his right again, | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | backwards again - and holds on this time |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | SPD Smith c Vohra b Stoinis 26 (34m 27b 3x4 0x6) SR: 96.29 | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| 8.1 | |  | 1w | Stoinis to Smith, 1 wide, good length, down the leg side, evades Smith's hoick but gives away a | | |  |
|  |  | run anyway | | |  |  |  |
|  | Stoinis |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 8 | 6 Runs | RPS: 48/2 | RR: 6.00 | | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | SPD Smith | |  | 26 (26b) | AR Patel | 2-0-9-0 |  |
|  | BA Stokes | |  | 3 (3b) | T Natarajan | 1-0-7-1 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |





|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 7.6 | 1 | Patel to Smith, 1 run, good length at off stump, not to the pitch, but drives on the up and gets |
|  | it wide of long-off | |
| 7.5 | 1 | Patel to Stokes, 1 run, good length, angled across middle stump, closes the face and tucks it to |
|  | deep square | |
| 7.4 | 1 | Patel to Smith, 1 run, good length at middle stump, jumps down the track and pushes it on the |
|  | up to long-on | |

Mustafa Moudi: "Vohra didnt let Natarajan pick Rahane's catch coz he probably knew that Natarajan will pick his wicket as a Bowler "

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 7.3 | |  | | Patel to Stokes, 1 run, full at middle stump, flicked to deep midwicket | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7.2 | |  | | Patel to Smith, 1 run, good length at off stump, soft-handed push to deep midwicket | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7.1 | |  | | Patel to Stokes, 1 run, good length at middle stump, pushed to long-on off the front foot | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | around the wicket to Stokes | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 7 | 7 Runs 1 Wkt | RPS: 42/2 | RR: 6.00 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | SPD Smith | |  | 23 (23b) | T Natarajan | 1-0-7-1 |  |  |
|  | BA Stokes | |  | 0 (0b) | AR Patel | 1-0-3-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 6.6 | |  | 0 | Natarajan to Smith, no run, in the blockhole, wide outside off stump, Smith doesn't shuffle | | |  |  |
|  |  | this ball and so can't reach it. Beaten. | | |  |  |  |  |
| 6.5 | |  | 2 | Natarajan to Smith, 2 runs, back of a length at off stump, swivels across and pulls this square | | |  |  |
|  |  | between the two deep fielders in the leg side | | | |  |  |  |
| 6.4 | |  | 4 | Natarajan to Smith, FOUR, shoooooot. Full, slight shape back but Smith seems to know it's | | |  |  |
|  |  | coming. Full face as he drives - beats the bowler, beats mid-on, beats long-off | | | |  |  |  |
| 6.3 | |  | | Natarajan to Smith, no run, short and wide, chopped straight to point | |  |  |  |
|  | 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 6.2 | |  | W | Natarajan to Rahane, OUT, he has Rahane off his second ball. Full and wide outside off | | |  |  |
|  |  | stump, Rahane wants to crash this over the cover boundary but he's not to the pitch of the | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | ball. Bat turns in his hands as he executes the sliced shot and it is straight to Stoinis at | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | sweeper cover |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | AM Rahane c Stoinis b Natarajan 19 (30m 15b 1x4 1x6) SR: 126.66 | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 6.1 | |  | 1 | Natarajan to Smith, 1 run, short and angled across him, punched off the back foot to sweeper | | |  |  |
|  |  | cover | | |  |  |  |  |

Natarajan. False start. He walks back to his mark





END OF OVER: 6 | 3 Runs | RPS: 35/1 | RR: 5.83

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SPD Smith | 16 (18b) | AR Patel | 1-0-3-0 |
| AM Rahane | 19 (14b) | Sandeep Sharma | 3-0-17-1 |
|  |  |  |  |

Pace or spin against Steven Smith in the IPL? There's no easy answer. Since 2014, Smith averages 38 and scores at around 8.9 per over against pace; and averages 43 and scores at 7.50 per over against spin. He's as formidable against pace in the Powerplay, but scores much slower against spin - at a run a ball.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5.6 | |  | 1 | Patel to Smith, 1 run, good length, fired in at middle stump, punched to deep midwicket off | | |  |  |
|  |  | the back foot | | |  |  |  |  |
| 5.5 | |  | 0 | Patel to Smith, no run, and repeat, this time he gets a tickle on it through to Saha who doesn't | | |  |  |
|  |  | collect | | |  |  |  |  |
| 5.4 | |  | 0 | Patel to Smith, no run, sneaks through between his legs. Short and angled down leg, | | |  |  |
|  |  | Smith wants to pull, but this skids on and keeps low to bisect his legs | | | |  |  |  |
| 5.3 | |  | | Patel to Rahane, 1 run, good length, angled in at the pads, flicked to short fine's left | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 5.2 | |  | 1 | Patel to Smith, 1 run, good length at middle stump, hangs in the crease and glances it to deep | | |  |  |
|  |  | square | | |  |  |  |  |
| 5.1 | |  | | Patel to Smith, no run, full at off stump, driven inside-out to find extra cover | |  |  |  |
|  | 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Spin, Patel | | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 5 | 12 Runs | RPS: 32/1 | RR: 6.40 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | SPD Smith | |  | 14 (13b) | Sandeep Sharma | 3-0-17-1 |  |  |
|  | AM Rahane | |  | 18 (13b) | MM Sharma | 2-0-15-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

By the way, that steer to third man has been a very productive shot for Rahane - last year, it brought him 52 runs - the joint-most alongside Kohli. Rahane used that shot a lot more to score boundaries - his 52 came off 37 balls, while Kohli's came off 55.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 4.6 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Smith, 1 run, and now he whips a similar ball from a length to deep |
|  | square leg's right. This one was shaping away too | |
| 4.5 | 4 | Sandeep Sharma to Smith, FOUR, even better. Good length at middle stump, gives the |
|  | charge, makes some room and uses his wrists to cream it between cover and extra | |
| 4.4 | 4 | Sandeep Sharma to Smith, FOUR, a familiar sight in recent times. Good length, moving away |
|  | from off stump, not a bad ball. But Smith's superhuman wrists are at this, on the up, and get | |

