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Dinesh Karthik

Dinesh Karthik (born 1 June 1985) is an Indian wicket-keeper and batsman who made his debut for the Indian cricket team in 2004. He became captain of the Kolkata Knight Riders Indian Premier League team during the 2018 season.

He made his maiden Test century against Bangladesh and was India's leading scorer in their Test tour of England,[1] helping India win their first series in England in 21 years. After a drop in form in September 2007, Dinesh Karthik was dropped from the Test team. He has made only sporadic international appearances since then, although he continues to score well domestically.

Contents

Personal life

Karthik was born in Tiruchendur in Tamil Nadu. He began playing cricket at the age of 10, after a two-year period of living in Kuwait (where his father worked). Karthik was educated in India, and at Carmel School and Fahaheel Al-Watanieh Indian Private School in Kuwait. He was coached in cricket by his father, who was a first-division cricketer from Chennai. Disappointed that his career was hindered when he was forced by his family to put his education first, Karthik's father did not want his son to suffer the same fate and trained him hard from an early age.[2] Karthik

Krishna Kumar Dinesh Karthik

Karthik in 2017

Personal information	
Full name	Dinesh Karthik
Born	1 June 1985 Tiruchirappalli , Crawford near prajhan home , Tamil Nadu, India
Height	1.70 m (5 ft 7 in)
Batting	Right-handed
Bowling	Right-arm off break
Role	Wicket-keeper–batsman
International information	
National side	India (2004–present)
Test debut (cap 250)	3 November 2004 v Australia
Last Test	9 August 2018 v England
ODI debut (cap 156)	5 September 2004 v England
Last ODI	9 July 2019 v New Zealand
ODI shirt no.	21
T20I debut (cap 4)	1 December 2006 v South Africa
Last T20I	27 February 2019 v Australia
Domestic team information	

honed his reflexes at a young age by having his father throw hard leather balls at him at high speed. He was initially a batsman and learned wicket-keeping on the Tamil Nadu youth teams, and Robin Singh considered him very fit.[2]

Karthik steadily ascended the youth ranks. He made his Tamil Nadu under-14 debut in early 1999, and was promoted to the under-19 side at the beginning of the 2000/2001 season.[3] He made his first-class debut for the senior side the following season.

Karthik was married to Nikita Vanjara in 2007, and they divorced in 2012. He participated in the dance-reality show *Ek Khiladi Ek Hasina* with Nigaar Khan in 2008.[4] Karthik became engaged to Indian squash player Dipika Pallikal in November 2013,[5] and they married in traditional Christian and Hindu ceremonies in August 2015.[6]

Domestic career

Karthik made his first-class debut in late 2002 against Baroda as a wicket-keeper.[7] He batted in five matches of the round-robin, scoring 179 runs at an average of 35.80 with a top score of 88 not out against Uttar Pradesh in his second match.[3][2][8] Karthik's form tapered off after this match, and he failed to pass 20 again during the season.[3] He took 11 catches[9] but, due to repeated wicket-keeping errors, he was dropped from the season's final matches.[10]

Years	Team
2002–present	Tamil Nadu
2008–2010	Delhi Daredevils
2011	Kings XI Punjab
2012–2013	Mumbai Indians
2014	Delhi Daredevils
2015	Royal Challengers Bangalore
2016–2017	Gujarat Lions
2018–present	Kolkata Knight Riders

Career statistics				
Competition	Test	ODI	T20I	FC
Matches	26	94	32	163
Runs scored	1,025	1,752	399	9,376
Batting average	25.00	30.20	33.25	40.76
100s/50s	2/7	0/11	0/0	27/42
Top score	129*	79	48	213
Balls bowled	–	–	–	120
Wickets	–	–	–	0
Bowling average	–	–	–	–
5 wickets in innings	–	–	–	–
10 wickets in match	–	–	–	–
Best bowling	–	–	–	–
Catches/stumpings	57/6	64/7	14/5	385/44

