

## **Auction Strategy**

Each team comes into the auction with a different strategy based on their own set of beliefs. Chennai Super Kings is a firm believer in buying experienced players and it is reflected in the choice of players they picked in the auction. The average age and experience of CSK tends to be on the higher side. Their picks are also influenced by the M.S. Dhoni's (Captain of CSK) ideology of having multiple bowling options and hence they tend to prefer all rounders and/or players with multiple skills. Similarly SRH are a side that tends to have strong bowling resources. Further since half of the games have to be played on the home ground teams also factor that into their strategies.

## **Coaching, support staff bias**

A lot of teams employ coaches, support staff from Australia, New Zealand and England which is a major reason for players from these countries getting picked over similar talent from the West Indies, South Africa, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. CSK with Stephen Fleming, DC with Ricky Ponting are some examples where the coach has influenced on some picks from their home country. Since only 4 players from outside India can feature in the playing 11 it is these biases that limits some players who deserve to be picked on missing out. A recent example of this is Dasun Shanaka from Sri Lanka while someone like a Glen Maxwell who is a great player for Australia but has failed consistently in IPL always garners a lot of attention in the auction.

With team owners diversifying into buying teams in other leagues a lot of times the support staff tries to buy players who have represented them in other leagues as they have created a bond of with them and know what the player brings to the table.

## **Recency Bias**

Performing at the right time against the right opposition can definitely soar a players stock in the auction. A lot of players who have performed well against India in India near the auction have gone to become top bids at different points in the IPL's auction history. Performing in other leagues such as the BBL,PSL have also proved beneficial for players. The problem with this is that BBL is played in different conditions and doesn't directly translate to performance in the subcontinent conditions and also picking players just on their recent performance as compared to looking at a long term performance is flawed practice to say the least.

## **Supply Demand**

With all auctions supply and demand of resources is one of the most influential factors in determining the final bid. Players with specialized skills who are rare are bound to get a higher price this is especially true for Fast bowling all rounders who are a very rare commodity in international cricket. Sikander Raza though a top class player with the ability to both bat and bowl does not find a high bid as he is competing with other overseas players who have only 4 out of the 11 spots in the team while an uncapped Lalit Yadav will garner more attention from the teams.

## **Order of Players**

A lot of thought goes behind on which player to buy in the auction by every team involved. They look at the skillsets, need of player in their team and also how good the player has performed historically but for all the data crunching each team is restrained by the budget in hand and can't go on pick each and every player they want. This is accentuated by the order in which the players appear in the auction. For example if three teams are interested in one player and he appears early in the auction all of them will bid and potentially other teams will also pitch in to drive up the price but the same player appearing later when teams have exhausted some or much of their allocated purse the same player may not find a lot of teams competing for him.

In addition to this some teams have the reputation of finding great talents at a young age owing to their scouting. Mumbai Indians unearthed Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, Dewald Brevis and many more. To counter this teams would raise their paddles if an unknown commodity was being sought by Mumbai Indians so as to raise the price of the player reducing MI's purse or in turn getting a good young player at a low price who can serve the team for a long time.

## **Age**

Age is another key factor that determines the interest a franchise has in a player. A young player who has done well at the U19 level and/or domestic level is an asset to the franchise as they can groom them to be better players in the future while acquiring them at a low price. The risk to reward ratio is very low as the player is acquired at a low price so even if he fails the franchise can release the player later and not lose their sleep over it but the chances of unearthing a future superstar is high. These young players can also be backup for athletes featuring in the playing XI as well. Lastly, having a young player in the squad and grooming him for leadership role also helps team mitigating the issue of finding a captain once the current captain retires.

## **BASRA**

With the advent of the T20 the way the game is played changed drastically. As the game has evolved the need for new metrics to gauge a players success has risen. One metric is BASRA which is aggregate of a batter's strike rate and average. The problem with this metric is that it gives equal importance to strike rate and average while I believe that in a game of 120 balls the strike rate of a player is more vital for the team. Therefore i have used a weighted average of strike rate and average to better evaluate a players potential. The formula I used is  $(1.5 * \text{Strike Rate} + 0.5 * \text{Average})/2$ .

## **KKR,RCB,MI overspending**

KKR,RCB,MI spent more than 50% of their allocated purse to buy 3 or 4 players. This left them with less money later in the auction and hence they could not actively bid for a lot of the players they would have liked to buy.

KKR,RCB and MI spend 73.08%, 65.76% and 65.37% respectively for their top picks.

## Some additional findings

In addition to the dashboard here are some additional facts gathered from the data.

- The 2022 auction was a mega auction and also introduced two new teams LSG and GT. All teams could retain only 3 players before the auction and had a total purse of 90 crore was available. Punjab Kings spent the highest amount in the auction and picked the most players as well in their squad 23. Chennai Super Kings spent the least amount but still managed to get more players than some other franchises which paid more namely LSG,RCB,SRH,GT,DC.
- Most of the teams spent more on Indian/domestic players as expected since a team needs to field atleast 7 indian players. Only PK and RCB spend more on getting overseas players. Both RCB and PK bought 7 international players.
- With 10 teams coming in the demand for domestic/indian players increased vastly as a team is required to have atleast 7 out of the playing 11 to be indians. Thereby a total of 70 indian players of high quality are needed without considering replacements in case of injury, non availability and not being able to perform as per expectation.
- Top State Associations - Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) :30, Delhi District Cricket Association (DDCA) : 27, Karnataka State Cricket Association(KSCA) : 26and Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA) : 26 are the cricket association with the most players listed for auction.
- Wicket keepers and all rounders were the most in demand players. Among all rounders fast bowling all rounders got more traction as compared to their spin bowling counterparts.
- The bowling averages of the teams differ but the bowling average is close to each other. Similarly, the batting averages are not too far apart but some teams have better strike rates on average.
- Batsman had the highest base price on average but since all rounders and wicket keepers are a rarer commodity pure batsman earned less money.
- Oldest player to be bought was Dwayne Bravo aged 38 from West Indies at ₹4,40,00,000.
- Youngest player to be bought was Noor Ahmed of Afghanistan aged 17 at ₹30,00,000.
- Oldest player to be listed in the auction was Imran Tahir from South Africa having base price of ₹2,00,00,000.
- Youngest player to be listed was Noor Ahmed of Afghanistan aged 17 having base price of ₹30,00,000.

- Avesh Khan was the highest paid uncapped player at the time of the auction. LSG paid the right arm pacer ₹ 10 Crores.