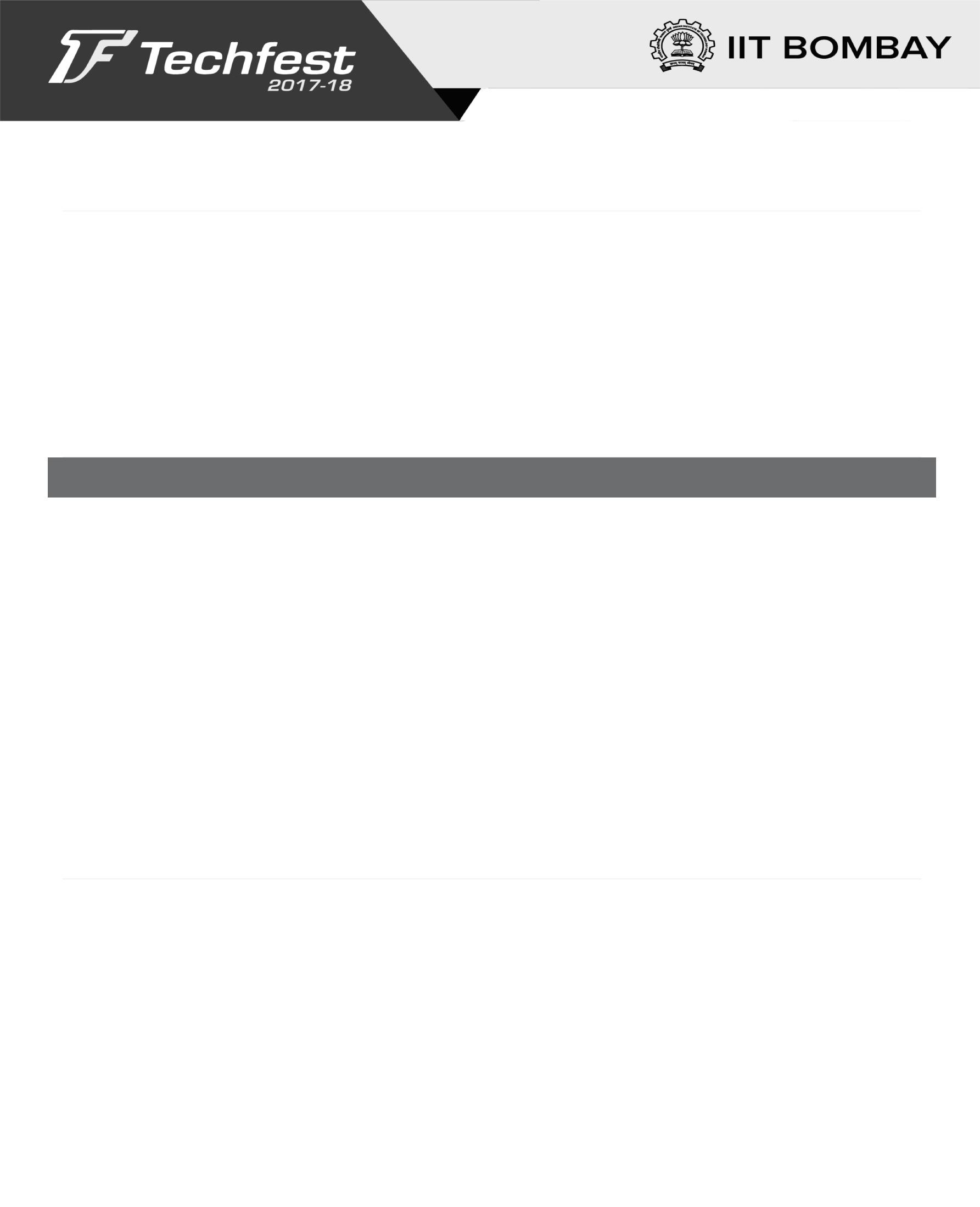
it through cover point





|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4.3 | |  | | Sandeep Sharma to Rahane, 1 run, good length at off stump, turns it into open leg side | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | | |  |
| 4.2 | |  | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Smith, 1 run, good length at off stump, Smith doesn't lean in like Rahane, | | | |  |
|  |  | but can whip it to mid-on anyway | | |  |  |  |  |
| 4.1 | |  | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Rahane, 1 run, good length at middle stump, tails away from Rahane as | | | |  |
|  |  | he leans in but he can offer enough of the face to push it to mid-on on the up | | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 4 | 13 Runs | RPS: 20/1 | RR: 5.00 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | AM Rahane | |  | 16 (11b) | MM Sharma | 2-0-15-0 |  |  |
|  | SPD Smith | |  | 4 (9b) | Sandeep Sharma | 2-0-5-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | | |  |
| 3.6 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Rahane, 1 run, and again. This is slightly shorter than the previous ball, he's taller | | | |  |
|  |  | at the crease as he runs it to third man | | |  |  |  |  |
| 3.5 | |  | 4 | Sharma to Rahane, FOUR, good length at off stump, this time no feet. Stays in the crease, | | | |  |
|  |  | watches it closely, opens the face at the last moment and runs it past where first slip would | | | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  | have been |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
| 3.4 | |  | 6 | Sharma to Rahane, SIX, shot. Bouncer at middle stump at that pace will never trouble | |  |  |  |
|  |  | Rahane. Rocks back and nails the hook shot, which flies over short fine | | | |  |  |  |
| 3.3 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Smith, 1 run, good length at off stump, walks across and whips it off the middle to | | | |  |
|  |  | deep square | | |  |  |  |  |
| 3.2 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Rahane, 1 run, dropped. Vohra puts it down at cover. This is good length, tries to | | | |  |
|  |  | whip it on the up, across the line. Leading edge hangs up in the cover region. Vohra has to run | | | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  | backwards as debutant Natarajan backs away at extra cover. That was Natarajan's catch. In | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  | the end, Vohra has too much to think about and lets it slip as he goes to the ground | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | | |  |
| 3.1 | |  | 0 | Sharma to Rahane, no run, dot ball pressure. Steps out and swings haphazardly across the | | | |  |
|  |  | line, misses the line and the length completely. This flies over the off stump | | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 3 | 4 Runs | RPS: 7/1 | RR: 2.33 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | SPD Smith | |  | 3 (8b) | Sandeep Sharma | 2-0-5-1 |  |  |
|  | AM Rahane | |  | 4 (6b) | MM Sharma | 1-0-2-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.6 | |  | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Smith, no run, good length outside off, slight movement away off the | |  |  |  |
|  |  | pitch, pushed into the covers off the front foot | | | |  |  |  |
| 2.5 | |  | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Rahane, 1 run, full at off stump, leans in, turns the wrists and flicks it to | | | |  |
|  |  | deep square leg | | |  |  |  |  |
| 2.4 | |  | | Sandeep Sharma to Rahane, no run, back of a length at off stump, very close to the body, but | | | |  |
|  | 0 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |





he opens the face and chops it straight to short third man

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2.3 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Smith, 1 run, back of a length outside off, driven on the up to Amla at |
|  | mid-off | |
| 2.2 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Rahane, 1 run, good length, moves away marginally from the corridor, |
|  | defended with an open face to third man | |
| 2.1 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Smith, 1 run, oh what a shot. Good length, about two stumps wide off of |
|  | stump. He walks across the stumps and shovels this to deep square leg | |

HelKumar: "Admit it S. Sharma is the most under rated bowler in IPL" --- 31 wickets in Powerplays for Sandeep in IPL - joint-most among all bowlers since his debut in 2013. Bhuvi also has 31.

END OF OVER: 2 | 2 Runs | RPS: 3/1 | RR: 1.50

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SPD Smith | 1 | (5b) | MM Sharma | 1-0-2-0 |
| AM Rahane | 2 | (3b) | Sandeep Sharma | 1-0-1-1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1.6 | 1 | Sharma to Smith, 1 run, good length, slight movement away from outside off. Follows it, |
|  | opens the face and runs it down to third man | |
| 1.5 | 0 | Sharma to Smith, no run, short and wide again, hard hands from Smith once more, mistimes |
|  | the punch and it bounces towards mid-off | |
| 1.4 | 0 | Sharma to Smith, no run, short and wide, eyes light up for Smith, but the ball skids through |
|  | and beats the under edge on his attempted cut | |
| 1.3 | 0 | Sharma to Smith, no run, good length, in the corridor, walks into the shot, punches it straight |
|  | to covers | |

A reminder: Mohit Sharma has an excellent record against Smith in the IPL - he's bowled 26 balls to him in six innings, conceding only 25 runs, and taken his wicket twice.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.2 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Rahane, 1 run, good length at off stump, comes on slowly, he hangs back and taps | | |  |  |
|  |  | it to backward point's left | | |  |  |  |  |
| 1.1 | |  | 0 | Sharma to Rahane, no run, good length, angled into the pads, flicked late, straight to short | |  |  |  |
|  |  | fine leg | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 1 | 1 Run 1 Wkt | RPS: 1/1 | RR: 1.00 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | SPD Smith | |  | 0 (1b) | Sandeep Sharma | 1-0-1-1 |  |  |
|  | AM Rahane | |  | 1 (1b) |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

This was the fourth time Mayank was dismissed in the first over of the innings in IPL, in 33 innings.

0.6 Sandeep Sharma to Smith, no run, full and swinging in at off stump, shuffles across and





|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | defends to cover point |  |
|  | 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 0.5 | W | Sandeep Sharma to Agarwal, OUT, got him! What a sight! More inswing. This one is at a |  |
|  | length too, nips back slightly. Mayank wants to crash this on the up through the off side, | |  |
|  |  | leaves a huge gap between bat and pad, perfect passageway to the stumps that are knocked |  |
|  |  | out |  |
|  |  | MA Agarwal b Sandeep Sharma 0 (4m 4b 0x4 0x6) SR: 0.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 0.4 | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Agarwal, no run, good length, swinging in at middle stump, defended to |  |
|  | midwicket off the back foot | |  |
| 0.3 | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Agarwal, no run, loud appeal, but that's going down. Trademark |  |
|  | inswinger from Sandeep, but it starts at middle and raps him on leg as he looks to whip over | |  |
|  |  | square leg |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 0.2 | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Agarwal, no run, good length, late swing in at off stump, gets a stride |  |
|  | across and gets the inside half of the bat as he pushes it to midwicket | |  |
| third man goes back for Mayank | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 0.1 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Rahane, 1 run, back of a length at off stump, opens the face and taps it |  |
|  | between backward point and short third man | |  |

Sandeep Sharma has the ball. Sandeep has bowled in the first-innings Powerplay 18 times, taking nine wickets and conceding 6.74 runs per over. Rahane v Sandeep - 25 runs off 31 balls, SR of 80.64, dismissed him 2 times in 4 inns.

3.58 pm The umpires are walking out into the middle and Punjab have huddled up....and here come the

batsmen. Ajinkya Rahane and Mayank Agarwal.

3.55pm Steven Smith is in red-hot form, but Kings XI Punjab might have a way to deal with him. Mohit Sharma has an excellent record against Smith in the IPL - he's bowled 26 balls to him in six innings, conceding only 25 runs and taking his wicket twice.

Manish: "I still think Morgan was better option than Amla. Is the decision seems to be taken due to fact that they dont have proper opener after losing out Vijay? Hope I am wrong and Amla justifies his selection" --- Yes, Maxwell probably wasn't keen on opening.

Afsar: "India's Fizz is playing today, curiosity is getting high on this guy!! I'm waiting for this guy from the day auctioned!! " --- He's talking of T Natarajan. He's played only five T20 games, taking four wickets at an average of 35.25 while conceding 8.29 per over.

Rishav: "I am liking Smith as a leader more and more. He has trusted Dinda which will give him lot of confidence. He didnt ball as bad as his stats show. Christian is a nice addition too"





Faf Du Plessis isn't playing today. He has scored three fifties in his last four innings v KXIP: 29, 52, 0, 55, 67.

Pune lost all seven matches in which they batted first last year. They conceded 9.80 in Powerplays when defending, as opposed to 6.52 while bowling first. Dinda: 4.69 while bowling first, 8.62 while defending.

Rising Pune Supergiant XI: Ajinkya Rahane, Mayank Agarwal, Steve Smith (c), Manoj Tiwary, MS Dhoni (wk), Ben Stokes, Rajat Bhatia, Rahul Chahar, Dan Christian, Imran Tahir, Ashok Dinda

Kings XI Punjab: Hashim Amla, Manan Vohra, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Glenn Maxwell (c), David Miller, Marcus Stoinis, Axar Patel, Swapnil Singh, Mohit Sharma, Sandeep Sharma, T Natarajan

Rajeev: "If I were the captain, I'd throw Mahi in to open as well. He can be really useful if he gets going, can get through the middle overs, and really smack at the end. He won't do that as a captain himself, ever, but having a hitter up the order might not be a bad idea. Especially someone like MS. And that also brings Agarwal into play since he can play 10-15 balls and score from the word go, 25-30." --- Dhoni has scored 448 runs in 16 innings against Punjab - four fifties and a strike-rate of 157.19

Smith: We would have had a bowl as well, it looks like it will be consistent for 40 overs. From the previous game, we felt we timed our chase nicely but we'd like to execute our bowling better. Rahul Chahar has come in for his brother Deepak, and Dan Christian comes in for Zampa.

Maxi: This wicket has been very flat, similar to our practice wickets. The guys have enjoyed training, the facilities have been great. We looked good in the practice games and are excited to go. Our four foreign players are Amla, Miller, Stonis and myself.

3.30pm Maxwell has won the toss and elected to bowl.

