Cricket Analytica

(by **Stats Nerd**, a team by *Shubham Mondal* & *Sankalp Agrawal*)

Hypothesis : Players after leaving RCB performed well in their respective fields. It has been observed that even having one of the strongest teams in the IPL history, RCB is not able to win a single IPL trophy. Many players who have played with RCB at least once in their IPL career seem to perform well in other teams but not in RCB. Here we analyse the performance of a few players who support our hypothesis and analyse their performance analytically.

We will be looking for 4 players for our analysis in this thesis :

1. KL Rahul
2. Shane Watson
3. Quinton De Kock
4. Moeen Ali

Before proceeding to our analysis, let's have a fresh look at how RCB has performed past over the years:

Year	Total Matches	Matches Won	Matches Lost	Percentage Win	Position
2008	14	4	10	72.43	7th
2009	16	9	7	56.25	2nd
2010	16	8	8	50	3rd
2011	16	10	6	66.67	2nd
2012	16	8	7	53.34	5th
2013	16	9	7	56.25	5th
2014	14	5	9	35.71	7th
2015	16	8	6	50	3rd
2016	16	9	7	56.25	2nd
2017	14	3	10	21.43	8th
2018	14	6	8	42.86	6th
2019	14	5	8	38.46	8th
2020	15	7	8	50	4th
2021	15	9	6	60	4th
Total	211	98	106	48..06	-

KL RAHUL

KL Rahul after performing great in Syed Mushtaq Ali tournament in 2013, he was picked by RCB as his debutant team in IPL. Since, it was his first IPL tournament, he got to play very few matches thus not enough to indicate his potential. KL Rahul was dropped from RCB and was bought by SRH, in which he played two consecutive seasons before making a comeback to RCB.

It was the season of 2016 only in which he played for RCB, after which he was picked by Kings XI Punjab and has been playing with them since then.

For our analysis, we will consider his performance in RCB in 2016 and thereafter only as in 2013, he played very few matches to discuss his potential.

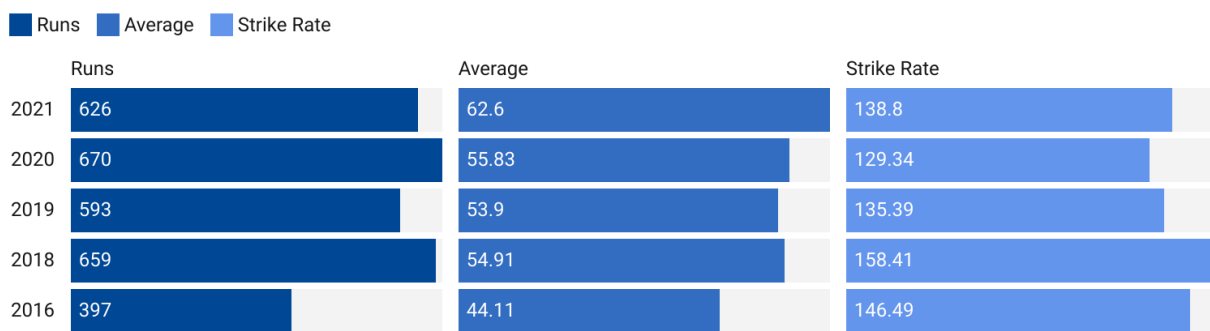|	Runs	Average	Strike Rate
2021	626	62.6	138.8
2020	670	55.83	129.34
2019	593	53.9	135.39
2018	659	54.91	158.41
2016	397	44.11	146.49

Fig. 1

The above figure Fig 1. shows his *average* performance over the years. We can observe that even though he had a fairly good strike rate in IPL season 2016, his *total runs* scored and his *average* were the *least* best among others.

One of the reasons for his relatively poor performance in RCB in season 2016 can be attributed to the fact that RCB was not able to correctly identify his ability to bat at which position to maximise his output.

As we will see further in our analysis, KL Rahul batted at various positions while playing for RCB. This hampers player's trust in his ability and shows that the team has no confidence in his players.

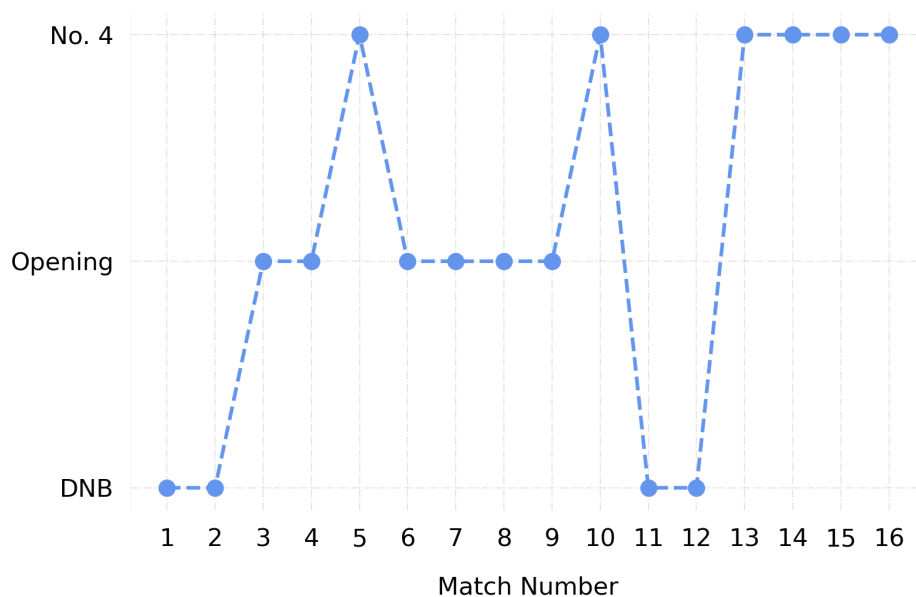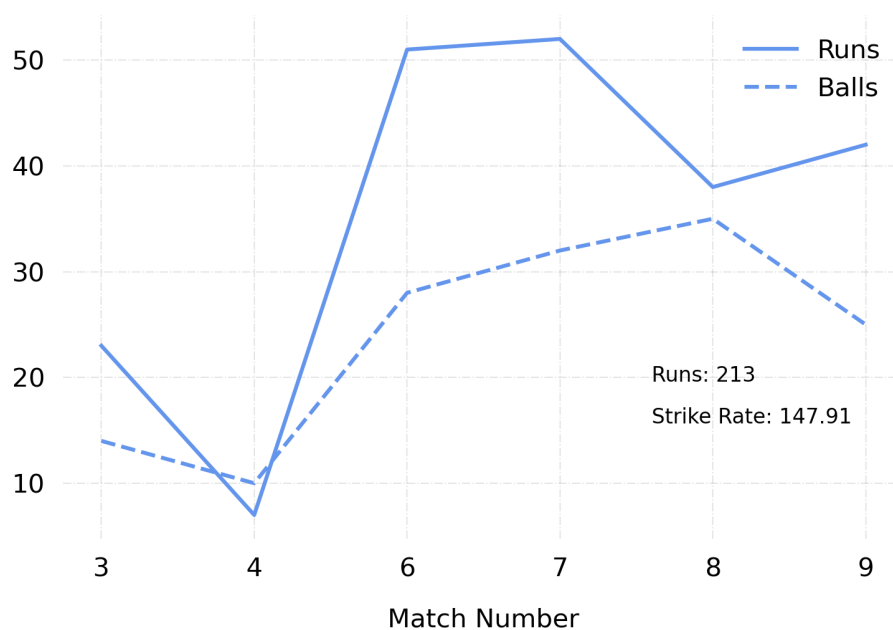## Positions batted in all matches for RCB in 2016

