

How did Sunrisers Hyderabad reach from bottom to top in Indian Premier League(IPL) 2024?

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An Enthusiast's Perspective

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Data Details

Blog post

Behind the Scenes

What is the Indian Premier League(IPL)?



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The Indian Premier League (IPL) is a professional Twenty20 (T20) cricket league, considered one of the most exciting and influential tournaments in the sport. It features eight city-based franchises competing in a high-octane format with star players from around the world. The IPL's global significance lies in its fast-paced action, glamorous presentation, and innovative strategies, attracting a massive fan following worldwide. It has revolutionized cricket, inspiring similar leagues globally and propelling T20 cricket to new heights.

Who are Sunrisers Hyderabad(SRH)?



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Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), a franchise cricket team based in Hyderabad, India. They compete in the Indian Premier League (IPL), the most popular cricket tournament in the world. SRH is a significant team in cricket circles for a few reasons. They’ve won the IPL championship once and consistently challenge for the title. They’re known for their passionate fan base and for attracting talented players through strategic acquisitions. With their orange and black jerseys, SRH is a recognizable and respected force in the IPL.

Why analyse SRH?

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) is a great example of a team that used to struggle but is now doing much better. For a few years, they were always near the bottom of the league. But lately, they’ve gotten a lot stronger and are even fighting for the championship!

This turnaround is interesting because SRH was always seen as a newer team compared to others with more experience and wins. They were kind of the underdog. But things changed when they made Pat Cummins their captain. He was always famous but rose to glory with his captaincy of the World Tournament winning Australian national cricket team, and thus they offered him one of the highest offer in the IPL auction history! It was a risky move, but it seems to have worked out well.

Looking at how SRH went from the bottom to the top is a good way to learn how teams can improve. Maybe it was Cummins’ leadership, maybe they found the right players, or maybe they just did something different. Whatever it was, it’s a great story for any cricket fan!

Where to get IPL and SRH data?

The original data for the players, SRH and Teams was acquired from various sources including the official IPL T20 website [1], StatisticsTimes.com [2] and crictracker.com [3] which was later processed internally to be of use to analysis. The data is as follows:

Here is the players data over 3 seasons used for analysis

2022 SRH Lineup		2023 SRH Lineup		2024 SRH Lineup	
Player	Role	Player	Role	Player	Role
Washington Sundar	All-rounder	Washington Sundar	All-rounder	Shahbaz Ahmed	All-rounder
Abhishek Sharma	All-rounder	Abhishek Sharma	All-rounder	Nitish Kumar Reddy	All-rounder
Romario Shepherd	All-rounder	Vivrant Sharma	All-rounder	Abhishek Sharma	All-rounder
Kane Williamson	Batter	Samarth Vyas	All-rounder	Marco Jansen	All-rounder
Abdul Samad	Batter	Sanvir Singh	All-rounder	Washington Sundar	All-rounder
Nicholas Pooran	Batter	Nitish Kumar Reddy	All-rounder	Sanvir Singh	All-rounder
Priyam Garg	Batter	Rahul Tripathi	Batter	Abdul Samad	Batter
Rahul Tripathi	Batter	Aiden Markram	Batter	Rahul Tripathi	Batter
Aiden Markram	Batter	Glenn Phillips	Batter	Aiden Markram	Batter
Ravikumar Samarth	Batter	Harry Brook	Batter	Glenn Phillips	Batter
Shashank Singh	Batter	Mayank Agarwal	Batter	Heinrich Klaasen	Batter
Glenn Phillips	Batter	Anmolpreet Singh	Batter	Mayank Agarwal	Batter
Umran Malik	Bowler	Umran Malik	Bowler	Travis Head	Batter
Kartik Tyagi	Bowler	Kartik Tyagi	Bowler	Anmolpreet Singh	Batter

Player	Role	Player	Role	Player	Role
Shreyas Gopal	Bowler	T Natarajan	Bowler	Pat Cummins	Bowler
J Suchith	Bowler	Bhuvneshwar Kumar	Bowler	Bhuvneshwar Kumar	Bowler
T Natarajan	Bowler		Bowler	T Natarajan	Bowler
Bhuvneshwar Kumar	Bowler	Marco Jansen		Wanindu Hasaranga	Bowler
		Fazalhaq Farooqi	Bowler	Mayank Markande	Bowler
Marco Jansen	Bowler	Adil Rashid	Bowler	Umran Malik	Bowler
Sean Abbott	Bowler	Mayank Markande	Bowler	Fazalhaq Farooqi	Bowler
Saurabh Dubey	Bowler	Mayank Dagar	Bowler	Jaydev Unadkat	Bowler
Fazalhaq Farooqi	Bowler	Akeal Hosein	Bowler	Akash Singh	Bowler
Vishnu Vinod	Wicket-Keeper	Heinrich Klaasen	Wicket-Keeper	Jhatavedh Subramaniam	Bowler
		Upendra Singh Yadav	Wicket-Keeper	Upendra Yadav	Wicket-Keeper