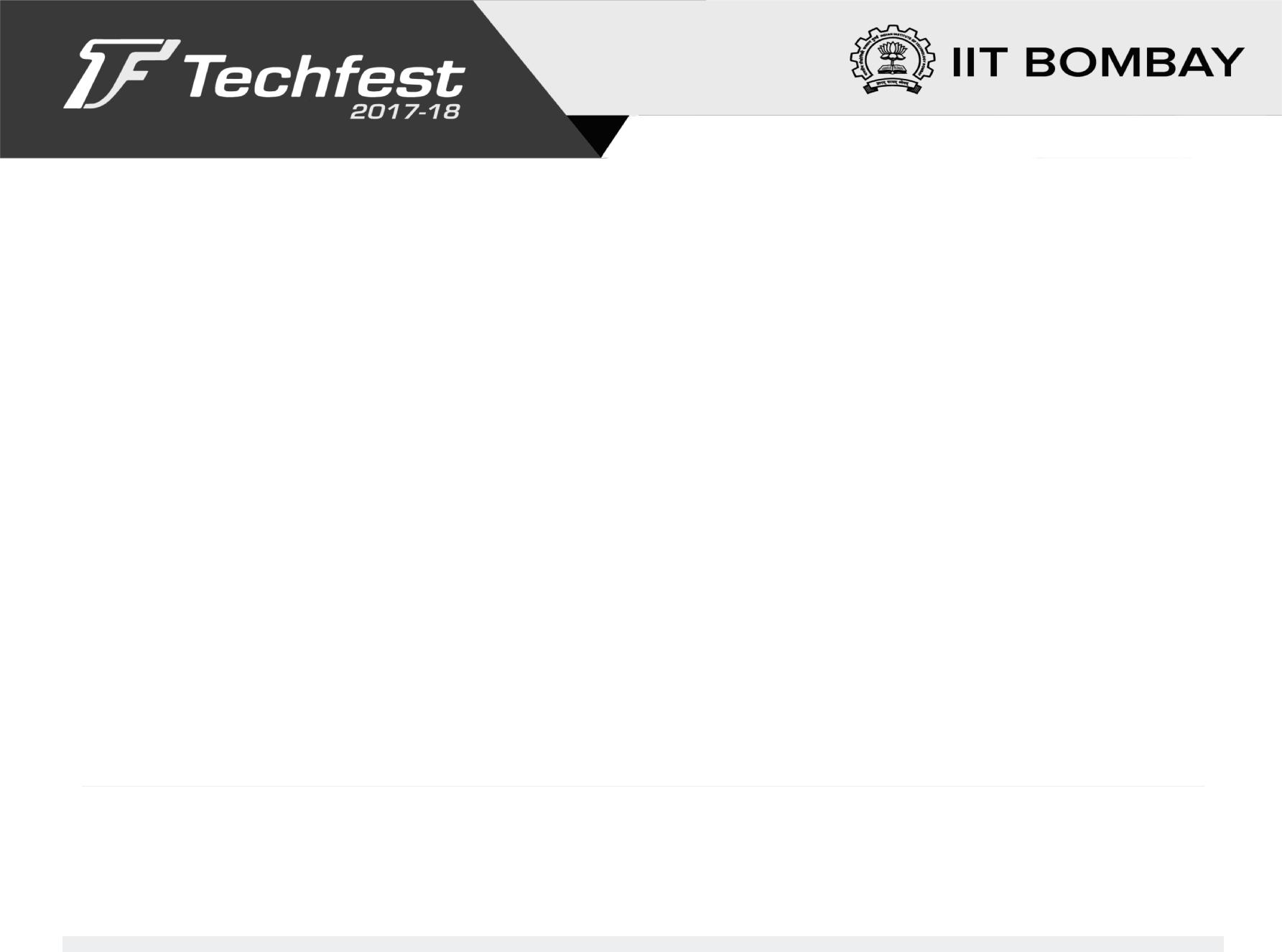
3.29pm Maxwell will be Punjab's tenth captain to go out for a toss.

Aamir lone: "Remember Mahi's swashbuckling 80 odd on this very ground against saffas not so long ago.Hope he does it today as well"

Nishan: "Buttler opened for MI, Lynn opened for KKR so will Maxi."

Amardeep kumar: "Today Maxi will fire against rising pune supergiant" --- He will miss R Ashwin, though. He has scored more runs off Ashwin than off any other bowler in the IPL - 83 runs off 35 balls at a jaw-dropping strike rate of 237.14, and has been dismissed only once. He won't enjoy the legspin either - the only two bowlers who have dismissed him three times in the IPL are Piyush Chawla and Amit Mishra, and Imran Tahir has got him out twice.





Do you believe in average scores? It was 157 in Rajkot yesterday, but we saw what happened in the end. For Indore - The average score is 144, and the highest total scored is 168. These were in day games. The IPL has no day games in India.

Teams batting first have won seven out of ten games here. Which will be an interesting paradox, because in the two matches between these teams last year, the team that batted first lost in both. That's a head-to-head 1-1 between these teams.

3.13pm Welcome to the fourth game of IPL 2017. It's 36 degrees in Indore, where the city's opening ceremony has just finished. This will be the venue's first T20 match since March 2015, when it hosted the Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy, India's domestic T20 tournament. This year, of course, it will be one of Kings XI Punjab's homes, alongside Mohali. It will host three games.

Punjab are hosting Rising Pune Supergiant today, fresh from an incredible win against Mumbai a couple of days ago. It had to be a last over finish if Dhoni was around in a chase, but it was Steven Smith who took them through with two sixes to seal the game. And make yet another Indian captain scratch his head as he waltzes through his sub-continental vacation.

And so we'll have to see what an Aussie captain does against him. Glenn Maxwell, of course, has never captained at the senior level. In any format. Let's see what he brings to this fixture today. Annesha Ghosh did the preview last evening, you should [give that a read](http://www.espncricinfo.com/indian-premier-league-2017/content/story/1090852.html).





END OF OVER: 20 | 16 Runs 1 Wkt | RPS: 163/6 | RR: 8.15

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MK Tiwary | 40 (23b) | Sandeep Sharma | 4-0-33-2 |
| R Bhatia | 0 (0b) | MM Sharma | 4-0-34-0 |
|  |  |  |  |

5.43pm Pune have made 19 more than par on this pitch, and equaled their first innings average in the IPL. That could finally mean something different for them - they've never won batting first. This pitch is not easy and this is a good chance of overturning that record. The ball sat in the pitch during the middle overs, and Manoj Tiwary says it is two-paced. He's a good authority on this pitch - a fantastic innings. Strike-rate of above 170 in an innings that only consisted of five boundaries. He played two dot balls.

Stokes, though, has made the kind of mark the world has come to expect of him in recent times. A fifty off 32 deliveries when his team was in trouble. Together, they've set this up nicely. Be back soon.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 19.6 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Tiwary, 1 run, yorker outside off stump, can only squeeze this down the |
|  | ground to Maxwell at long-on, who is onto it quickly and throws it on the bounce to the | |
|  |  | keeper's end to keep it down to one |
|  |  |  |
| 19.5 | W | Sandeep Sharma to Christian, OUT, oh good catch. This is overpitched at off stump, |
|  | Christian will back himself to hit this out of the park any day. On this occassion, he gets the | |
|  |  | bottom of the bat. It loops in front of Maxwell at long-on, but he watches it closely and moves |
|  |  | down with it to catch it inches off the floor |
|  |  | DT Christian c Maxwell b Sandeep Sharma 17 (11m 8b 2x4 1x6) SR: 212.50 |
|  |  |  |
| 19.4 | 6 | Sandeep Sharma to Christian, SIX, ...and goes short. And wide. Outside off. Sits up for |
|  | Christian who walks across ever so slightly and pulls this well in front of square and over the | |
|  |  | boundary |
| goes over the wicket | | |
|  |  |  |
| 19.3 | 4 | Sandeep Sharma to Christian, FOUR, more in the slot this time. Waiting for the low full toss |
|  | at leg stump, gets it, lifts it over the keeper | |
| 19.2 | 4 | Sandeep Sharma to Christian, FOUR, nicely improvised. He wants to paddle, but this one |
|  | is full and wide outside leg and he has to reach for it. Manages to do it, tickles it fine | |
| 19.1 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Tiwary, 1 run, yorker at leg stump from around the wicket, jammed out to |
|  | deep midwicket | |

Tiwary's strike rate in this innings - 180.95 so far - is his best for any of his IPL innings so far lasting more than three balls

END OF OVER: 19 | 14 Runs | RPS: 147/5 | RR: 7.73

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MK Tiwary | 38 (21b) | MM Sharma | 4-0-34-0 |
| DT Christian | 3 (4b) | AR Patel | 4-0-27-1 |
|  |  |  |  |





|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 18.6 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Tiwary, 1 run, another back of the hand slower ball, tossed up full at off stump, this | | |  |  |
|  |  | time he's through the sweep early and he gets it off the toe of the bat to long-on | | | |  |  |  |
| 18.5 | |  | 4 | Sharma to Tiwary, FOUR, no one is holding on to this though. Back of the hand slower ball, | | |  |  |
|  |  | back of a length at middle stump, steps out and pulls it past Axar who can't get to it with a | | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | slide to his right at deep midwicket |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 18.4 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Christian, 1 run, slower ball, full at middle stump, gets low and sweeps this with | | |  |  |
|  |  | good connection. It's dipping at Vohra at deep square leg but he keeps his eyes on the ball | | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | and holds on to it on the bounce while diving forward | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 18.3 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Tiwary, 1 run, bouncer at middle stump, jammed into the floor on the leg side with | | |  |  |
|  |  | a hook | | |  |  |  |  |
| 18.2 | |  | 6 | Sharma to Tiwary, SIX, top-class batting. Mohit misses the yorker marginally and he's nice | | |  |  |
|  |  | and deep in the crease, waiting under this and unleashes a beautiful swing to lift it over long- | | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | on |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18.1 | |  | | Sharma to Christian, 1 run, low full toss at leg stump, punched strongly, straight to long-on | | |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 18 | 5 Runs 1 Wkt | RPS: 133/5 | RR: 7.38 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | MK Tiwary | |  | 26 (17b) | AR Patel | 4-0-27-1 |  |  |
|  | DT Christian | | | 1 (2b) | MM Sharma | 3-0-20-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

