

= Delhi Daredevils in 2012 =

The Delhi Daredevils (DD) is a franchise cricket team based in Delhi , India , which plays in the Indian Premier League (IPL) . The team competed in the 2012 IPL and finished at the third place , thus qualified for the 2012 Champions League Twenty20 (CLT20) . It topped the league and the group stage in the IPL and the CLT20 respectively ; however , it failed to win any match in the playoffs .

After finishing last in the previous season , the Daredevils added players such as Mahela Jayawardene , Andre Russell , Kevin Pietersen and Ross Taylor to the squad . Eric Simons succeeded Greg Shipperd as the head coach and T. A. Sekhar took the mentorship . The team won 11 of the 16 matches played in the league stage of the IPL and topped the point table . However , it lost both its two matches in the playoffs and finished at the third place . In the CLT20 , they won two of its four group stage matches , while the other two were abandoned due to rain . It topped its group and reached the semi @-@ final , where it lost to the Highveld Lions . Morné Morkel was the highest wicket @-@ taker in the IPL , whereas skipper Virender Sehwag became the first batsman to score five consecutive fifties in the league . After the CLT20 , the team released fourteen of its players , including Robin Bist , Aaron Finch and Venugopal Rao , signing Jesse Ryder , Johan Botha and Jeevan Mendis .

= = Background = =

The Delhi Daredevils is a franchise cricket team based in Delhi , India which plays in the IPL . It is owned by the GMR Group , which bought it for US \$ 84 million . It reached the IPL playoffs in the 2008 and the 2009 seasons , while topping the league stage in 2009 . It had a " shocking performance " in the 2011 season , finishing at the last position . In the 2012 IPL auction , the team purchased Mahela Jayawardene for \$ 1 @.@ 4 million , Andre Russell for \$ 450 @,@ 000 and Doug Bracewell for \$ 50 @,@ 000 . It got Kevin Pietersen and Ross Taylor from the Deccan Chargers and the Rajasthan Royals respectively in a transfer window , and it gave Andrew McDonald to the Royal Challengers Bangalore . It also released Ashok Dinda and James Hopes to the Pune Warriors India . It signed Pawan Negi , Manpreet Juneja and Kuldeep Raval , dropping out Robert Frylinck , Sridharan Sriram , Vivek Yadav , Rajesh Pawar and Matthew Wade . Glenn Maxwell and Gulam Bodi were signed as the replacements for withdrawn players Travis Birt and Colin Ingram .

Before the season , Daredevils ' head coach Greg Shipperd was replaced by Eric Simons , who was the previous assistant coach of the team and the then bowling coach of the India . T. A. Sekhar became the team mentor for the second time , after working with the Mumbai Indians in the previous two seasons . The theme song was also changed from Khelo Front Foot pe to Munday Dilli ke .

In her preview of the Daredevils for ESPNcricinfo , Sharda Ugra termed the buying of Pietersen and Jayawardene as the " repair work for the new season . " She termed the team 's middle order as a " perfect mixture : batsmen of calibre combining with the game 's leading entertainers , " and identified Virender Sehwag and Jayawardene as the key players .

= = Squad = =

The following players made at least one appearance for the Daredevils in 2012 . The age given is at the start of the team 's first match of the year (5 April 2012) .

= = Indian Premier League = =

The Daredevils finished in third place in the 2012 IPL , which was " another season of dominance at the league stage ended without a win in the playoffs . " After a disappointing season in 2011 , the 2012 IPL saw a return of the Daredevils to being one of the more consistent IPL teams . Ugra said that despite having Virender Sehwag and David Warner as the openers , bowler Morné Morkel was

the key player in the tournament , and Umesh Yadav was a nice assistant for him . Shahbaz Nadeem acted as a " tidy option " for a team which lacked spinners . Venugopal Rao , brought for \$ 700 @, @ 000 , was termed as a " flop buy " by Ugra . Rao made 122 runs in ten matches , and had a strike @-@ rate lower than 104 . The team was captained by Sehwag , with Jayawardene acting as the stand @-@ in captain in two matches .