Below is the Performance data for SRH and all the other Teams

2024 Teams Performance

Team	Win	Lose	No result
KKR	9	-3	2
SRH	8	-5	1
RR	8	-5	1
RCB	7	-7	0
CSK	7	-7	0
DC	7	-7	0
LSG	7	-7	0
GT	5	-7	2
PBKS	5	-9	0
MI	4	-10	0

SRH Run Rate

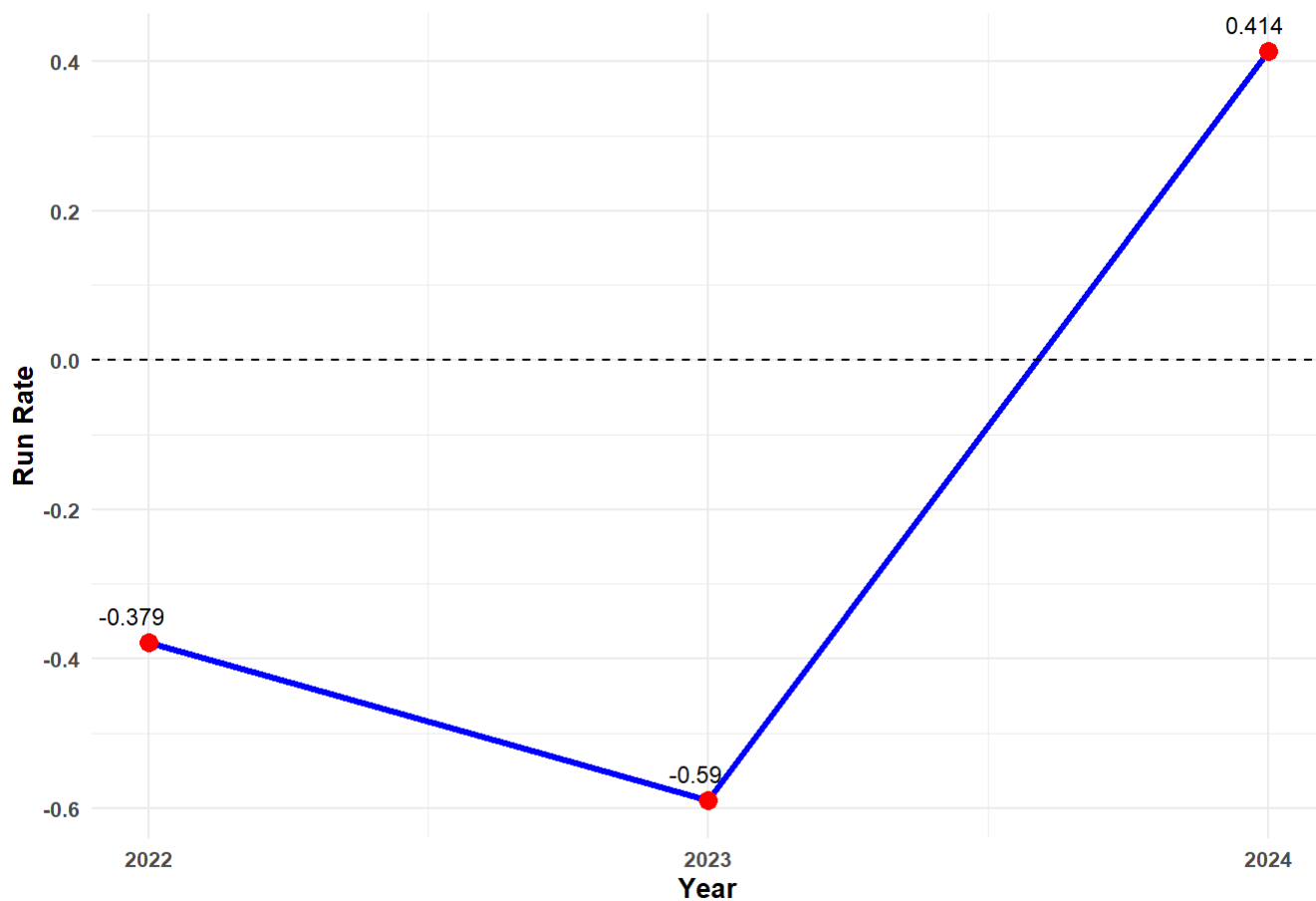
Year	Run Rate
2022	-0.379
2023	-0.590
2024	0.414

What does the data say about SRH perfomance?