There were two dot balls in the Stokes-Tiwary partnership, and three dot balls in the last over.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 17.6 | 0 | Patel to Tiwary, no run, steps out, not to the pitch as. Throws his arms at this as it skids in |  |
|  | towards him, no substantial connection, rolls feebly into the leg side and the bowler gets | |  |
|  |  | across |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 17.5 |  | Patel to Christian, 1 run, arm ball at middle stump, glanced to deep square |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 17.4 | 0 | Patel to Christian, no run, arm ball, good length at off stump, wants to tuck it into the leg side, |  |
|  | gets an inside edge onto leg | |  |
| 17.3 | W | Patel to Stokes, OUT, gone! Stokes' love-affair with the toe of the bat has led to his downfall. |  |
|  | This is good length, wide outside off stump. Wants to butcher this on the up through the off | |  |
|  |  | side, but he catches it low and lobs back at the bowler who will have taken way harder ones |  |
|  |  | than these in his time |  |
|  |  | BA Stokes c & b Patel 50 (58m 32b 2x4 3x6) SR: 156.25 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 17.2 |  | Patel to Tiwary, 1 run, good length at middle stump, pushed into the leg side off the back foot |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 17.1 |  | Patel to Stokes, 1 leg bye, short ball at leg stump, wants to send his some way over the roof, |  |
| 1lb |  |
|  |  |





|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  | but it raps him on the thigh guard |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17.1 | |  | | Patel to Stokes, 1 wide, good length, fired flat outside off stump this time, past the pat again | | |  |  |
|  | 1w |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 17.1 | |  | 1w | Patel to Stokes, 1 wide, good length, fired down the leg side, past the attempted slog sweep, | | |  |  |
|  |  | good take down the leg side | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 17 | 5 Runs | RPS: 128/4 | RR: 7.52 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | BA Stokes | |  | 50 (30b) | MM Sharma | 3-0-20-0 |  |  |
|  | MK Tiwary | |  | 25 (15b) | MP Stoinis | 3-0-28-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 16.6 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Stokes, 1 run, a fifty for Stokes. Low full toss outside off stump, angling across, | | |  |  |
|  |  | once more he reaches, once more he gets it off the bottom to long-on | | | |  |  |  |
| 16.5 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Tiwary, 1 run, oh the perfect cover drive, but only one. Overpitched outside | | |  |  |
|  |  | off stump, nicely behind this and gets it bang off the middle. But extra cover dives low to his | | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | right and gets a hand |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 16.4 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Stokes, 1 run, slower ball, full outside off stump, he gets this one off the bottom too | | |  |  |
|  |  | as he hoicks across the line. Straight to deep midwicket | | | |  |  |  |

Akshay: "The Million-Dollar-Baby coming good for Pune! He might be the difference maker this year. A score of 160 from here is pretty much possible from here and that will be great."

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 16.3 | 1 | Sharma to Tiwary, 1 run, overpitched outside off, opens the face and tries to tickle this past |
|  | short third man, but finds him | |
| He's damaged his bat too, time for a change | | |
| 16.2 | 1 | Sharma to Stokes, 1 run, yorker outside off stump, forces him to drag this down to long-on off |
|  | the bottom of the bat | |
| 16.1 | 0 | Sharma to Stokes, no run, good length, just outside off, right in the slot for his big swing, but |
|  | this cuts away slightly and beats the outside edge | |

Punjab conceded at 8.90 per over in the last four overs in the 2016 season - the best among all teams in first innings

END OF OVER: 16 | 15 Runs | RPS: 123/4 | RR: 7.68

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MK Tiwary | 23 (13b) | MP Stoinis | 3-0-28-1 |
| BA Stokes | 47 (26b) | T Natarajan | 3-0-26-1 |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15.6 | 4 | Stoinis to Tiwary, FOUR, back of a length, into the pads, gets slightly inside the line and |
|  | bisects fine leg and deep square | |





|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15.5 | 1 | Stoinis to Stokes, 1 run, hangs deep in the crease again, swivels and slogs this length ball to |
|  | long leg | |
| 15.4 | 1 | Stoinis to Tiwary, 1 run, back of a length at middle stump, clears the front leg and pulls it to |
|  | deep midwicket | |
| 15.3 | 1 | Stoinis to Stokes, 1 run, slower ball, full outside off stump, goes for the switch hit. More |
|  | flourish than result. Straight to sweeper cover | |
| 15.2 | 6 | Stoinis to Stokes, SIX, get out of the way! This has gone about chest height over the long- |
|  | on boundary. Just wide of the fielder there, but there is no way he was going to chance his | |
|  |  | fingers at that. Whew. Steps out, picks the slower ball and slaps it on the up |
|  |  |  |
| 15.1 | 2 | Stoinis to Stokes, 2 runs, back of a length at his pads, he whips it to deep midwicket's left and |
|  | comes back for a sharp second. A direct hit might have caused trouble, but his slide and the | |

half-volley throw are enough this time

Stokes strikes at 9.16 per over for England in the last five overs. And at 10.68 for Durham.

END OF OVER: 15 | 10 Runs | RPS: 108/4 | RR: 7.20

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BA Stokes | 37 (22b) | T Natarajan | 3-0-26-1 |
| MK Tiwary | 18 (11b) | AR Patel | 3-0-23-0 |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 14.6 | |  | | Natarajan to Stokes, 1 run, in the blockhole at off stump, squeezed out to extra cover | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 14.5 | |  | 1 | Natarajan to Tiwary, 1 run, back of a length outside off, rolled his fingers on it, dabbed down | | |  |  |
|  |  | to third man | | |  |  |  |  |
| 14.4 | |  | 6 | Natarajan to Tiwary, SIX, oh what a shot! Why swat across the line when you can do that? | | |  |  |
|  |  | Natarajan bowls this full and wide - he does one or two of these every over - Tiwary hangs | | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | low, gets to the pitch and slices this over the point boundary | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14.3 | |  | | Natarajan to Stokes, 1 run, yorker at leg stump, clipped off his toes to deep square leg | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 14.2 | |  | 1 | Natarajan to Tiwary, 1 run, good length outside off stump, pushed on the up, bottom of the | | |  |  |
|  |  | bat, to extra cover | | |  |  |  |  |
| 14.1 | |  | 0 | Natarajan to Tiwary, no run, good length outside off, Tiwary continues to offer the angled bat | | |  |  |
|  |  | on this pitch. Premeditates the paddle sweep, but it's too wide and he's beaten | | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 14 | 14 Runs | RPS: 98/4 | RR: 7.00 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | MK Tiwary | |  | 10 (7b) | AR Patel | 3-0-23-0 |  |  |
|  | BA Stokes | |  | 35 (20b) | T Natarajan | 2-0-16-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

13.6





|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | 1 | Patel to Tiwary, 1 run, full at off stump, gets to the pitch, turns his wrists and finds deep | | |  |  |  |
|  |  | square | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Stokes has played only one dot ball in this innings | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| 13.5 | |  | | Patel to Stokes, 1 run, good length at leg stump, taps it to deep midwicket off the back foot | | | |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13.4 | |  | | Patel to Stokes, SIX, shot. Full outside off, gets on one knee and lifts this over the bowler | | |  |  |  |
|  | 6 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 13.3 | |  | 4 | Patel to Stokes, FOUR, short at middle stump, hurries him slightly but he has seen enough of | | | |  |  |
|  |  | this to pull it between the two deep fielders | | | |  |  |  |  |
| 13.2 | |  | 1 | Patel to Tiwary, 1 run, good length outside off, goes deep in the crease and flicks across the | | | |  |  |
|  |  | line to the open leg side. Dangerous shot on this pitch | | | | |  |  |  |
| 13.1 | |  | 1 | Patel to Stokes, 1 run, good length, flat and angled across off stump, punched off the back foot | | | |  |  |
|  |  | to long-off | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 13 | 9 Runs | RPS: 84/4 | RR: 6.46 | | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | BA Stokes | |  | 23 (16b) |  | T Natarajan | 2-0-16-1 |  |  |
|  | MK Tiwary | |  | 8 (5b) |  | Swapnil Singh | 2-0-14-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

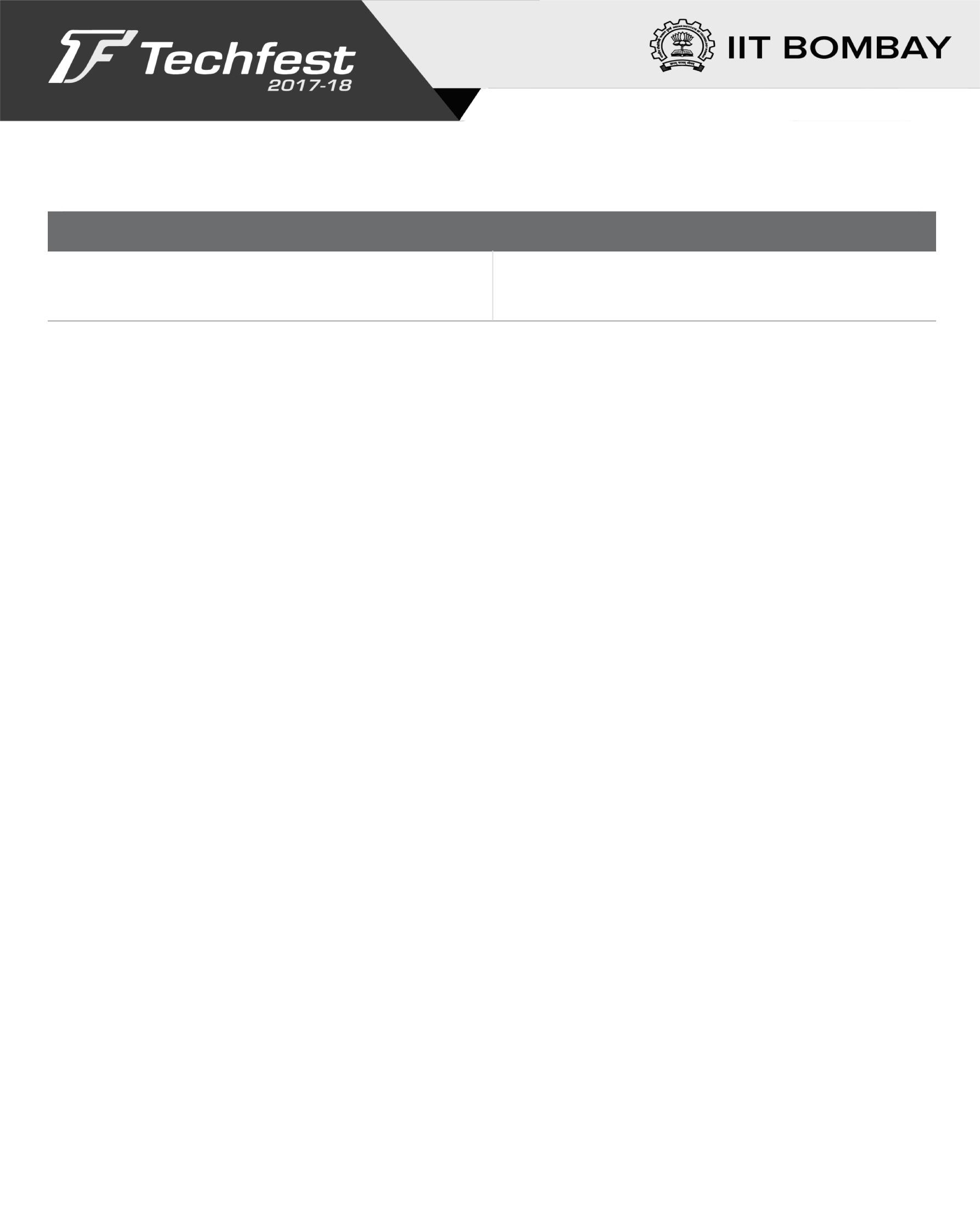
Supradeep: "By the look of the pitch, I think the kings xi batting who like pace on the ball is going to have a very tough time when they come to bat. Rajat Bhatia and Imran Tahir will be licking their fingers already." ---