Fig. 2

- Out of 16 matches RCB played, he batted in 12 of them.
- In 50% of those matches, he played at *Opening position* and in the remaining matches, he was played at 2 down position (i.e. at No. 4).
- This denotes the team's *lack of confidence* in it's players when they switch their batting positions so frequently.

As opener for RCB in 2016

Runs: 213

Strike Rate: 147.91

The figure shown above, *Fig 3.* shows how well KL Rahul has performed for RCB while playing at *Opening position.* He has scored *213 runs* and had a *strike rate* of *147.91* which was way better than what he was performing while playing at No. 4 position.

Further analysis, we will observe how well KL Rahul has established himself as one of the best *openers* any team has seen yet.
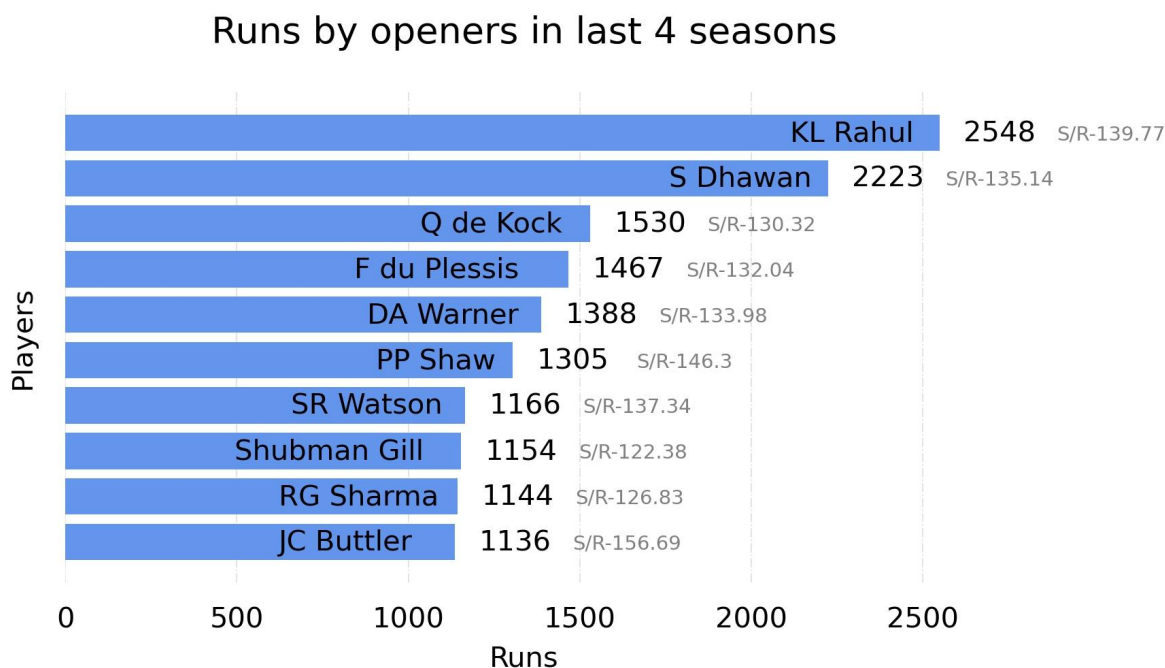
Runs by openers in last 4 seasons

Player	Runs	S/R
KL Rahul	2548	S/R-139.77
S Dhawan	2223	S/R-135.14
Q de Kock	1530	S/R-130.32
F du Plessis	1467	S/R-132.04
DA Warner	1388	S/R-133.98
PP Shaw	1305	S/R-146.3
SR Watson	1166	S/R-137.34
Shubman Gill	1154	S/R-122.38
RG Sharma	1144	S/R-126.83
JC Buttler	1136	S/R-156.69

Fig. 4

- The above figure Fig 4. shows runs scored by *top openers* in the last 4 seasons of IPL. No doubt, KL Rahul has managed to establish himself as *top* run scorer. He has 3rd best strike rate as an opener among the above players mentioned.
- Thus this indicates that KL Rahul was the *best* opening option for RCB, which they were not able to identify, thus hampering his performance during his stunt at IPL.