Improved Performance as comapred to previous seasons

From the visualization below it can be observed that there is a sudden spike in the performance of the team in 2024 from the continuous decline of the previous two seasons.

SRH Run Rate over 3 Seasons



It can be seen that SRH's run rate in 2022 and 2023 was negative, with values of -0.379 and -0.590, respectively. These figures indicate consistent underperformance across these seasons, possibly due to a lack of effective team strategies, poor form of key players, or inadequate team coordination.

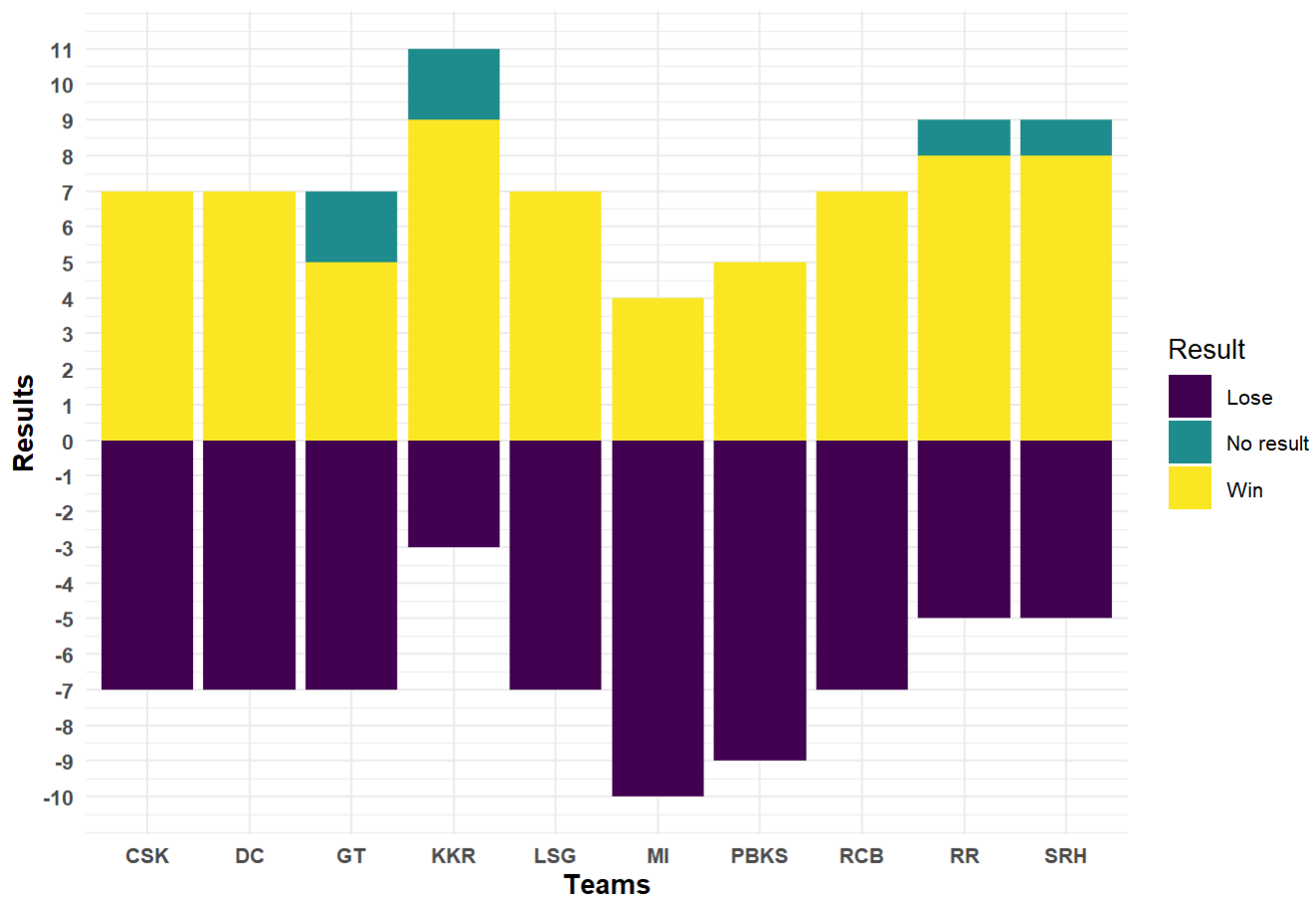
These negative run rates further suggest that SRH struggled to score efficiently while conceding more runs to their opponents, leading to a lower success rate in matches.