As stated at the start of the game - 144 is the average here. Team batting first has won seven out of ten times though.

5.05pm And we have the second time-out

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 12.6 |  | Natarajan to Stokes, 1 run, low full toss at middle stump, punched straight to long-on |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 12.5 | 1 | Natarajan to Tiwary, 1 run, back of a length outside off, mistimed under edge into the off side |  |
|  | as he plays on the back foot | |  |
| 12.4 | 4 | Natarajan to Tiwary, FOUR, good looking shot. This is full and wide outside off stump, |  |
|  | similar to Rahane's dismissal, but Tiwary has leaned in and kept low. He also has more pace - | |  |
|  |  | uses it to lift it inside-out and get it wide of sweeper |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 12.3 |  | Natarajan to Stokes, 1 run, slower ball, full at the pads, flicked to deep square leg |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 12.2 | 1 | Natarajan to Tiwary, 1 run, yet another inside edge on this slow pitch. Back of a length, |  |
|  | angled across off stump, wants to run it to third man, chops it into the leg side | |  |
| 12.1 |  | Natarajan to Stokes, 1 run, full and angled in at leg stump, feet rooted to the crease but gets |  |





|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | the flick off the middle of the bat, gets it wide of long-on | |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 12 | 4 Runs 1 Wkt | RPS: 75/4 | RR: 6.25 | |  |  |  |
| BA Stokes | 20 (13b) | Swapnil Singh | 2-0-14-1 |  |
| MK Tiwary | 2 (2b) | MP Stoinis | 2-0-13-1 |  |

You might remember Dhoni [smashing Axar Patel for 60466](http://www.espncricinfo.com/indian-premier-league-2016/engine/current/match/981005.html) to blast Pune to a last-over win last season. Despite that, his record against left-arm spin isn't great. Overall (in all T20 cricket), his economy rate against left-arm spin is 6.49, as against 6.77 against right-arm spin, 8.70 against right-arm pace, and 9.10 against left-arm pace.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 11.6 | |  | | Swapnil Singh to Stokes, 1 run, full and flat at leg stump, flicked to deep midwicket | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 11.5 | |  | 1 | Swapnil Singh to Tiwary, 1 run, back of a length at middle stump, goes on the back foot, and | | |  |  |
|  |  | just manages to push it past the bowler for a single. Slight mix-up there but safe in the end | | | | |  |  |
| 11.4 | |  | 1 | Swapnil Singh to Stokes, 1 run, good length at middle stump, taoped to deep midwicket off | | |  |  |
|  |  | the back foot | | |  |  |  |  |
| 11.3 | |  | 1 | Swapnil Singh to Tiwary, 1 run, good length, angled in at leg stump, pushed into the leg side | | |  |  |
|  |  | off the front foot | | |  |  |  |  |
| 11.2 | |  | W | Swapnil Singh to Dhoni, OUT, takes it on the fourth attempt. Tossed up at off stump, | | |  |  |
|  |  | looks to force this through the off side. He's reaching out for it. Not to the pitch, lobs it back to | | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Swapnil who probably is a bit flustered that he has foxed Dhoni. Makes a meal of an easy take, | | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | but hangs on in the end |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | MS Dhoni c & b Swapnil Singh 5 (17m 11b 0x4 0x6) SR: 45.45 | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 11.1 | |  | 0 | Swapnil Singh to Dhoni, no run, back of a length at off stump, punched off the back foot to | | |  |  |
|  |  | extra cover | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 11 | 8 Runs | RPS: 71/3 | RR: 6.45 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | BA Stokes | |  | 18 (11b) | MP Stoinis | 2-0-13-1 |  |  |
|  | MS Dhoni | |  | 5 (9b) | Swapnil Singh | 1-0-10-0 |  |  |
|  |  | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | Rajat Bhatia dreams of this pitch every night | | | |  |  |  |  |
| 10.6 | |  | 0 | Stoinis to Stokes, no run, good length outside off, sits up like a short ball, slapped on the up, | | |  |  |
|  |  | straight to mid-off | | |  |  |  |  |
| 10.5 | |  | 4 | Stoinis to Stokes, FOUR, rolls his fingers on this, good length, wide outside off. Beats him for | | |  |  |
|  |  | pace, beats him for line, gets his edge - still ends up giving four through third man | | | |  |  |  |
| 10.4 | |  |  | Stoinis to Dhoni, 1 run, back of a length at middle stump, tucked off the back foot to deep | |  |  |  |





|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  | square |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10.4 | |  | Stoinis to Dhoni, 1 wide, bouncer, way down the leg side, lets it go | |  |  |  |
| 1w |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10.3 | | 1 | Stoinis to Stokes, 1 run, short and angled across him. He wants to bludgeon this through | |  |  |  |
|  |  | midwicket, but there isn't enough pace in this pitch for back foot shots. Thick inside edge to | | | |  |  |
|  |  |  | fine leg |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10.2 | |  | Stoinis to Dhoni, 1 run, good length at off stump, taps it into the leg side, very late, soft hands | | |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 10.1 | | 0 | Stoinis to Dhoni, no run, back of a length at off stump, comes on slowly after pitching, forced | | |  |  |
|  |  | to tap back to the bowler | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 10 | 10 Runs | RPS: 63/3 | RR: 6.30 | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | BA Stokes | | 13 (8b) | Swapnil Singh | 1-0-10-0 |  |  |
|  | MS Dhoni |  | 3 (6b) | MP Stoinis | 1-0-5-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Kunal: "The only reason I think for such a low strike rate would be that he hasn't come out in the first 14 with wickets in hand and has had to rebuild. Which is because he bats too low ;)"

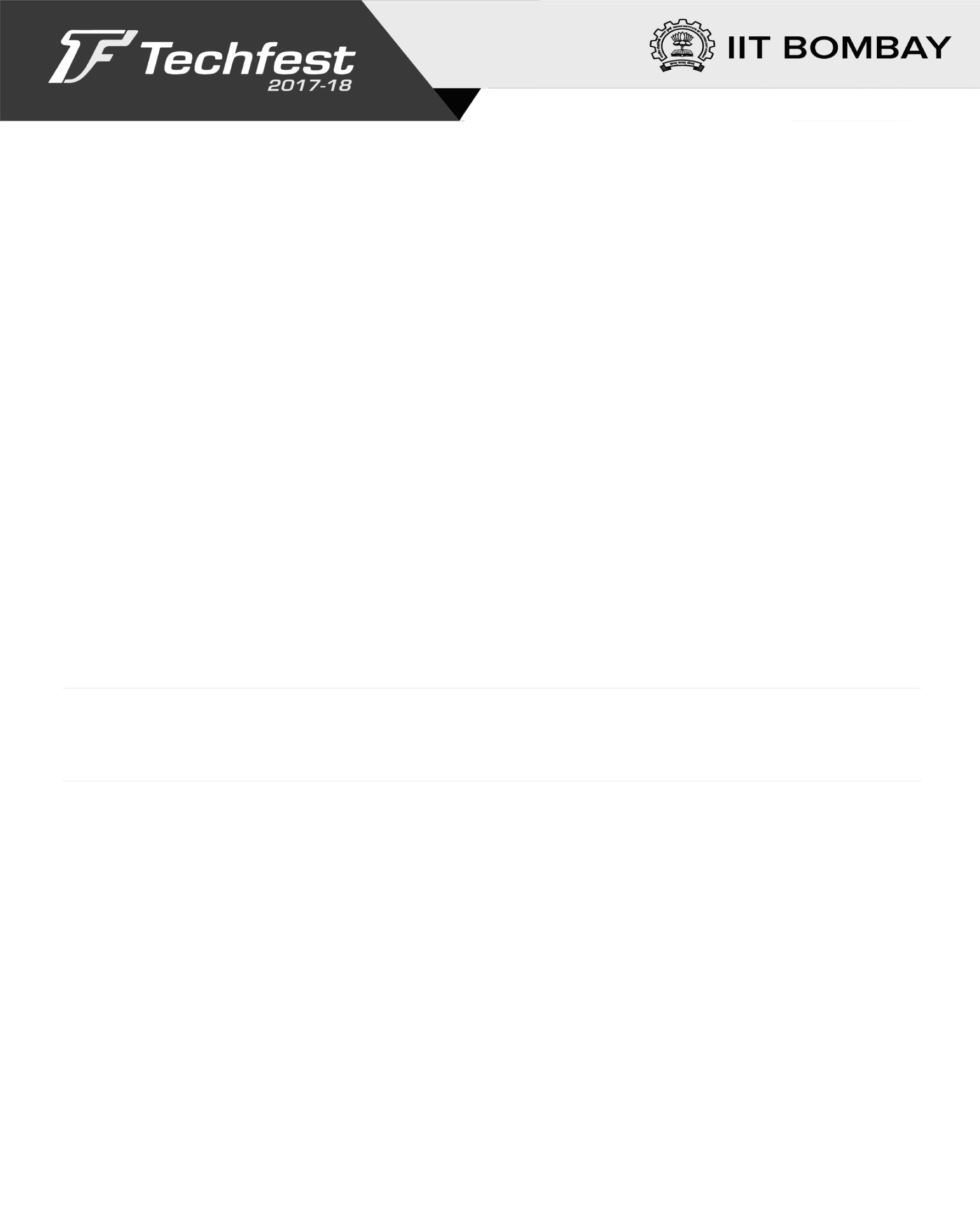
Rajeev: "There's perhaps a reason for why he bats slow in the first 15 overs. He usually bats at 5, so if he comes in before 10, 3 or 4 wickets would have gone so ultimately he has to consolidate before he can go off. If his role changes to that of a top order batsman, those stats will change too."