The Daredevils topped the points table in the league stage , in which they won 11 out of 16 matches . They played its first match against the Kolkata Knight Riders , and won by eight wickets . This was followed by a 20 @-@ run loss against the Royal Challengers Bangalore . It won its next match against the Chennai Super Kings by eight wickets , and then in the " battle of the heavyweights " , aggressive bowling by the Daredevils earned it a win against the Mumbai Indians . In the match against the Deccan Chargers , it got a five @-@ wickets victory , and Pietersen played a 103 @-@ run innings . This was followed by two matches against the Pune Warriors India ; it lost the first by 20 runs , and won the second by eight wickets . Their next match against Mumbai saw a 37 @-@ run victory for the squad . Then in the match against the Rajasthan Royals , Morkel 's " sensational penultimate over " gave the Daredevils a one @-@ run victory , and also saw Sehwag becoming the only player to make four consecutive half @-@ centuries in the IPL . The team 's next fixture was also against the Royals , which was a six @-@ wicket win . Sehwag scored 73 runs from 38 balls , extending his record to five consecutive fifties . In the " clash between the two most impressive teams in the tournament , " the Knight Riders beat the Daredevils by six wickets . This caused the Daredevils to lose the top spot in the points table , a position it had held " virtually from the start of the tournament " . In its next game , a ton by David Warner and a half @-@ century by Naman Ojha led the team to a nine wickets win , and it regained the top spot . Then " came a cropper on a lively pitch " , as the Daredevils lost to the Super Kings by nine wickets . It became the first team to get into the playoffs when it registered a five wickets win against the Kings XI Punjab . Against the Royal Challengers Bangalore , it faced a 204 @-@ runs partnership between Chris Gayle and Virat Kohli , the second best in Twenty20 , and lost the match by 21 runs . It finished its league stage campaign with a six wickets win over the Kings XI .

The Daredevils played the first qualifier against the Knight Riders . The winner of this match qualified for the final , whereas the loser got another chance to get to it . The Knight Riders scored 162 runs for four wickets , 56 of which came in the last four overs . Irfan Pathan , Yadav and Negi each got one wicket , whereas Varun Aaron conceded 48 runs in four overs . Chasing the total , the Daredevils lost its openers Warner and Sehwag at seven and ten runs respectively . Ojha made 28 runs , whereas Rao scored 13 runs off 22 balls . Some economical overs and Rao 's struggle forced Jayawardene to attack , which eventually resulted in him getting out at 40 . When the team required 55 runs off 32 balls , Negi was sent in before Taylor . Taylor later hit a six on the third ball he faced from Sunil Narine , " but it was too late by then . " The Daredevils managed to score 144 runs for eight wickets , losing the match by 18 runs . In the second qualifier against the Super Kings , Morkel was benched , a decision which made a " significant difference " . " Virtually unknown offspinner " Sunny Gupta made his IPL debut in the match , and this was " one of the biggest tactical goof @-@ ups in IPL history . " Murali Vijay scored a century for the Super Kings , and it reached to a total of 222 . Gupta conceded 47 runs in his three overs ; Aaron gave 63 in his four overs : the least economical bowling figure in IPL . The match also saw , for the first time in the season , Sehwag not opening for the Daredevils . Warner went for three runs , whereas Sehwag scored one run off six balls . Jayawardene made a half @-@ century , and Taylor made 24 runs . Wickets fell at regular intervals , and the Daredevils eventually got all out at 136 runs , registering the biggest loss of the season . After the match , coach Simons clarified that Morkel was dropped to an allrounder in the form of Russell . Morkel was later awarded the Purple cap for claiming the most number of wickets in the tournament . , for claiming the most wickets in the tournament : 25 .

= = = Season standings = = =