Source: ESPNcricinfo (http://www.espncricinfo.com/india/content/player/30045.html), 9 July 2019

Karthik was overlooked in the selection for the zonal Duleep Trophy, and played in the under-19s for South Zone. He was more productive in his second zonal season, scoring 180 runs at 60.00 with three half-centuries.[3] He was selected for the national under-19 team, and played in three youth One Day Internationals (ODIs) against Nepal.[3]

Karthik attended a wicket-keeping camp in the off-season under, guided by former Indian keeper and chairman of selectors Kiran More, which he credited with improving his technique. After playing in the Chennai League, he returned to the under-22 team at the start of the season before his selection for India Emerging Players to play their youthful counterparts from Sri Lanka and Pakistan in late September.[3]

Karthik was recalled to the Ranji Trophy team at the beginning of the 2003–04 season.[2] He scored 438 runs (an average of 43.80), with two centuries, and took 20 catches.[11] In the semi-final against Railways, he scored his maiden first-class century with 122 runs.[12] He followed this with an unbeaten 109 in the final against Mumbai.[13]

Karthik was selected for the India squad in the 2004 Under-19 Cricket World Cup in Bangladesh, and scored two half-centuries on an India A tour to Zimbabwe.[3][14] He had a strong domestic first-class season in 2008–09. After starting the Ranji Trophy campaign with two single-figure scores, he scored 213 runs in partnership with Subramaniam Badrinath as Tamil Nadu defeated Uttar Pradesh by an innings. Karthik then scored 123 and 113 in consecutive matches against Baroda and Railways, before ending his Ranji Trophy campaign with 72 against Uttar Pradesh in the return match. He continued his strong run against Central Zone in the Duleep Trophy, scoring 153 (103 in one match). Karthik ended with 1,026 runs at 64.12 for the season, including five centuries and two fifties.

In 2009-2010, he was the Tamil Nadu captain in six Ranji Trophy matches. Karthik scored 152 against Orissa and 117 against Punjab, adding a further two scores of at least 70. He scored only 16 runs in his four other innings, ending the season with 443 runs and an average of 55.37.[3]

Karthik was named captain of the India A cricket team for the 2018–19 Deodhar Trophy in October 2018.[15] In October 2019, he was named to India C's squad for the 2019–20 Deodhar Trophy.[16]

Indian Premier League

Karthik played in the 2008 Indian Premier League as wicket-keeper for the Delhi Daredevils, scoring 145 runs at 24.16 with a strike rate[17] of 135.51.[18] His highest score was an unbeaten 56 to steer Delhi to a five-wicket win in a group match against the Mumbai Indians.[3] In the 2009 Indian Premier League hosted by South Africa, Karthik played in each of Delhi's 15 matches. He scored 288 runs at 36.00, passing 40 on three occasions and making 17 dismissals. Although Delhi topped the tournament's pool stage, Karthik made only nine in the semi-final and Delhi were defeated by six wickets by the Deccan Chargers.[3]

He was bought by Kings XI Punjab in 2011 for $900,000, making him the second-most-expensive player on their squad. For the 2012 Indian Premier League, Karthik joined Mumbai Indians for a reported $2.35 million.[19]

He was again bought by Delhi in 2014, by Royal Challengers Bangalore in 2015 and in 2016 by the Gujarat Lions, who retained him for the 2017 season. Karthik was named wicket-keeper of the IPL XI of the tournament in 2017 by CricBuzz.[20] He was bought by the Kolkata Knight Riders for the 2018 IPL season (replacing Gautam Gambhir), and led the team to the playoffs.[21] For his performance in the 2018 IPL season, Karthik was named to the Cricinfo and CricBuzz IPL XI.[22][23]

International career

Test career

Karthik made his Test cricket debut in the fourth Test between Australia and India in Mumbai in October 2004, replacing Parthiv Patel (who was dropped for poor wicket-keeping).[24] He scored 14 runs in two innings and took two catches, but was praised for his wicket-keeping on a pitch with variable bounce and spin on which 40 wickets fell in two days.[25][26]