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 9.6 | 6 | Swapnil Singh to Stokes, SIX, you don't bowl there to Stokes. Tossed up generously at |  |
|  | middle stump, he clears the front leg and launches this over the midwicket boundary | |  |
| 9.5 |  | Swapnil Singh to Dhoni, 1 run, good length, angled in at leg stump, pushed to deep square leg |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 9.4 | 1 | Swapnil Singh to Stokes, 1 run, good length at leg stump, pushed to deep midwicket off the |  |
|  | back foot | |  |
| 9.3 | 1 | Swapnil Singh to Dhoni, 1 run, back of a length outside off, cuts it past the diving point |  |
|  | fielder, finds sweeper | |  |
| 9.2 | 0 | Swapnil Singh to Dhoni, no run, good length at off stump, steps out early, not to the pitch, |  |
|  | defended back to the bowler | |  |
| 9.1 | 1 | Swapnil Singh to Stokes, 1 run, full at leg stump, hammered straight to long-on, all along the |  |
|  | ground | |  |

Swapnil Singh, slow left-arm, around the wicket

END OF OVER: 9 | 5 Runs 1 Wkt | RPS: 53/3 | RR: 5.88





|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MS Dhoni | 1 | (3b) | MP Stoinis | 1-0-5-1 |
| BA Stokes | 5 | (5b) | AR Patel | 2-0-9-0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Stoinis' economy rate in Australia is 7.80 from 16 innings. In India, before today, it was 8.43 from seven innings.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 8.6 | 0 | Stoinis to Dhoni, no run, good length, angled in at leg stump, pushed back down the pitch as |  |
|  | that comes on slowly | |  |
| 8.5 |  | Stoinis to Stokes, 1 run, good length at off stump, pushed on the up to long-on |  |
| 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 8.4 | 1 | Stoinis to Dhoni, 1 run, almost chops it on. Good length outside off, pokes at it from the |  |
|  | crease, the inside edge evades the stumps and rolls down to fine leg | |  |
| 8.3 |  | Stoinis to Dhoni, no run, good length at middle stump, defended back to the bowler |  |
| 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 8.3 | 1w | Stoinis to Dhoni, 1 wide, good length, angled down the leg side, past his thigh guard...might |  |
|  | have flicked it, there was a sound. But the umpire didn't make anything of it | |  |

There have always been calls for Dhoni to bat higher up, but there might be a reason he doesn't do it so often. From the first to 14th over, he has scored his runs at 5.99 per over - S/R 99.90 - through his IPL career. Is that slow build-up worth his explosive finishes?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 8.2 | 1 | Stoinis to Stokes, 1 run, good length outside off, punches on the up, misfield at extra cover |
|  | allows a single | |

fly slip for Stokes

4.40pm The strategic time out has been taken. And here's something to chew on: Stoinis had never got Smith out in any competition before this.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 8.1 | |  | W | Stoinis to Smith, OUT, gone! Holed out to deep square. This is back of a length, angles | | |  |
|  |  | down the leg side but sits in the pitch and straightens. It was awkward and climbed on Smith | | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  | who was through his leg glance. Gets it high on the bat and Vohra runs to his right again, | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | backwards again - and holds on this time |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | SPD Smith c Vohra b Stoinis 26 (34m 27b 3x4 0x6) SR: 96.29 | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| 8.1 | |  | 1w | Stoinis to Smith, 1 wide, good length, down the leg side, evades Smith's hoick but gives away a | | |  |
|  |  | run anyway | | |  |  |  |
|  | Stoinis |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 8 | 6 Runs | RPS: 48/2 | RR: 6.00 | | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | SPD Smith | |  | 26 (26b) | AR Patel | 2-0-9-0 |  |
|  | BA Stokes | |  | 3 (3b) | T Natarajan | 1-0-7-1 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |





|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 7.6 | 1 | Patel to Smith, 1 run, good length at off stump, not to the pitch, but drives on the up and gets |
|  | it wide of long-off | |
| 7.5 | 1 | Patel to Stokes, 1 run, good length, angled across middle stump, closes the face and tucks it to |
|  | deep square | |
| 7.4 | 1 | Patel to Smith, 1 run, good length at middle stump, jumps down the track and pushes it on the |
|  | up to long-on | |

Mustafa Moudi: "Vohra didnt let Natarajan pick Rahane's catch coz he probably knew that Natarajan will pick his wicket as a Bowler "

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 7.3 | |  | | Patel to Stokes, 1 run, full at middle stump, flicked to deep midwicket | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7.2 | |  | | Patel to Smith, 1 run, good length at off stump, soft-handed push to deep midwicket | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7.1 | |  | | Patel to Stokes, 1 run, good length at middle stump, pushed to long-on off the front foot | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | around the wicket to Stokes | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 7 | 7 Runs 1 Wkt | RPS: 42/2 | RR: 6.00 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | SPD Smith | |  | 23 (23b) | T Natarajan | 1-0-7-1 |  |  |
|  | BA Stokes | |  | 0 (0b) | AR Patel | 1-0-3-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 6.6 | |  | 0 | Natarajan to Smith, no run, in the blockhole, wide outside off stump, Smith doesn't shuffle | | |  |  |
|  |  | this ball and so can't reach it. Beaten. | | |  |  |  |  |
| 6.5 | |  | 2 | Natarajan to Smith, 2 runs, back of a length at off stump, swivels across and pulls this square | | |  |  |
|  |  | between the two deep fielders in the leg side | | | |  |  |  |
| 6.4 | |  | 4 | Natarajan to Smith, FOUR, shoooooot. Full, slight shape back but Smith seems to know it's | | |  |  |
|  |  | coming. Full face as he drives - beats the bowler, beats mid-on, beats long-off | | | |  |  |  |
| 6.3 | |  | | Natarajan to Smith, no run, short and wide, chopped straight to point | |  |  |  |
|  | 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 6.2 | |  | W | Natarajan to Rahane, OUT, he has Rahane off his second ball. Full and wide outside off | | |  |  |
|  |  | stump, Rahane wants to crash this over the cover boundary but he's not to the pitch of the | | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | ball. Bat turns in his hands as he executes the sliced shot and it is straight to Stoinis at | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | sweeper cover |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | AM Rahane c Stoinis b Natarajan 19 (30m 15b 1x4 1x6) SR: 126.66 | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | |  |  |
| 6.1 | |  | 1 | Natarajan to Smith, 1 run, short and angled across him, punched off the back foot to sweeper | | |  |  |
|  |  | cover | | |  |  |  |  |

Natarajan. False start. He walks back to his mark





END OF OVER: 6 | 3 Runs | RPS: 35/1 | RR: 5.83

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SPD Smith | 16 (18b) | AR Patel | 1-0-3-0 |
| AM Rahane | 19 (14b) | Sandeep Sharma | 3-0-17-1 |
|  |  |  |  |

Pace or spin against Steven Smith in the IPL? There's no easy answer. Since 2014, Smith averages 38 and scores at around 8.9 per over against pace; and averages 43 and scores at 7.50 per over against spin. He's as formidable against pace in the Powerplay, but scores much slower against spin - at a run a ball.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5.6 | |  | 1 | Patel to Smith, 1 run, good length, fired in at middle stump, punched to deep midwicket off | | |  |  |
|  |  | the back foot | | |  |  |  |  |
| 5.5 | |  | 0 | Patel to Smith, no run, and repeat, this time he gets a tickle on it through to Saha who doesn't | | |  |  |
|  |  | collect | | |  |  |  |  |
| 5.4 | |  | 0 | Patel to Smith, no run, sneaks through between his legs. Short and angled down leg, | | |  |  |
|  |  | Smith wants to pull, but this skids on and keeps low to bisect his legs | | | |  |  |  |
| 5.3 | |  | | Patel to Rahane, 1 run, good length, angled in at the pads, flicked to short fine's left | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 5.2 | |  | 1 | Patel to Smith, 1 run, good length at middle stump, hangs in the crease and glances it to deep | | |  |  |
|  |  | square | | |  |  |  |  |
| 5.1 | |  | | Patel to Smith, no run, full at off stump, driven inside-out to find extra cover | |  |  |  |
|  | 0 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Spin, Patel | | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 5 | 12 Runs | RPS: 32/1 | RR: 6.40 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | SPD Smith | |  | 14 (13b) | Sandeep Sharma | 3-0-17-1 |  |  |
|  | AM Rahane | |  | 18 (13b) | MM Sharma | 2-0-15-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