But this sudden upward trend suggests a strong rebound and an overall better performance in the 2024 season.

Exceptional gains as compared to competition

The strong rebound can be further seen in the visualization below that SRH not only just performed really well but also gave the winners a run for their money with their exceptional performance throughout the season.

IPL 2024 All Teams Performance



Here it can be seen that SRH not only beats the whole pack in terms of wins (except KKR(Kolkata Knight Riders) who won the tournament by a subtle margin and RR(Rajasthan Royals) whom they beat in the Qualifiers) but also kept the number of losses to the minimum which we concluded earlier was opposite of the way they performed in the previous seasons.

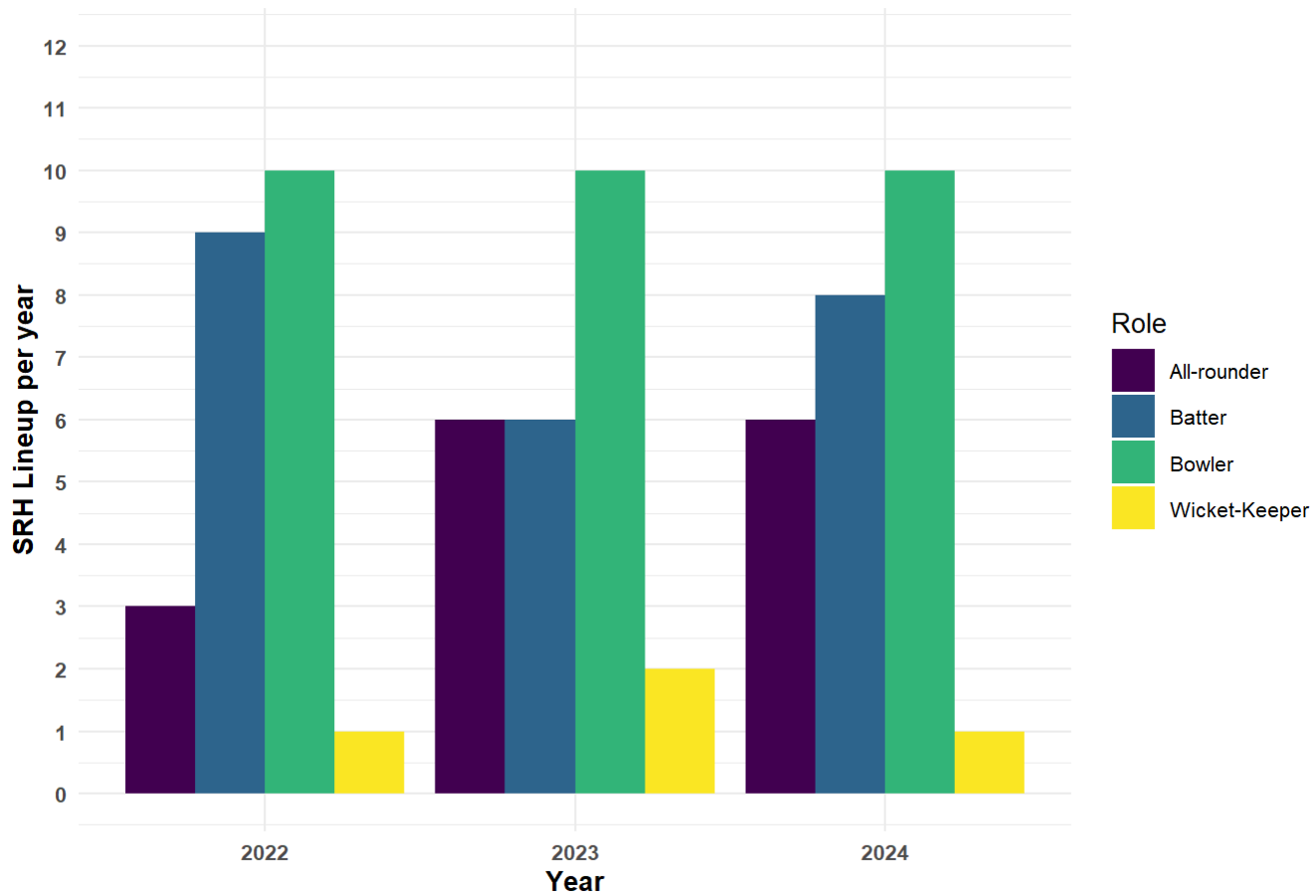
Suddenly what changed for Sunrisers between the last two seasons for such a performance??

