

= 2008 Indian Premier League Final =

The 2008 Indian Premier League Final was a day / night Twenty20 cricket match played between the Rajasthan Royals and the Chennai Super Kings on 1 June 2008 at the DY Patil Stadium , Navi Mumbai to determine the winner of the 2008 Indian Premier League , a professional Twenty20 cricket league in India . It ended as the Royals defeated the Super Kings by three wickets .

The Royals , captained by Shane Warne , topped the group stage table , whereas the Super Kings , led by Mahendra Singh Dhoni , stood at the third position . They had defeated the Delhi Daredevils and the Kings XI Punjab respectively in the semi @-@ finals .

Winning the toss , Royals ' captain Shane Warne opted to field first . The Super Kings scored 163 runs in 20 overs with a loss of 5 wickets . Batting at number three , Suresh Raina top scored for the Super Kings with 43 runs . Royals ' bowler Yusuf Pathan took three wickets for 22 runs . The Royals failed to build a good opening partnership . However , due to contributions from the middle order , it reached the winning total in the last ball and earned the 2008 Indian Premier League title . Pathan , who was the best performer for the Royals with both bat and ball , was named the man of the match .

= = Route to the final = =

= = = Group stage = = =

The Super Kings started its campaign with four consecutive wins , but lost its next three matches to the Daredevils , the Royals and the Deccan Chargers . It qualified for the semifinals after winning four of its last seven league matches . The Royals lost its first match in the group stage to the Daredevils . However , it won all of its next five matches . Then , it suffered a defeat against the Mumbai Indians , but went on to win its next six matches . It lost the last group stage match against the Kings XI .

The two teams faced each other in two matches of the group stage , both of which were won by the Royals . The Royals had played a match in the tournament before at the DY Patil Stadium ; it lost the match by seven wickets . The Super Kings played at the stadium for the first time in the finals .

= = = Semi @-@ finals = = =

The Royals played the Daredevils in the first semi @-@ final . The Daredevils won the toss and decided to field first . The Royals got an opening partnership of 65 runs . Its middle @-@ order batsmen Shane Watson and Yusuf Pathan scored 52 and 45 runs respectively to help it amass 192 runs for the loss of 9 wickets . Batting second , the Daredevils lost its first five batsmen for just 55 runs . Tillakaratne Dilshan top @-@ scored for the Daredevils with 33 runs . The Daredevils was bowled out in the 17th over for just 87 runs , and gave its counterpart a 105 @-@ run victory . Watson , who took 3 / 10 , had the best bowling figures for the Royals , and was awarded the man of the match for his all @-@ round performance .

In the second semi @-@ final , Super Kings played the Kings XI . The Kings XI won the toss and elected to bat first , but its top six batsman failed and only one of them reached double figures . However , due to significant contributions from the lower @-@ order , Punjab managed to reach a total of 112 / 8 . Super Kings fast bowler Manpreet Gony took 3 wickets by conceding just 14 runs . In reply , Super Kings lost its first wicket when Vidyut Sivaramakrishnan were dismissed for 6 runs . However , both Parthiv Patel and Suresh Raina scored a half century each and took the Super Kings to the target with 31 balls to spare . The Super Kings won the match by nine wickets , and Makhaya Ntini was given the man of the match award .

= = Buildup = =

The match was hosted by Mumbai because the franchise owner of the Mumbai Indians placed the highest bid for acquisition , which was US \$ 111 @. @ 9 million . Before the match , ESPNcricinfo assistant editor Nagraj Gollapudi identified the Royals as the most likely winner . Despite being seen as the underdogs , the Royals finished at the top of the league table , and won 11 matches out of 14 with 22 points . The Super Kings stood third , behind Kings XI , getting 16 points from eight wins . There were two changes in the Royals ' playing eleven for the final ; Graeme Smith and Mahesh Rawat were replaced by Kamran Akmal and Niraj Patel . Smith was ruled out of the match as he was suffering from a hamstring injury . The Super Kings fielded the same side as in its semi @-@ final win over the Kings XI .