One can always argue that in T20, having scored more runs is not just enough, one has to hit more boundaries and KL Rahul was not capable of that. I would like to argue that with stats. Our next graph denotes how KL Rahul improved his hitting capabilities, shown in Figure 5.
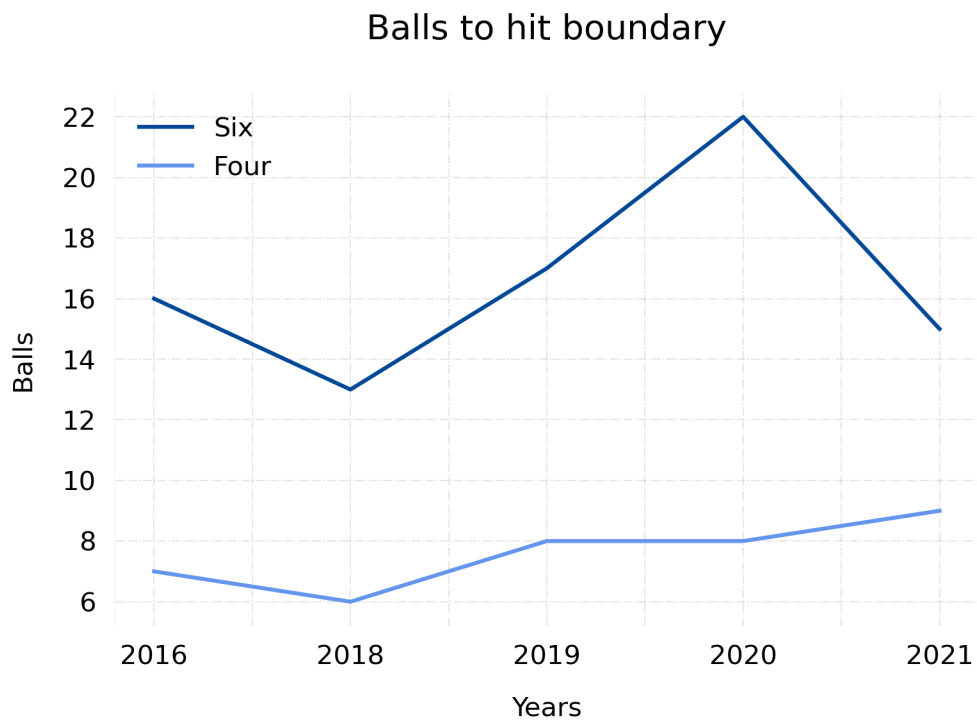
Balls to hit boundary

Fig. 5

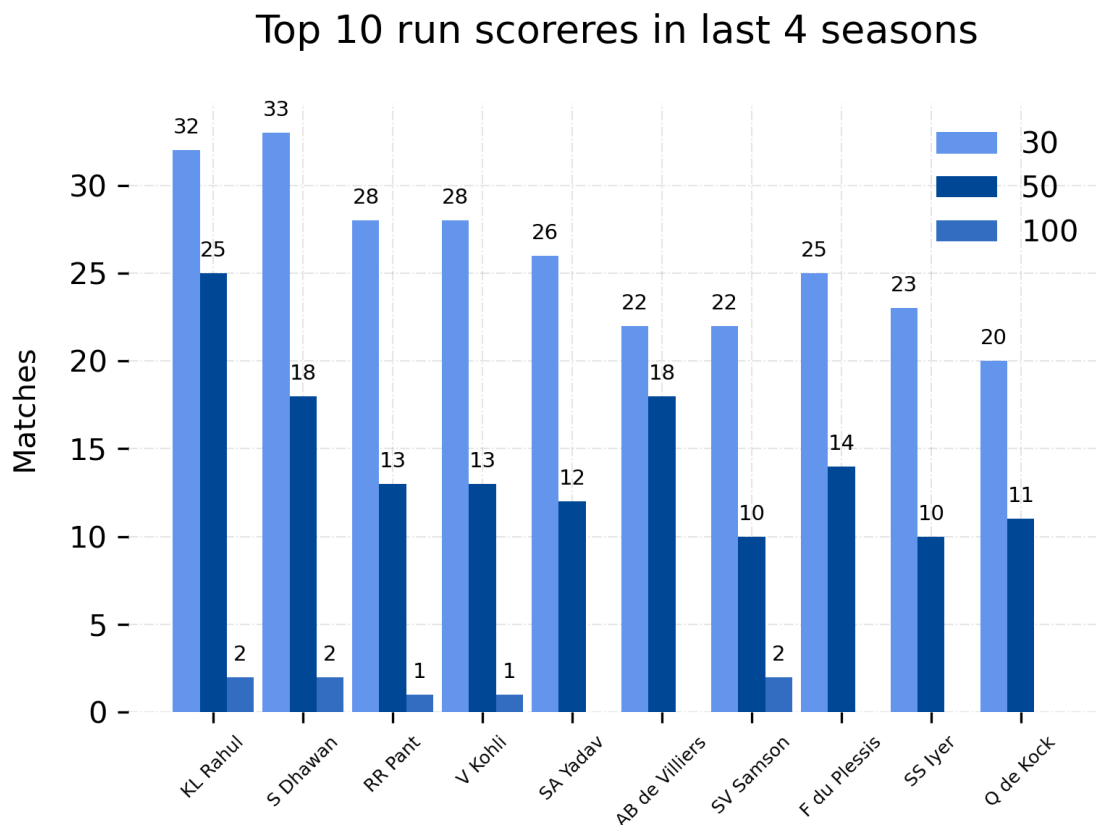## Top 10 run scoreres in last 4 seasons

Fig. 6

- KL Rahul poised to become *one of the top run scorers* in the last 4 seasons.
- KL Rahul scored *more 50s than any other batter* mentioned in the above graph, and all while playing at opening position.

No wonder why RCB *failed* to recognise KL Rahul's talent as an opener and forced him to play at a position different from opening. This may be a reason that RCB fails in *team strategy,* even having so many great players in their arsenal that they are not able to squeeze out maximum potential.

SHANE WATSON

Watson started his IPL career with *Rajasthan Royals* under the captaincy of Shane Warne in 2008 and helped his franchise win the inaugural IPL tournament.