Reasons for this sudden jump in SRH performance

The reasons for this improvement can be attributed to many factors which helped to boost the performance drastically. The factors being:

Restructuring of the Team:

SRH Players Distribution by Role Over Years



Here we can observe the 2024 team structure, with a higher number of all-rounders and a balanced batting lineup, provided SRH with the versatility and depth needed to adapt to various match situations effectively. This strategic shift from the 2022 and 2023 structures likely contributed to their improved performance, making them the first runners-up in 2024. The consistent bowling attack ensured stability, while the specialized wicket-keeper maintained efficiency in fielding. This combination of factors justifies the 2024 team structure as a significant improvement over the previous years.

Change in the leadership of the team:



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The leadership change in SRH significantly impacted their performance in the 2024 IPL season. Pat Cummins, the Australian World Cup-winning captain, was appointed as the new skipper, marking the fourth captaincy change in three years [4]. Under Cummins' leadership, SRH's strategy and team dynamics improved, leading them to become the first runners-up. This change brought a fresh perspective and stability, which were crucial after their disappointing performances in the previous seasons under different captains.

Pat Cummins' leadership was marked by strategic planning, adaptability, and effective team management. His approach emphasized aggressive play and data-driven decisions, resulting in SRH frequently posting high scores, including several 200-plus totals and a record 287 against RCB. Cummins' ability to adapt during matches was exemplified in the qualifier against RR, where he effectively utilized spinners on a spin-friendly pitch, despite SRH lacking specialist spinners in their initial lineup [5].

Moreover, Cummins' close working relationship with the new coach, who shared a similar mindset, allowed them to implement innovative strategies and give players the freedom to express themselves. This cohesive leadership and willingness to experiment were crucial in SRH's journey to becoming the first runners-up in IPL 2024 [6].

Gamble on new key players paid off:



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SRH's gamble on new key players also paid off significantly in the 2024 season. The inclusion of impactful players like Mayank Agarwal, Glenn Phillips, and Travis Head bolstered the batting lineup, providing the team with the ability to set and chase substantial targets. The presence of versatile all-rounders such as Washington Sundar and Shahbaz Ahmed offered flexibility in both batting and bowling departments, enabling the team to adapt to various match situations [7].

Moreover, the experienced bowling lineup, featuring Bhuvneshwar Kumar and the rising star T Natarajan, was crucial in restricting opponents and taking vital wickets. The combination of seasoned players and fresh talent created a balanced team capable of performing under pressure. This strategic selection and utilization of players were instrumental in SRH's successful campaign, ultimately helping them reach the finals and secure the runner-up position [8].

What can other teams learn from SRH?

Below are a few key learnings other teams whether they be Bottom-feeders or Top of the class can take to improve their chances of better performance in the coming seasons:

Data-Driven Decisions-

Cummins' captaincy was marked by a data-driven approach, emphasizing analytics to inform strategies. This resulted in SRH frequently posting high scores, including record-breaking totals. Other teams can invest in data analysis and empower their captains to leverage insights for better decision-making [9].

Strategic Talent Acquisition-

SRH's success highlights the importance of strategic talent acquisition. Their targeted selection of players like Agarwal, Phillips, and Head filled specific gaps in their batting lineup, addressing weaknesses identified through data analysis or scouting. Other teams can emulate this approach by using data and scouting reports to target players who complement their existing team structure [10].

Auction Budget Management-

SRH's effective use of their IPL auction budget is another key takeaway. By focusing on acquiring impactful players like Mayank Agarwal and versatile all-rounders like Washington Sundar and Shahbaz Ahmed, they achieved a balanced team composition without overspending. Other teams can learn to prioritize needs, identify value picks, and avoid bidding wars to optimize their auction strategy [11].

By adopting these learnings, particularly the emphasis on data, strategic acquisitions, and auction budget management, both current bottom feeders and top teams can significantly improve their IPL performance. Bottom feeders can gain a roadmap for rebuilding, while top teams can identify areas to refine their strategies and maintain a competitive edge.

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