

The God of Gentle-men's Game

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1 Introduction

Sachin Tendulkar has been the most complete of his time, the most runmaker of all time, and the biggest cricket icon the game has ever known. His was based on the purest : perfect balance, economy of movement, precision in , and that quality given only to - . If he didn't have a signature stroke - the upright, back-foot punch comes close - it's because he was equally proficient at each of the full range of orthodox shots (and plenty of improvised ones as well) and can pull them out at will.

Blessed with the keenest of cricket minds, and armed with a loathing for losing, He set about doing what it took to become one of the best batsmen in the world. His greatness was established early: he was only 16 when he made his Test debut. He was hit on the mouth by Waqar Younis but continued to bat, in a blood-soaked shirt. His first Test hundred, a match-saving one at Old Trafford, came when he was 17, and he had 16 Test hundreds before he turned 25. In 2000 he became the first batsman to have scored 50 international hundreds, in 2008 he passed Brian Lara as the leading Test run-scorer, and in the years after, he went past 13,000 Test runs 30,000 international runs, and 50 Test hundreds.

He currently holds the record for most hundreds in both Tests and ODIs - remarkable, considering he didn't score his first ODI hundred till his 79th match. Incredibly, he retained a divine enthusiasm for the game till his last match. At 36 years and 306 days he broke a 40-year-old barrier by scoring the first double-century in one-day cricket. In 2012, when just one month short of his 39th birthday, he became the first player to score 100 international centuries, which like Bradman's batting average, could be a mark that lasts for ever. Later that year, though, he an-

nounced his retirement from ODIs after a disappointing 18 months in international cricket. And on November 16, 2013, Tendulkar retired from Test cricket after a memorable 200th Test, on his home ground at the Wankhede Stadium against West Indies. His considerable achievements seem greater still when looked at in the light of the burden of expectations he had to bear from his adoring but somewhat unreasonable followers, who have been prone to regard anything less than a hundred in each innings as a failure. The aura may have dimmed, if only slightly, as the years on the international circuit took their toll on the body, but Tendulkar remains, by a distance, the most worshipped cricketer in the world[1].

Following are some true lines on Sachin

Commit all your sins when Sachin is batting. They will go unnoticed because even the lord is watching!

Beneath the helmet, under that unruly curly hair, inside the cranium, there is something we don't know, something beyond scientific measure. Something that allows him to soar, to roam a territory of sport that, forget us, even those who are gifted enough to play alongside him cannot even fathom. When he goes out to bat, people switch on their TV sets and switch off their lives

On a train from Shimla to Delhi, there was a halt in one of the stations. The train stopped by for few minutes as usual. Sachin was nearing century, batting on 98. The passengers, railway officials, everyone on the train waited for Sachin to complete the century. This Genius can stop time in India![2]

I'll see god when I die but till then I'll see Sachin



Figure 1: Fan Following

2 Carrier Statistics

When your career spans several years, there is a lot to adapt to. Training, technology, techniques, styles - your own and your opponent's. It takes a special kind of person to conquer such dynamic challenges and continue performing at such a high level.[2]

2.1 Batting and Fielding Averages

Format	Mat	Inns	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	4s	6s
Tests	200	329	15921	248*	53.78	87	51	68	1024	600
ODIs	463	452	18426	200*	44.83	86.23	49	96	2016	195
First-class	310	490	25396	248*	57.84	89	81	116	1186	200
List A	551	538	21999	200*	45.54	83	60	114	1895	175
Twenty20	96	96	2797	100*	32.90	121.08	1	16	359	38

Table 1: Batting and Fielding Average

2.2 Bowling Averages

Format	Mat	Inns	Balls	Runs	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Ave	Econ	SR	5w
Tests	200	145	4240	2492	46	3/10	3/14	54.17	3.52	92.1	0
ODIs	463	270	8054	6850	154	5/32	5/32	44.48	5.10	52.2	4
Twenty20	96	8	93	123	2	1/12	1/12	61.50	7.93	46.5	0

Table 2: Bowling Averages

2.3 Performance in big matches and chasing in ODI

Batsman	ODI avg	ODI SR	Final avg	Final SR	Chase avg	Chase SR
Sachin	44.83	86.23	54.44	87.68	42.3	88.44
Dravid	39.16	71.24	34.71	68.13	35.2	68.78
Ponting	42.03	80.39	38.42	82.21	41.93	76.34
Lara	40.48	79.51	28.16	71.61	42.7	78.11

Table 3: Performance Comparison

2.4 Better away and fast bowling friendly wicket test record

Batsman	In Australia	In England	In South Africa	In Away
Sachin	53.20	54.31	46.44	54.74
Ponting	58.95	41.79	46.85	45.81
Dravid	41.64	68.80	29.71	53.03
Lara	41.97	48.76	46.72	47.80

Table 4: Records

while overall average and strike rate of Sachin is higher than his peers, he still increases them in final matches. And except in Chase avg column he is at top in all others columns. Yes, he failed in two WC finals but he still has scored 31, 53 in 2 WC QFs and 65, 83, 85 in 3 WC SFs[3].

2.5 Better record against Australia(most dominating team during his time)

Cricket has seen many greats come and go, but very few would argue that anyone came close to Sachin Tendulkar. The whole of India prayed for him every time he took his stance at the crease[4].

Batsman	ODI avg	Test avg
Sachin	44.50	57.30
Dravid	24.97	39.33
Lara	39.50	51.00

Table 5: Average Comparison

He is the most complete batsman ever. He played every stroke with equal perfection, he is equally good on both sides of the wicket ..you cannot just look at one stroke and say this is Sachin's best, his strokes are just memorable be it he pull against Caddick or the straight drives against , from the style of the 90's he has adapted his game to the modern style including the and the (he plays them better than anybody else), and above all what separates the great from the very best is the humility, no confrontations no flambuoyancy, he always let his bat do the talking[5].

Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar				
Born: 24 April 1973 in Bombay, Maharashtra, India				
Career statistics				
Competition	Test	ODI	FC	LA
Matches	200	463	310	551
Runs scored	15,921	18,426	25,396	21,999
Batting average	53.78	44.83	57.92	45.54
100s/50s	51/68	49/96	81/116	60/114
Top score	248*	200*	248*	200*
Balls bowled	4,240	8,054	7,563	10,230
Wickets	46	154	71	201
Bowling average	54.17	44.48	62.18	42.17
5 wickets in innings	0	2	0	2
10 wickets in match	0	n/a	0	n/a
Best bowling	3/10	5/32	3/10	5/32
Catches/stumpings	115/–	140/–	186/–	175/–

Figure 2: Records

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