= = Match = =

= = = Summary = = =

Despite the fact that the home team Mumbai Indians was not playing , the match attracted a huge number of spectators . They were exposed to performances by Amrita Arora , Shamita Shetty , Dia Mirza , Salman Khan and Cirque du Soleil . Then a laser show was organised . The match was a day / night match , and started at 20 : 18 Indian Standard Time (IST) (UTC + 05 : 30) . The toss took place at 20 : 00 IST in the presence of Lalit Modi and match referee Javagal Srinath . Modi flipped the coin , and Royals ' captain Warne called heads ; the coin turned out to be heads , and Warne won the toss .

Sunil Gavaskar had said in his match report that the batsmen will be required to play more on the front foot because of the inconstant bounce . The pitch was patchy , and Warne chose to field first . The Super Kings lost its first batsman as Sivaramakrishnan went out for 16 runs . He was caught by Ravindra Jadeja when Pathan was up . Sivaramakrishnan pulled a fast ball to deep mid @-@ wicket , and Jadeja took a " well @-@ judged catch " . Sivaramakrishnan made 16 runs in 14 balls at a strike rate of 114 @. @ 28 , and played an opening partnership of 39 runs with P. Patel . After that , Raina joined P. Patel , and both of them made 25 runs for the second wicket partnership with a run rate of 6 @. @ 81 . P. Patel was caught in the last ball of the ninth over . Similar to the previous wicket , Pathan bowled a flat and fast ball , P. Patel tried to play it towards the third man . However , the ball edged towards the wicket @-@ keeper Akmal , who initially dropped the ball , but caught it afterwards . P. Patel made 38 runs in 33 balls and hit five boundaries . The next wicket was of Albie Morkel , who made 16 runs out of 13 balls . Pathan again bowled a flat fast ball , which was top edged by Morkel . The ball went into the air , and was eventually caught by Akmal . However this resulted in the collision of Akmal and Mohammad Kaif as both were trying to take the catch , and both of them got injured . Four overs later , Jadeja caught Raina on Watson , breaking a 33 runs fourth wicket partnership between him and captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni . Watson bowled a full length ball outside off stump . Raina played it towards long off , but failed to get enough distance and Jadeja caught the ball at the boundary . Chamara Kapugedera joined Dhoni after the dismissal of Raina , a decision which " punctured " the momentum in the slog overs . Kapugedera made eight runs by acing 12 balls , before being caught by Swapnil Asnodkar on Sohail Tanvir . Tanvir bowled an angling slower ball , which was lofted on the front foot by Kapugedera . The ball was caught by long @-@ on fielder Asnodkar . With the last five balls remaining in the innings , Dhoni and Subramaniam Badrinath together made 15 runs , and Badrinath made six runs off two balls . Dhoni made 29 runs not out , facing 17 balls , in which he hit two fours and one six . Pathan had the best figures with the ball for the Royals , as he took three wickets for 22 runs in four overs . Tanvir and Watson got one wicket each and gave 40 and 29 runs respectively . Warne gave 34 runs in his four overs , but failed to get any wicket . Munaf Patel and Siddharth Trivedi gave 14 and 21 runs respectively in their two overs each .

In reply , the Royals lost its first batsman as N. Patel went out after scoring two runs in 11 balls . Manpreet Gony bowled a full length ball outside the off stump , which hit the leg stump after getting an inside edge as N. Patel opted to pull it . He went out in the first ball of the fourth over , leaving his