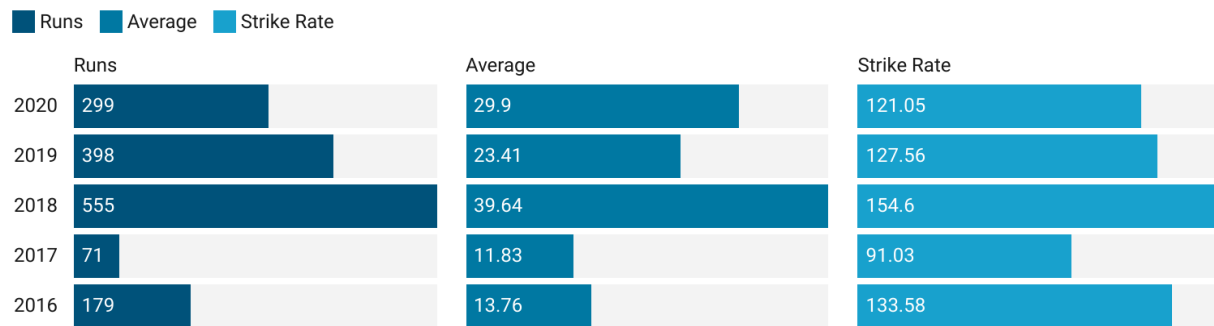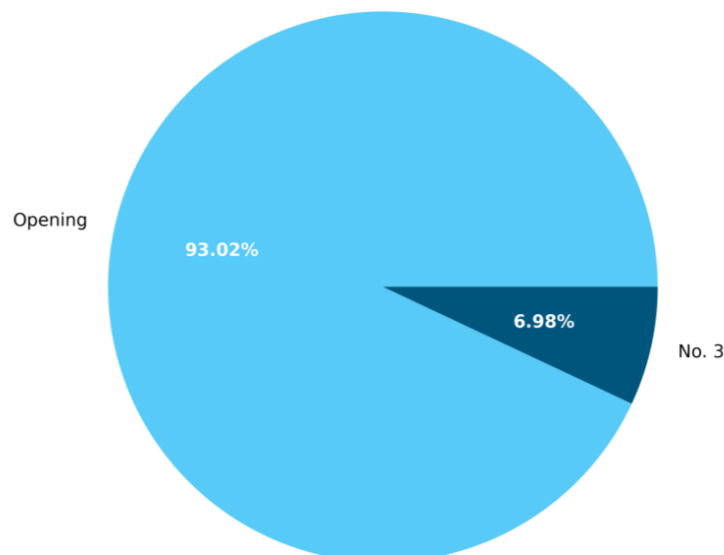Watson played for RCB from 2016 to 2017 before switching to CSK.

	Runs	Average	Strike Rate
2020	299	29.9	121.05
2019	398	23.41	127.56
2018	555	39.64	154.6
2017	71	11.83	91.03
2016	179	13.76	133.58

Fig. 7, Fig. 8

Looking at the stats above, it can be concluded that Watson scored way *more runs* in CSK than in RCB.

Not only did he score more runs in CSK, he even had better *Average* and *Strike Rate* than he used to have while playing for RCB.

Batting position by percentage for CSK

Opening 93.02%

6.98% No. 3

While playing for CSK, Watson played most of the time at *opening* and very few times at 1 down position. This denotes his ability to score more runs in Opening position than in any other position he has played so far. CSK showed trust in him for the opening position which helped him to contribute more to the team's win than in RCB.

RCB always seems to be confused at which position they should play Watson, it can evidently be seen from the pie chart shown. Opening was the *least* preferable position for Watson in RCB and they experimented with him at different batting positions. This experimentation shows that RCB had *difficulty* fitting Watson in the team batting order, thus affecting player's ability to score more runs as consistency leads to better results.
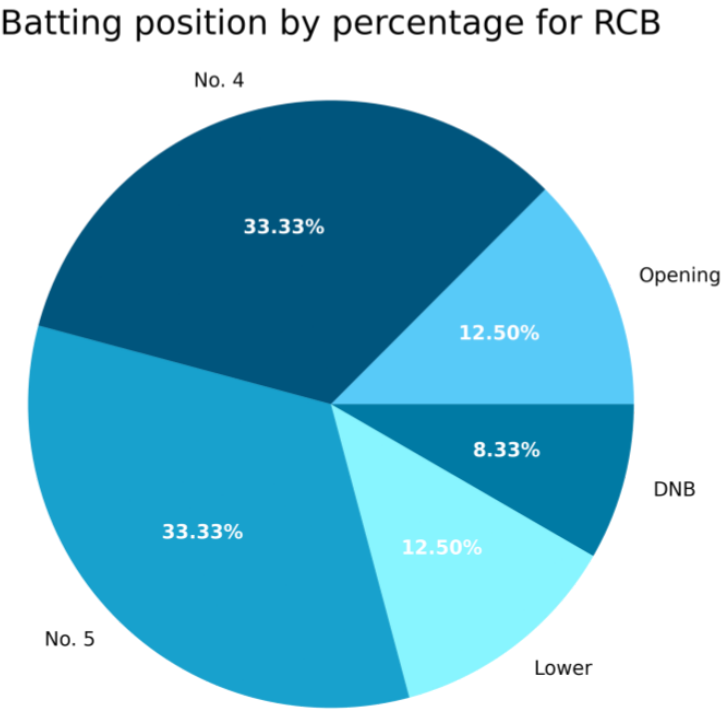
Batting position by percentage for RCB