He played in only one match against England at Lord's, scoring one run. Despite dropping England captain Michael Vaughan from Anil Kumble's bowling, he eventually stumped Vaughan down the legside and took another catch.[27][28] Karthik played in the 2004 ICC Champions Trophy against Kenya, taking three catches before being replaced on the ODI team by MS Dhoni. He did not play another ODI until April 2006.[29][30]

Karthik was retained for India's next engagement: a two-Test home series against South Africa. In a high-scoring draw where both teams passed 450 in the first innings, Karthik managed only a solitary run in the first Test in Kanpur. In the second Test at Kolkata, he scored 46 runs to help extend India's first innings lead to 106 runs for the host's eight-wicket win.[3]

Karthik had a chance to score highly in India's two-Test tour of Bangladesh in December 2004. Against a team which had never won a Test, India swept the series and won both matches by an innings. Although his side exceeded 500 in both matches, Karthik scored only 25 and 11.[3]

Karthik at fielding practice

However, he was retained for the three-Test series at home against Pakistan in March. In a high-scoring draw in the first Test in Mohali, Karthik scored only six of India's 516 runs. He then had his best Test batting performance to date, at Eden Gardens in Kolkata against Pakistan. India batted first; Karthik made a start and reached 28, before being run out. India made 407 and Pakistan almost broke even, replying with 393. Karthik scored in the second innings, joining Rahul Dravid in a 166-run partnership to set up a target of 422. The pitch was deteriorating, and India won the match by 196 runs.[31] In the next match, Karthik made only 10 and nine as India collapsed and lost ten wickets on the final day of an otherwise high-scoring match; 1,280 runs had been scored for only 22 wickets in the first three innings.[3]

Dhoni scored 148 in an ODI against Pakistan, and he replaced Karthik for the three Tests at home against Sri Lanka. In ten tests since his debut, Karthik scored 245 runs for an average of 18.84 with one half-century and one other score above 25.[32] He was selected as a back-up wicket-keeper and middle-order batsmen on the Test team in November 2006.[33]

After Dhoni injured a finger, Karthik replaced him for the third Test at Newlands against South Africa for his first Test in over a year. He opened the innings with Wasim Jaffer, allowing Sehwag to bat in the middle order. He used his domestic experience to score 63 in the first innings, combining in a century opening stand and helping India to 414 (enough for a first-innings lead of 41). In the second innings, Karthik scored an unbeaten 38 as the team were all out for 169.[32] In addition to his batting, his wicket-keeping was praised.[34]

Although he did not play a match at the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup,[29] after a roster reshuffle[35][36] Karthik was selected as a specialist opener for a tour of Bangladesh. He scored 56 and 22 in the drawn first Test in Chittagong before scoring his maiden Test century in the second Test in Dhaka, making 129 runs and featuring in a century opening stand as India took an innings victory.[32]

Karthik was a regular opener in the mid-2007 Test series in England. After scoring 76 and 51 in the two tour matches before the Tests, he recorded a half-century in each of the three Tests. In the first Test at Lord's, Karthik made 60 in the second innings before India fell to 9/282 (in pursuit of 380) when rain ended the match early. In the second Test at Trent Bridge, Karthik scored 77 and 22; in the third Test at the Oval, he scored 91. With a total of 263 runs at 43.83, he was the highest scorer in the series for India[37] (who won their first series in England in 21 years).[38] Karthik started the ODI series with an unbeaten 44, but had four consecutive innings where he failed to score more than four runs and was dropped for the final two matches.[29]

He had a lean Test series against Pakistan at home in late 2008. Karthik managed only 39 in two innings of the first two Tests, exceeding single figures only once.[32] In the third Test in Bangalore, Sachin Tendulkar was injured; his replacement, Yuvraj, scored 170. Karthik, batting down the order, scored 24 and 52 in a high-scoring draw and kept the wickets because of Dhoni's injury.[32][39] In the first innings, Karthik was behind the stumps as India set a world record for the most extras conceded in a Test innings; the 35 byes were the secondmost in Test history.[40]