By the way, that steer to third man has been a very productive shot for Rahane - last year, it brought him 52 runs - the joint-most alongside Kohli. Rahane used that shot a lot more to score boundaries - his 52 came off 37 balls, while Kohli's came off 55.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 4.6 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Smith, 1 run, and now he whips a similar ball from a length to deep |
|  | square leg's right. This one was shaping away too | |
| 4.5 | 4 | Sandeep Sharma to Smith, FOUR, even better. Good length at middle stump, gives the |
|  | charge, makes some room and uses his wrists to cream it between cover and extra | |
| 4.4 | 4 | Sandeep Sharma to Smith, FOUR, a familiar sight in recent times. Good length, moving away |
|  | from off stump, not a bad ball. But Smith's superhuman wrists are at this, on the up, and get | |

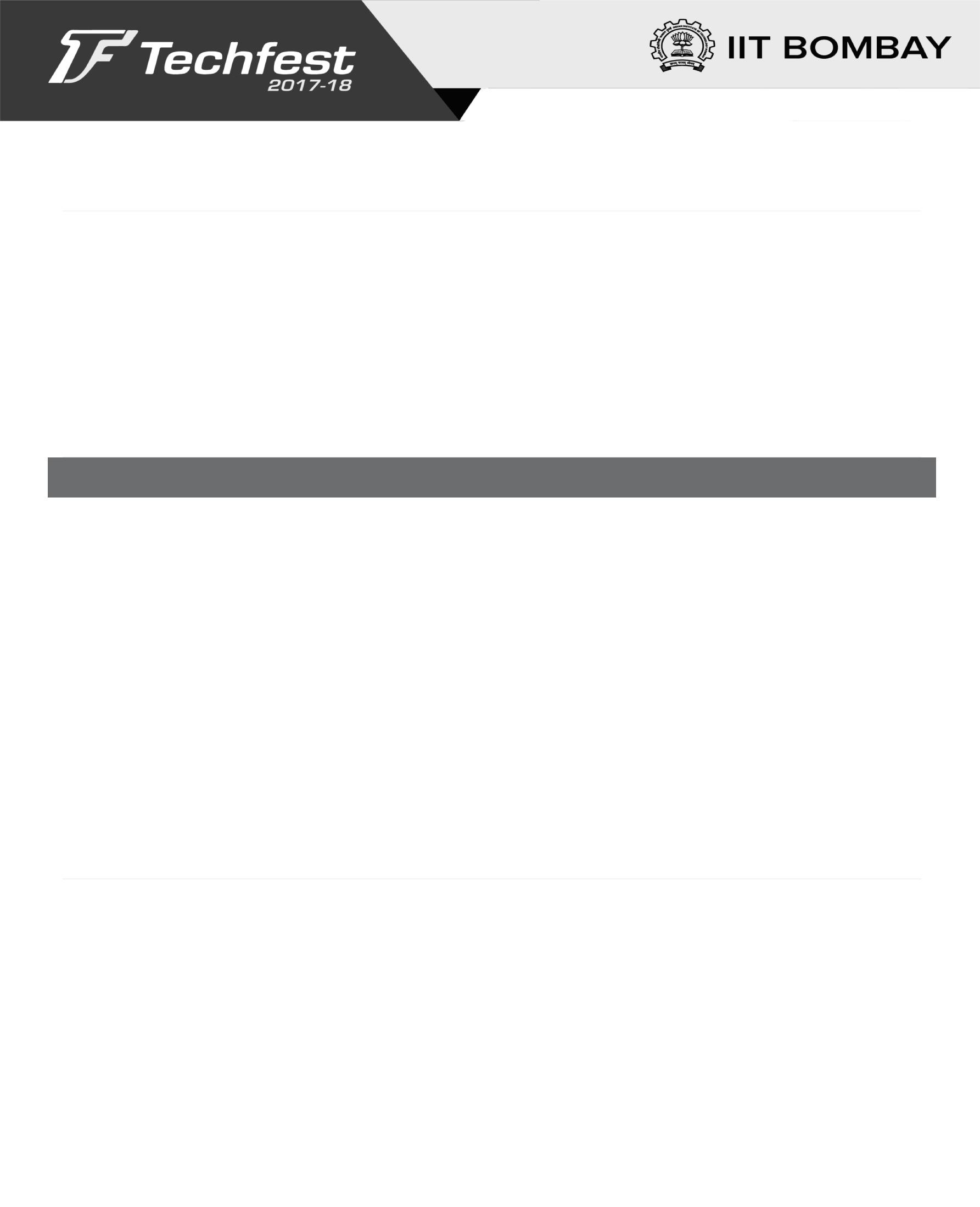
it through cover point





|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4.3 | |  | | Sandeep Sharma to Rahane, 1 run, good length at off stump, turns it into open leg side | |  |  |  |
|  | 1 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | | |  |
| 4.2 | |  | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Smith, 1 run, good length at off stump, Smith doesn't lean in like Rahane, | | | |  |
|  |  | but can whip it to mid-on anyway | | |  |  |  |  |
| 4.1 | |  | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Rahane, 1 run, good length at middle stump, tails away from Rahane as | | | |  |
|  |  | he leans in but he can offer enough of the face to push it to mid-on on the up | | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 4 | 13 Runs | RPS: 20/1 | RR: 5.00 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | AM Rahane | |  | 16 (11b) | MM Sharma | 2-0-15-0 |  |  |
|  | SPD Smith | |  | 4 (9b) | Sandeep Sharma | 2-0-5-1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | | |  |
| 3.6 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Rahane, 1 run, and again. This is slightly shorter than the previous ball, he's taller | | | |  |
|  |  | at the crease as he runs it to third man | | |  |  |  |  |
| 3.5 | |  | 4 | Sharma to Rahane, FOUR, good length at off stump, this time no feet. Stays in the crease, | | | |  |
|  |  | watches it closely, opens the face at the last moment and runs it past where first slip would | | | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  | have been |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
| 3.4 | |  | 6 | Sharma to Rahane, SIX, shot. Bouncer at middle stump at that pace will never trouble | |  |  |  |
|  |  | Rahane. Rocks back and nails the hook shot, which flies over short fine | | | |  |  |  |
| 3.3 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Smith, 1 run, good length at off stump, walks across and whips it off the middle to | | | |  |
|  |  | deep square | | |  |  |  |  |
| 3.2 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Rahane, 1 run, dropped. Vohra puts it down at cover. This is good length, tries to | | | |  |
|  |  | whip it on the up, across the line. Leading edge hangs up in the cover region. Vohra has to run | | | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  | backwards as debutant Natarajan backs away at extra cover. That was Natarajan's catch. In | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  | the end, Vohra has too much to think about and lets it slip as he goes to the ground | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | | | |  |
| 3.1 | |  | 0 | Sharma to Rahane, no run, dot ball pressure. Steps out and swings haphazardly across the | | | |  |
|  |  | line, misses the line and the length completely. This flies over the off stump | | | |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 3 | 4 Runs | RPS: 7/1 | RR: 2.33 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | SPD Smith | |  | 3 (8b) | Sandeep Sharma | 2-0-5-1 |  |  |
|  | AM Rahane | |  | 4 (6b) | MM Sharma | 1-0-2-0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.6 | |  | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Smith, no run, good length outside off, slight movement away off the | |  |  |  |
|  |  | pitch, pushed into the covers off the front foot | | | |  |  |  |
| 2.5 | |  | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Rahane, 1 run, full at off stump, leans in, turns the wrists and flicks it to | | | |  |
|  |  | deep square leg | | |  |  |  |  |
| 2.4 | |  | | Sandeep Sharma to Rahane, no run, back of a length at off stump, very close to the body, but | | | |  |
|  | 0 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |





he opens the face and chops it straight to short third man

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2.3 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Smith, 1 run, back of a length outside off, driven on the up to Amla at |
|  | mid-off | |
| 2.2 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Rahane, 1 run, good length, moves away marginally from the corridor, |
|  | defended with an open face to third man | |
| 2.1 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Smith, 1 run, oh what a shot. Good length, about two stumps wide off of |
|  | stump. He walks across the stumps and shovels this to deep square leg | |

HelKumar: "Admit it S. Sharma is the most under rated bowler in IPL" --- 31 wickets in Powerplays for Sandeep in IPL - joint-most among all bowlers since his debut in 2013. Bhuvi also has 31.

END OF OVER: 2 | 2 Runs | RPS: 3/1 | RR: 1.50

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SPD Smith | 1 | (5b) | MM Sharma | 1-0-2-0 |
| AM Rahane | 2 | (3b) | Sandeep Sharma | 1-0-1-1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1.6 | 1 | Sharma to Smith, 1 run, good length, slight movement away from outside off. Follows it, |
|  | opens the face and runs it down to third man | |
| 1.5 | 0 | Sharma to Smith, no run, short and wide again, hard hands from Smith once more, mistimes |
|  | the punch and it bounces towards mid-off | |
| 1.4 | 0 | Sharma to Smith, no run, short and wide, eyes light up for Smith, but the ball skids through |
|  | and beats the under edge on his attempted cut | |
| 1.3 | 0 | Sharma to Smith, no run, good length, in the corridor, walks into the shot, punches it straight |
|  | to covers | |

A reminder: Mohit Sharma has an excellent record against Smith in the IPL - he's bowled 26 balls to him in six innings, conceding only 25 runs, and taken his wicket twice.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.2 | |  | 1 | Sharma to Rahane, 1 run, good length at off stump, comes on slowly, he hangs back and taps | | |  |  |
|  |  | it to backward point's left | | |  |  |  |  |
| 1.1 | |  | 0 | Sharma to Rahane, no run, good length, angled into the pads, flicked late, straight to short | |  |  |  |
|  |  | fine leg | | |  |  |  |  |
| END OF OVER: 1 | 1 Run 1 Wkt | RPS: 1/1 | RR: 1.00 | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | SPD Smith | |  | 0 (1b) | Sandeep Sharma | 1-0-1-1 |  |  |
|  | AM Rahane | |  | 1 (1b) |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

This was the fourth time Mayank was dismissed in the first over of the innings in IPL, in 33 innings.