No. 4 — 33.33%
Opening — 12.50%
DNB — 8.33%
Lower — 12.50%
No. 5 — 33.33%

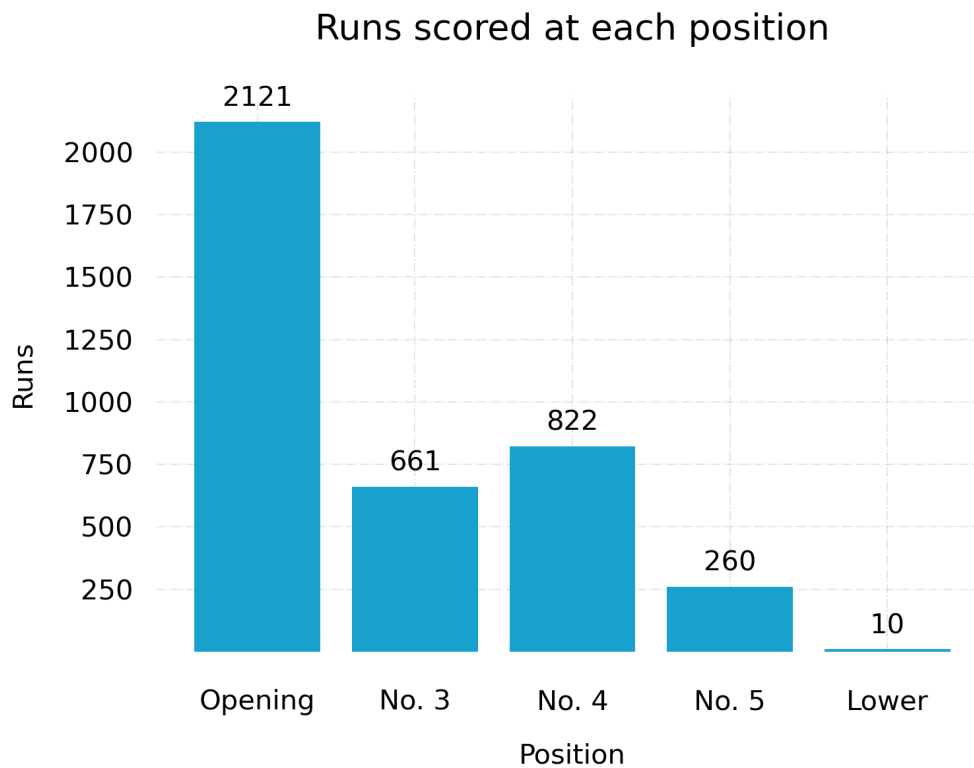Fig. 9

Runs scored at each position

Fig. 10

The above graph shows how well Watson performs in *Opening* order batting. It's evident from the above graph that Opening is the best position for Watson to bat.
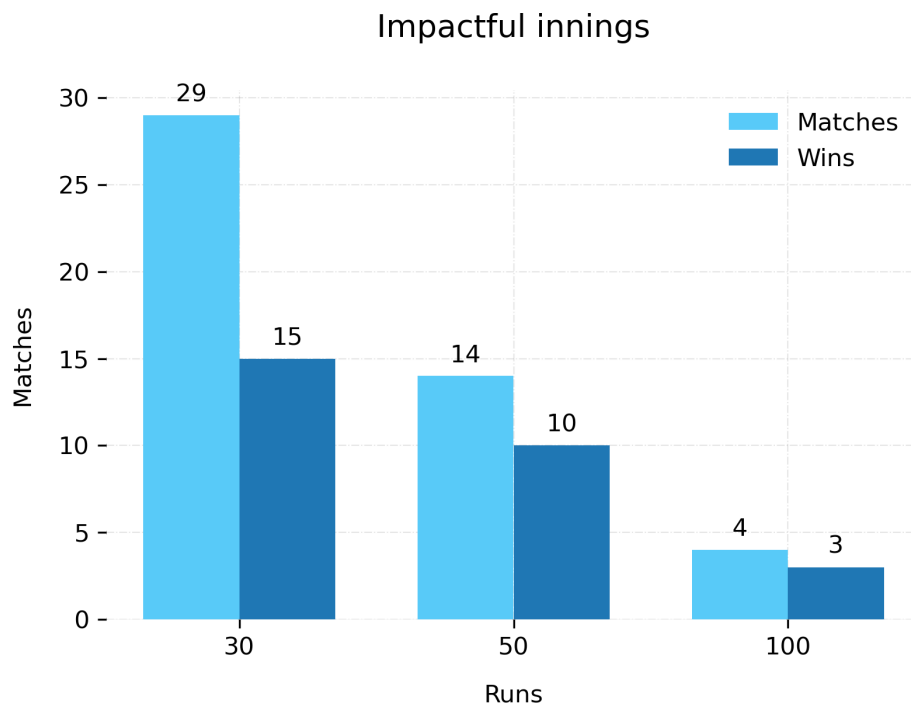
Impactful innings

Fig. 11

No wonder when Watson *scores*, his team has a *better chance of winning*. From the graph shown, we can observe that when Watson scored a hundred, 3 out 4 matches his team won, when he scored a fifty, 10 out 14 matches his team won.

- It can be seen that if RCB wants to get the best out of Watson, then they should have shown trust in him and let him play at Top order.
- When Watson plays at the opening position, he scores well and when he scores well, his team wins.

Quinton de Kock played for *RCB* for 1 season only, i.e. 2018. After which he was picked by *Mumbai Indians*.

Number of matches played and missed each year
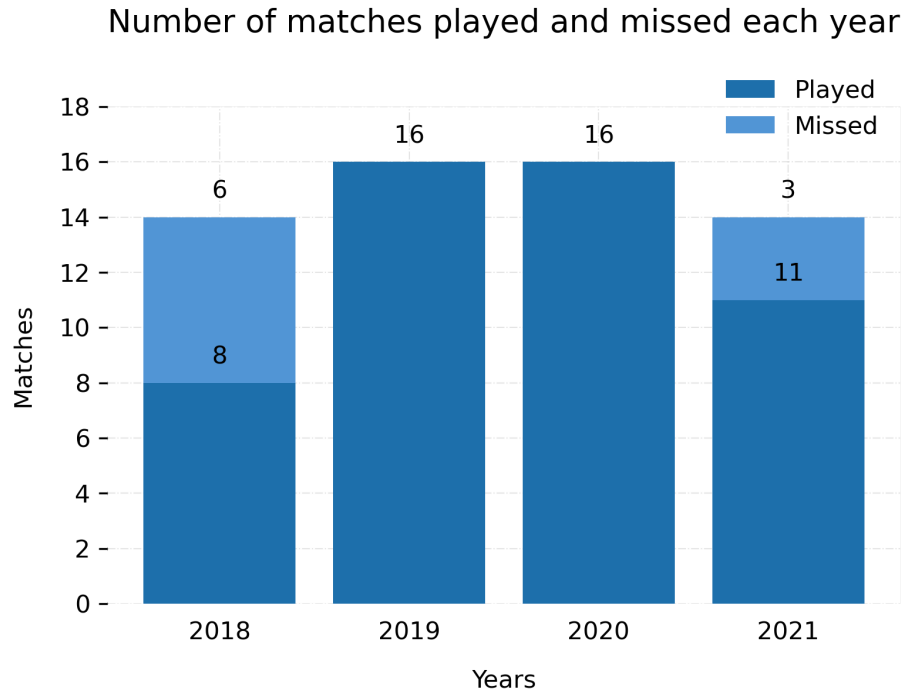

