



## Ashok Lakshmanan

**Born:** 27-Aug-1976, Tamilnadu, India

**Club:** Colorado Springs Cricket Club

**Batting Style:** Right Hand Bat

**Bowling Style:** Right Hand Bowl

2002 MVP Knock-Out Championship

2003 All-Rounder of the Year

2004 All-Rounder of the Year

Ashok has contributed immensely to CSCC throughout the three seasons he played with them. His cricketing acumen is sharp as a tack and his reading of an adversary precise and fair. He has had innumerable innings and spells that beg description and applause. Some of them have been etched deep in memory. Some have been forgotten. But not one is un-appreciated. Here's one that I had the fortune to watch up-close.

After finishing the 2002 league phase in the bottom half, CSCC were all but written off by most teams as also-ran's. They travelled to Fort Collins for their quarter-finals clash with the mighty FCCC, favored to win the championship that year. True to their dark-horse moniker, CSCC gave up 246 runs in 40 overs, thanks to a whirlwind partnership between Chuck Meduri and Gopal Susarla and a late order cameo by Mike Riley. That was one (knock-out) game where Ashok came up empty-handed in the wickets department. He more than made up for it while batting. After a shaky start and some solid, sensible batting by Kshitij Sharma and Ramesh Ramamurthy, the game was evenly poised when Ashok came on to bat. CSCC needed around 135 off 15 overs. That's when all hell broke loose. Kshitij and Ashok took the game by the neck and waved it around. They matched each other almost stroke for stroke, neither one wanting to be outdone by the other. A cover drive matched by a short-arm pull, a straight drive equalled with an elegant leg-glance, a towering six almost outdone by one that went way, way out of the park. FCCC bowlers and fielders simply watched in awe as Ashok and Kshitij played cat-and-mouse with the asking rate of 9 an over. CSCC players were ecstatic with joy watching the onslaught. This reporter still remembers two successive six's Ashok hit off Mike Riley, as if avenging his cheap dismissal the first time they met. Picking up a short-of-length ball on middle-and-off, Ashok dispatched it over the mid-wicket boundary. Sensing Ashok's mood, the wily Riley bowled the next one full and outside off. Ashok sat down as if to sweep a flighted leg-break and slog-swept the ball to put it about 10 yards farther than where the previous one had been. It seemed super-human stuff. Needless to say, CSCC went on to win the game with four balls to spare. Ashok was not done yet. In the finals, he followed up with 4-35 and 79 unbeaten runs to bring home the championship.

Never once has anyone on the team \*ever\* heard Ashok brag about these or any other equally fantastic performances. He is the first one to point out that CSCC is the team it is because of the chemistry and team-work among the players. He insists that there are no stars in a team. The rest of the team begs to differ, and rightly so.

It is always difficult to say good-bye to dear old friends. But fare thee well, my good friend. A brilliant future awaits you and each one of us is darned sure that you will be more than equal to the challenges it may throw your way. Remember us for the good times we shared and the hard times we tackled on the ground. And once in a while, bowl an in-swinging yorker just for the heck of it.

## League Statistics

	I	NO	Runs	Avg	HS	100	50
<b>Batting</b>	37	5	811	25.34	100	1	2
	O	R	W	Avg	BBI	5w	Eco
<b>Bowling</b>	256.5	1145	69	16.59	5-34	1	4.46

## Cougar Statistics

	I	NO	Runs	Avg	HS	100	50
<b>Batting</b>	2	0	41	20.50	31	0	0
	O	R	W	Avg	BBI	5w	Eco
<b>Bowling</b>	7	42	3	14.00	2-10	0	6.00