0.6 Sandeep Sharma to Smith, no run, full and swinging in at off stump, shuffles across and





|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | defends to cover point |  |
|  | 0 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 0.5 | W | Sandeep Sharma to Agarwal, OUT, got him! What a sight! More inswing. This one is at a |  |
|  | length too, nips back slightly. Mayank wants to crash this on the up through the off side, | |  |
|  |  | leaves a huge gap between bat and pad, perfect passageway to the stumps that are knocked |  |
|  |  | out |  |
|  |  | MA Agarwal b Sandeep Sharma 0 (4m 4b 0x4 0x6) SR: 0.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 0.4 | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Agarwal, no run, good length, swinging in at middle stump, defended to |  |
|  | midwicket off the back foot | |  |
| 0.3 | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Agarwal, no run, loud appeal, but that's going down. Trademark |  |
|  | inswinger from Sandeep, but it starts at middle and raps him on leg as he looks to whip over | |  |
|  |  | square leg |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 0.2 | 0 | Sandeep Sharma to Agarwal, no run, good length, late swing in at off stump, gets a stride |  |
|  | across and gets the inside half of the bat as he pushes it to midwicket | |  |
| third man goes back for Mayank | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 0.1 | 1 | Sandeep Sharma to Rahane, 1 run, back of a length at off stump, opens the face and taps it |  |
|  | between backward point and short third man | |  |

Sandeep Sharma has the ball. Sandeep has bowled in the first-innings Powerplay 18 times, taking nine wickets and conceding 6.74 runs per over. Rahane v Sandeep - 25 runs off 31 balls, SR of 80.64, dismissed him 2 times in 4 inns.

3.58 pm The umpires are walking out into the middle and Punjab have huddled up....and here come the

batsmen. Ajinkya Rahane and Mayank Agarwal.

3.55pm Steven Smith is in red-hot form, but Kings XI Punjab might have a way to deal with him. Mohit Sharma has an excellent record against Smith in the IPL - he's bowled 26 balls to him in six innings, conceding only 25 runs and taking his wicket twice.

Manish: "I still think Morgan was better option than Amla. Is the decision seems to be taken due to fact that they dont have proper opener after losing out Vijay? Hope I am wrong and Amla justifies his selection" --- Yes, Maxwell probably wasn't keen on opening.

Afsar: "India's Fizz is playing today, curiosity is getting high on this guy!! I'm waiting for this guy from the day auctioned!! " --- He's talking of T Natarajan. He's played only five T20 games, taking four wickets at an average of 35.25 while conceding 8.29 per over.

Rishav: "I am liking Smith as a leader more and more. He has trusted Dinda which will give him lot of confidence. He didnt ball as bad as his stats show. Christian is a nice addition too"





Faf Du Plessis isn't playing today. He has scored three fifties in his last four innings v KXIP: 29, 52, 0, 55, 67.

Pune lost all seven matches in which they batted first last year. They conceded 9.80 in Powerplays when defending, as opposed to 6.52 while bowling first. Dinda: 4.69 while bowling first, 8.62 while defending.

Rising Pune Supergiant XI: Ajinkya Rahane, Mayank Agarwal, Steve Smith (c), Manoj Tiwary, MS Dhoni (wk), Ben Stokes, Rajat Bhatia, Rahul Chahar, Dan Christian, Imran Tahir, Ashok Dinda

Kings XI Punjab: Hashim Amla, Manan Vohra, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Glenn Maxwell (c), David Miller, Marcus Stoinis, Axar Patel, Swapnil Singh, Mohit Sharma, Sandeep Sharma, T Natarajan

Rajeev: "If I were the captain, I'd throw Mahi in to open as well. He can be really useful if he gets going, can get through the middle overs, and really smack at the end. He won't do that as a captain himself, ever, but having a hitter up the order might not be a bad idea. Especially someone like MS. And that also brings Agarwal into play since he can play 10-15 balls and score from the word go, 25-30." --- Dhoni has scored 448 runs in 16 innings against Punjab - four fifties and a strike-rate of 157.19

Smith: We would have had a bowl as well, it looks like it will be consistent for 40 overs. From the previous game, we felt we timed our chase nicely but we'd like to execute our bowling better. Rahul Chahar has come in for his brother Deepak, and Dan Christian comes in for Zampa.

Maxi: This wicket has been very flat, similar to our practice wickets. The guys have enjoyed training, the facilities have been great. We looked good in the practice games and are excited to go. Our four foreign players are Amla, Miller, Stonis and myself.

3.30pm Maxwell has won the toss and elected to bowl.

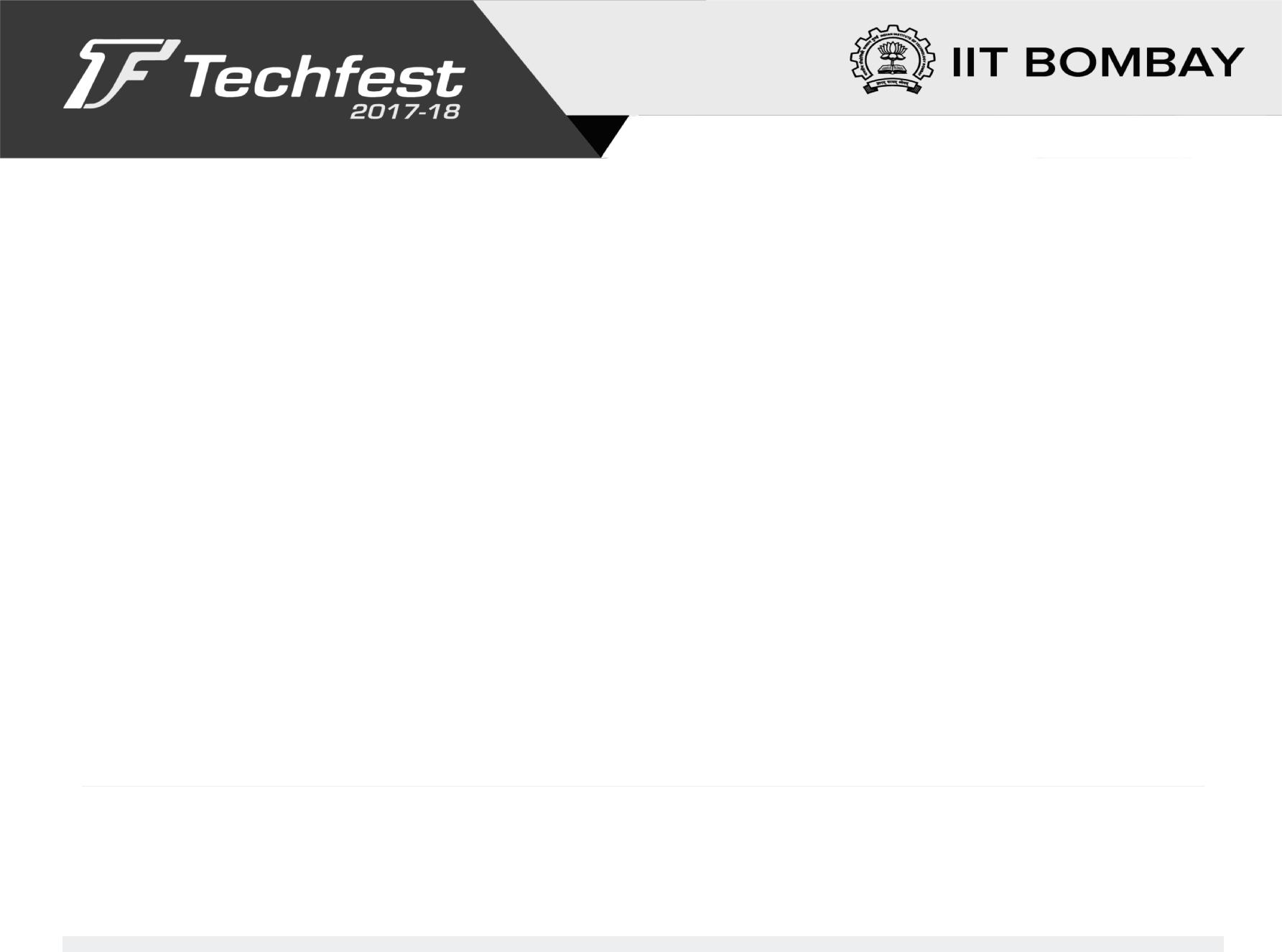
3.29pm Maxwell will be Punjab's tenth captain to go out for a toss.

Aamir lone: "Remember Mahi's swashbuckling 80 odd on this very ground against saffas not so long ago.Hope he does it today as well"

Nishan: "Buttler opened for MI, Lynn opened for KKR so will Maxi."

Amardeep kumar: "Today Maxi will fire against rising pune supergiant" --- He will miss R Ashwin, though. He has scored more runs off Ashwin than off any other bowler in the IPL - 83 runs off 35 balls at a jaw-dropping strike rate of 237.14, and has been dismissed only once. He won't enjoy the legspin either - the only two bowlers who have dismissed him three times in the IPL are Piyush Chawla and Amit Mishra, and Imran Tahir has got him out twice.





Do you believe in average scores? It was 157 in Rajkot yesterday, but we saw what happened in the end. For Indore - The average score is 144, and the highest total scored is 168. These were in day games. The IPL has no day games in India.

Teams batting first have won seven out of ten games here. Which will be an interesting paradox, because in the two matches between these teams last year, the team that batted first lost in both. That's a head-to-head 1-1 between these teams.

3.13pm Welcome to the fourth game of IPL 2017. It's 36 degrees in Indore, where the city's opening ceremony has just finished. This will be the venue's first T20 match since March 2015, when it hosted the Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy, India's domestic T20 tournament. This year, of course, it will be one of Kings XI Punjab's homes, alongside Mohali. It will host three games.

Punjab are hosting Rising Pune Supergiant today, fresh from an incredible win against Mumbai a couple of days ago. It had to be a last over finish if Dhoni was around in a chase, but it was Steven Smith who took them through with two sixes to seal the game. And make yet another Indian captain scratch his head as he waltzes through his sub-continental vacation.

And so we'll have to see what an Aussie captain does against him. Glenn Maxwell, of course, has never captained at the senior level. In any format. Let's see what he brings to this fixture today. Annesha Ghosh did the preview last evening, you should [give that a read](http://www.espncricinfo.com/indian-premier-league-2017/content/story/1090852.html).