Fig. 12

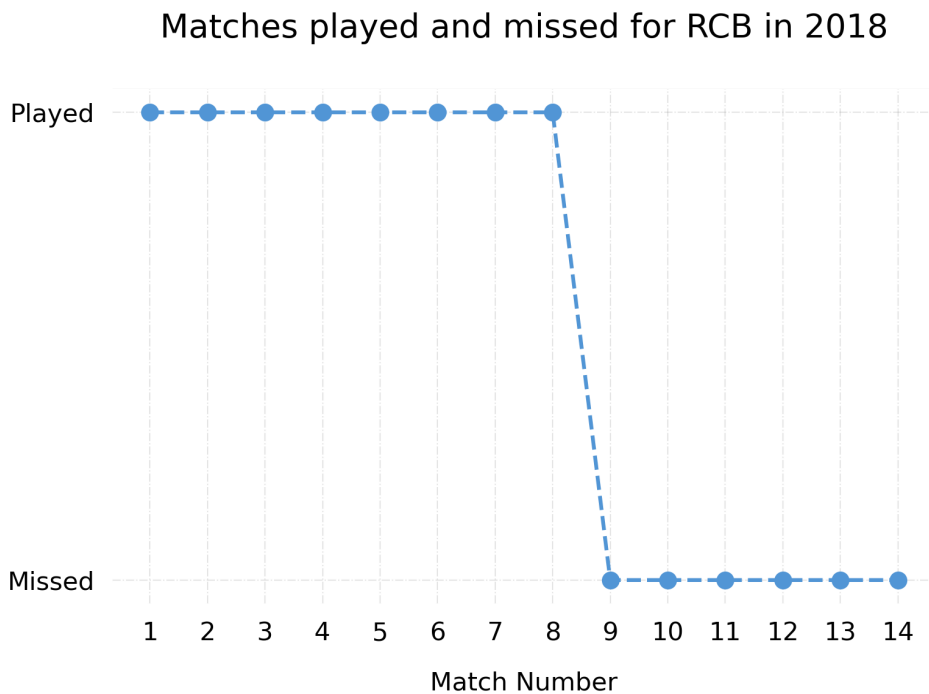Matches played and missed for RCB in 2018

Fig. 13

- While playing for RCB, Quinton de Kock played 8 out of 14 matches and was *benched* for 6 matches.
- When he started playing for *MI*, he contributed in all of the matches for season 2019 and 2020, missing 3 matches in season 2021.

RCB started playing with de Kock in the starting of the season but they lost confidence in him and dropped him from playing XI from the last leg of the season.
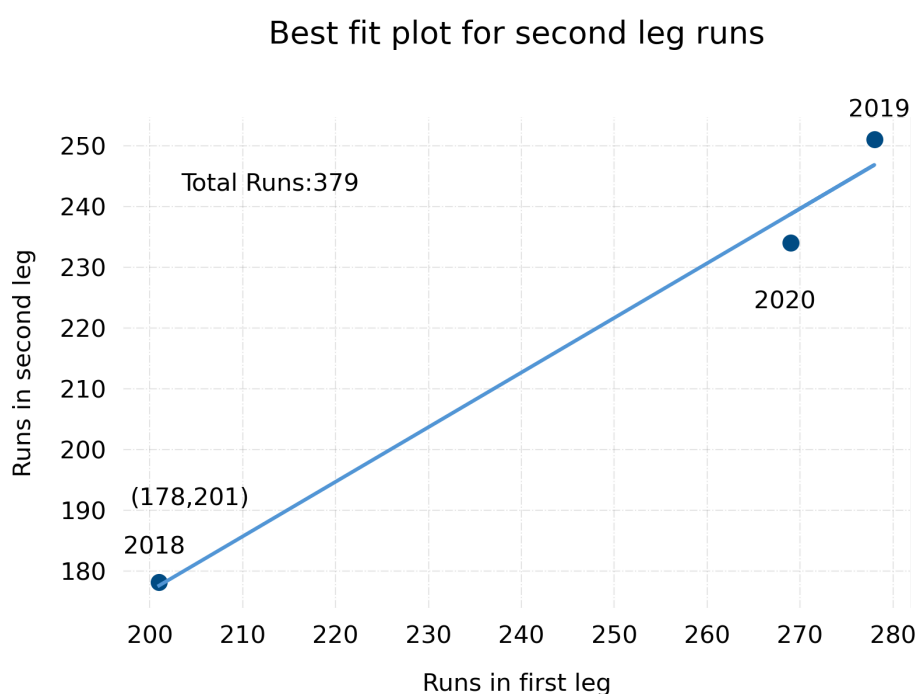
Best fit plot for second leg runs

Fig. 14

Quinton de Kock *scored 201 runs in initial matches* he played for RCB.

- From the analysis above based on his runs scored in IPL so far, we were able to predict if he was allowed to play the rest of the matches in IPL season 2018, he would have scored *178 runs* according to our analysis.
- This would have made him in the *top 3 run scorer for RCB* in that season.
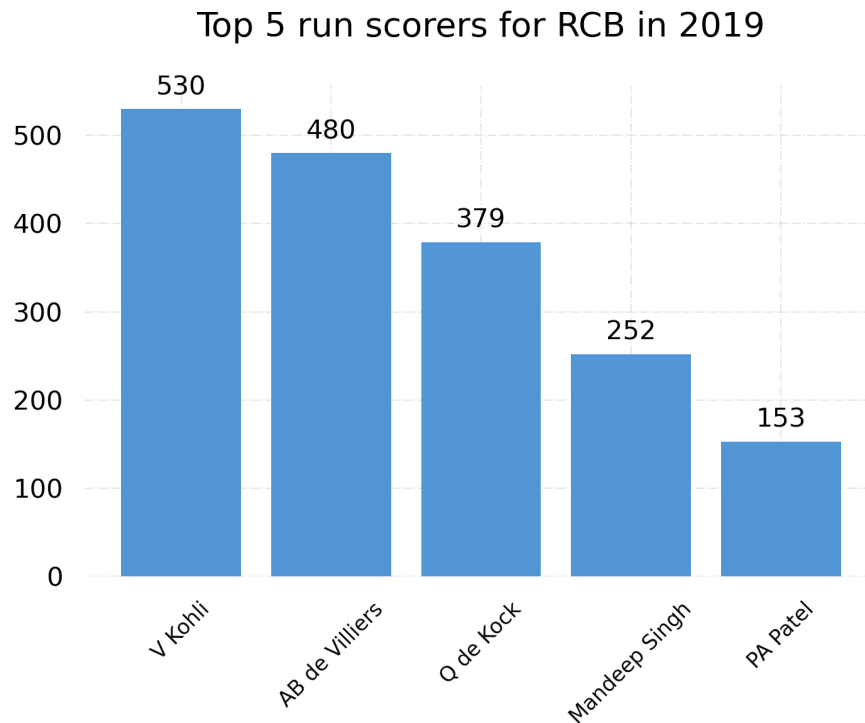- He was still benched in the last 6 matches thus showing lack of strategy in the team management.