team at 19 runs with loss of one wicket . The Royals lost its second opener when Raina caught Asnodkar as he hit a full and wide ball by Morkel to point . He made 28 runs facing 20 balls . In the same over , Makhaya Ntini ran out Akmal with a direct hit . Akmal played the ball to mid @-@ on , but Ntini glided downwards and threw the ball at the stumps . After the fall of Akmal 's wicket , Watson and Pathan started playing more aggressively , and scored 65 runs for a fourth wicket partnership at a run rate of 8 @. @ 66 ; this was also the highest partnership of the match . In the eleventh over , Raina dropped Pathan on Muralitharan at deep midwicket . At the end of the thirteenth over , the Royals reached a score of 100 runs . In the fifteenth over , Muralitharan broke the partnership as he bowled Watson ; the ball hit the leg stump . The next wicket was of Kaif , who was caught by Dhoni on Muralitharan . Kaif pushed a flat doosra , and Dhoni took a simple catch at cover . In the next ball , Jadeja went out for a golden duck . Morkel bowled a short ball , and Jadeja tried to pull it . However the ball went to mid @-@ on , and Kapugedera caught the ball after running towards his left . In the same over , Raina ran out Pathan with a direct hit at the stumps . Morkel bowled a full ball which was pushed by Warne to point . He ran for a single , but Raina hit the stumps , running out off @-@ striker Pathan . Pathan went out scoring a half @-@ century ; he made 56 runs out off 39 balls with a strike rate of 143 @. @ 58 and hit three fours and four sixes . The Royals needed 18 runs at the end of the eighteenth over . The second last over was bowled by Ntini , in which he gave up ten runs . In the last ball of the over , Ntini bowled a good length ball , and Warne hit a four by Warne at cover . In the last over , the Royals required eight runs , and Dhoni gave the ball to Lakshmipathy Balaji . Six runs were required from the last three balls , but Balaji bowled a wide outside off stump , which was missed by the wicket @-@ keeper P. Patel . This resulted in two extra runs . In the next ball , Warne hit a full ball for a run . The Royals needed three runs from the last two balls . Tanvir played the fifth legal delivery of the over , which was an angling full toss . Tanvir hit the ball at the long leg , and ran two runs . The Royals needed one more run off the last ball , with Tanvir on strike ; Balaji bowled him a short ball . Warne had already covered the half distance of the pitch when Tanvir hit the ball . The two batsmen ran for a single and the Royals won the match . Both of them remained not out with nine runs each . Morkel and Muralitharan got two wickets each , giving 25 and 39 runs respectively . Gony got one wicket , whereas Ntini and Balaji had none .

Pathan received the award for maximum sixes in a match ; he hit four sixes in the match . He was also named the man of the Match .

= = = Scorecard = = =

On @-@ field umpires : Billy Bowden (New Zealand) , Rudi Koertzen (South Africa)

Third umpire : Daryl Harper (Australia)

Match referee : Javagal Srinath (India)

Reserve umpire : MR Singh (India)

Toss : Royals elected to field first

Result : Royals won by three wickets

League impact : Royals won the 2008 Indian Premier League

Key

* ? Captain

? Wicket @-@ keeper

c Fielder ? the batsman was dismissed by a catch by the named fielder

b Bowler ? the bowler who gains credit for the dismissal

lbw ? the batsman was dismissed leg before wicket

Total runs are in the format : score / wickets

= = Aftermatch = =

The Royals received ? 48 million (US \$ 710 @, @ 000) and a trophy for being the champions . Royals ' players received their medals from Sharad Pawar in the post @-@ match ceremony .

Warne said :

It 's been a fantastic journey . We 're gelled together really quickly . It makes me proud to see so many young guys learning and executing their skills in the middle . I think the crowds all over India have made the atmosphere amazing . Congratulations to Chennai . It 's been a wonderful ride for us .

Royals ' Tanvir was given the purple cap for getting the highest number of wickets in the league . Watson was declared as the man of the series ; he scored 474 runs and took 17 wickets in the season . The Super Kings received ? 24 million (US \$ 360 @, @ 000) for being the runners @-@ up . Dhoni said :

I think the standard of our cricket was really good . We were up to the mark in the finals . We lost as a team . There were a few errors in batting and bowling . We 're not really unhappy or bogged down by it . We 'll go back to our hotel and enjoy it . That 's what sport is all about. the response from our team was great. even the guys who didn 't get a chance were completely behind the team . So the spirit was great . "

Both teams qualified for the 2008 Champions League Twenty20 . However , the tournament was cancelled due to the 2008 Mumbai attacks and both teams were given ? 220 million (US \$ 3 @. @ 3 million) each as compensation .