Top 5 run scorers for RCB in 2019

Fig. 15

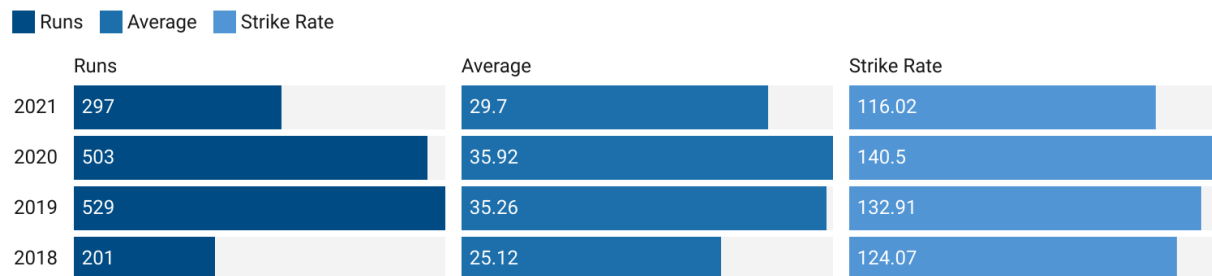|	Runs	Average	Strike Rate
2021	297	29.7	116.02
2020	503	35.92	140.5
2019	529	35.26	132.91
2018	201	25.12	124.07

Fig. 16

- The 2018 season was not the best for Quinton de Kock, his *total runs* scored were less than the next 3 seasons, but it may be attributed to the fact that he played approximately 60% of the total matches in season 2018.
- *Average* of Quinton de Kock has improved significantly after leaving RCB, which states that de Kock was *better off RCB*.

Moeen Ali

Moeen Ali is one of the *best all rounder*s in the T20 cricket landscape. His ability to hit boundaries in the time of need is what makes him more desirable than any other. After the 2015 World cup, England has seen many explosive players and Moeen Ali was one of them. He was bought by RCB for *INR 1.7 Crore*.

He didn't start immediately playing for RCB as the team sought for more fast pace seamer bowlers and Moeen Ali was a *off spinner*, though he did get a chance in the fourth game in with he scored *64 runs* and played a partnership of *107 runs* with AB de Villiers, thus winning the game for RCB.

Moeen Ali was retained by RCB in 2019 and 2020 but was released for season 2021. CSK bought Moeen Ali for season 2021 and here, we will analyse his stats between 2018-2020 and 2021.

The graph below describes the *number of matches* Moeen Ali *played* vs *numbers of matches* he was *benched*.
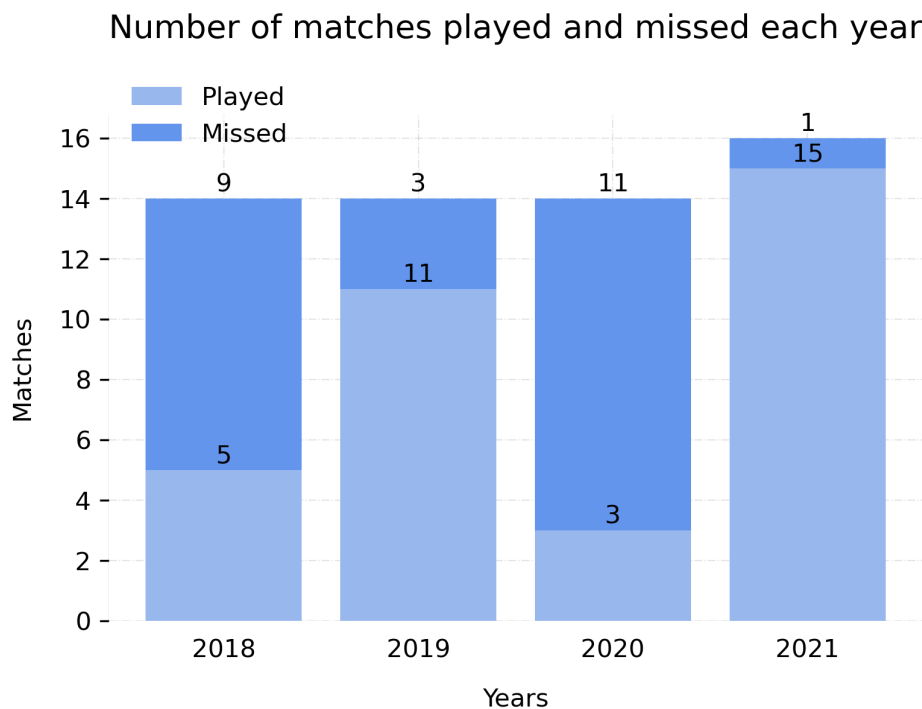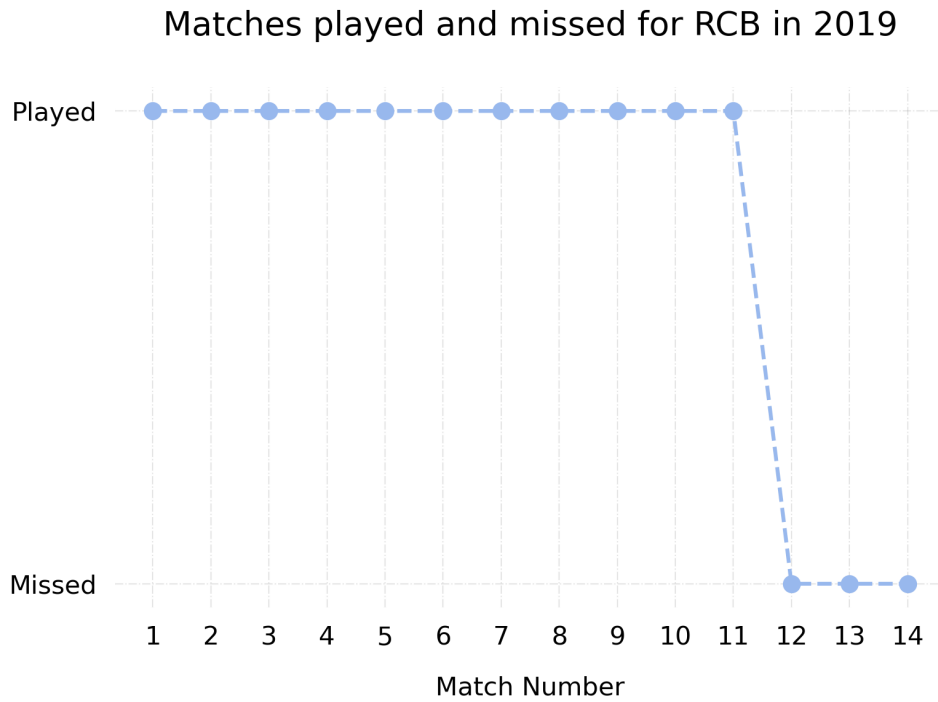

Fig. 17

Fig. 18

One main parameter we used to compare batter's performance was comparing their *runs scored*, *average* and *strike rate*. The below graph compares the above stats in sequential manner starting from 2018 till 2021.
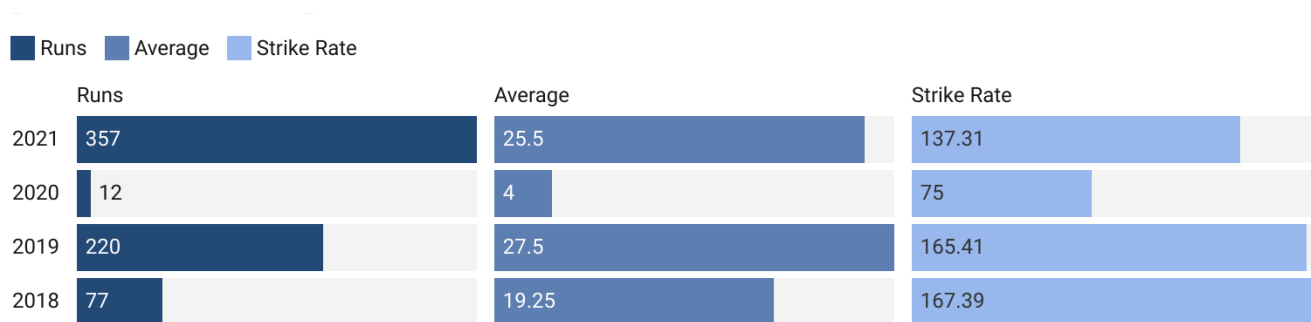

Fig. 19

- Moeen Ali had the *best strike rate* in 2018, but scored very less runs thus indicating that he got *less chances* to bat. He could have scored more for his team if they had let him play more matches.
- Moeen Ali didn't get enough chances in 2020 to prove himself even though he performed pretty well in season 2018 and 2019. Thus prompting RCB to leave him for the next season.
- In season 2021, When CSK played him, he scored his *most runs* in a season in IPL. His *average* was 2nd best in his IPL career and a *pretty good strike rate*.
- From Fig.18 and Fig. 19 , we can observe that even after having one of his best strike rates in IPL 2019, RCB benched him for the last 3 matches.
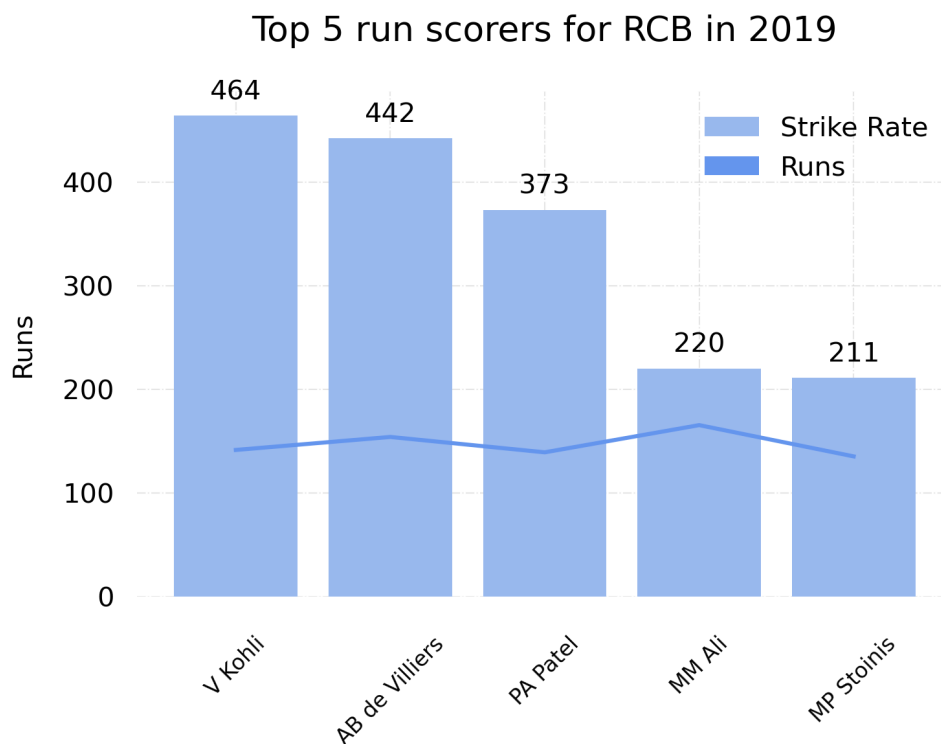

Fig. 20

- Moeen Ali was *4th highest top scorer for RCB* even after missing the last 3 matches and had one of his strike rate in his IPL career.
- Even then, RCB played him only 3 matches in season 2020. RCB didn't have confidence in Moeen Ali to score many runs.

Conclusion:

- RCB has one of the strongest teams in IPL, their players boast many records in the T20 landscape, still they didn't manage to win a single IPL Trophy.
- Here, we analysed why players who left RCB once in their IPL career perform well in other teams as compared to their performance during their stay in RCB.
- Player's performance matters on many factors, some of those are like, the player's present form, team strategy, management's confidence etc.
- RCB from the start lacked the main component, team strategy. They usually come with poor planning and don't have proper knowledge about a player's strong and weak points.
- Players like KL Rahul, Shane Watson have shown more strength and ability to score more runs and hit boundaries in other teams as they batted on one position irrespective of few setbacks, thus gaining confidence in themselves and performing well, proving their worth to their teams.
- RCB gave very few chances to Moeen Ali to prove himself worthy, he played only 3 matches in 2020, even after having a pretty good strike rate and average in season 2019 and then didn't retain for 2021.
- Players like Quinton de Kock are consistent hitters, they give a push to their start. Mumbai Indians have greatly benefited from players like de Kock who give a quick start to their innings. This potential could have been utilized by RCB, but they didn't.

In Conclusion, We can say that with better planning and team strategy, knowing each player's strong and weak points, RCB can maximise their output and win an IPL trophy easily.

TEAM : STATS NERD

MEMBERS :
1. SHUBHAM MONDAL (190103119)
2. SANKALP AGRAWAL (190103082)