Karthik was retained for the Test tour of Australia as an opener, and Gambhir was out with an injury. He did not play in the first two Tests, however,[32] because Dravid was elevated to his opening position so Tendulkar and Yuvraj could bat in the middle order. When Dravid and Yuvraj struggled in their new positions,[41] Dravid was moved back to his number-three position and Yuvraj was dropped for the series' third Test;[42] Karthik was not recalled.[32][43]

He was recalled to the Test team as a wicket-keeper for the July 2008 tour of Sri Lanka when Dhoni took a sabbatical due to fatigue.[32][44] Karthik played in the first two Tests, but struggled with the bat in the middle order. He scored 36 runs at 9.00, falling all four times to the spinners Muttiah Muralitharan and Ajantha Mendis.

He scored an unbeaten 117 against Kerala in the 2009 one-day tournament and was selected for the tour of New Zealand as reserve wicket-keeper. After watching the T20 and ODI series, Karthik played in the second Test when Dhoni was injured; he was criticised for dropping a number of catches.

Karthik then played in the first Test at Chittagong after Dhoni was injured again. He made a duck in the first innings and 27 in the second, watching the next match after Dhoni returned.

Karthik was replaced as reserve gloveman for the two-Test home series against South Africa by Wriddhiman Saha. He scored 183 and 150 in the Duleep Trophy final against West Zone, the third player to score centuries in both innings of a Duleep Trophy final.[45]

Limited over career

In April 2006, Karthik was recalled to the ODI team to give Dhoni a rest in the final ODI against England in Indore. He was not required to bat, as India cruised to a seven-wicket victory.[3] Karthik was then reinstated as reserve wicket-keeper for the tour of the West Indies[46] after scoring 134 runs for India A at 33.50, including a man-of-the-match 75 runs against the UAE.[47][48][3] He had more opportunities at the international level later that year during the ODI tour of South Africa after Yuvraj Singh was injured. As a batsman in three of the ODIs, Karthik struggled with 42 runs at an average of 14.00 and a top score of 17 as South Africa took a 5–0 whitewash.[29]

He scored an unbeaten 31 to steer India to a six-wicket win in the Twenty20 International against South Africa, with one ball to spare, in 2007.[49] Karthik then featured in the four-match ODI series against West Indies. After not batting in the victorious first match, he top-scored with 63 as a specialist batsman when India recovered from 35/3 to post 189 on a slow wicket at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack. India won by 20 runs, giving Karthik his first man-of-the-match award.[50] He was then selected for the series against Sri Lanka and the 2007 Cricket World Cup.[29][51] Before their tour of England, India played a series of ODIs in Ireland against the hosts and South Africa. Karthik played in four matches, scoring 15 runs at 51.00 and keeping wicket in two matches.[29]

Selected for the inaugural 2007 ICC World Twenty20 in South Africa in September 2007, he played in India's earlier matches before being replaced in the semi-final and final by Rohit Sharma.[52] Karthik remained on the Indian squad for the home ODI series against Australia, but his form declined in England. He played in only the final match in Mumbai, making a duck as India scraped home by two wickets.[29]

Karthik batting in the nets

Return to form

Karthik had another chance in India's four-match tour of West Indies when he replaced Virender Sehwag, who was out with a shoulder problem.[53] He scored 67, 4 and 47 runs as an opener as India took the series, 2–1.[54][55][56] Karthik was retained for a short triangular ODI tournament in Sri Lanka in September. He scored 4 and 16 in India's two round-robin matches and was dropped for the final, in which India defeated the hosts. Karthik was retained for the 2009 ICC Champions Trophy in South Africa, but after his performances in Sri Lanka he was omitted for the first two matches. Although he had an opportunity in India's final pool match against the West Indies and scored 34 in a seven-wicket win, it was not enough to prevent India's first-round exit.[3]

Karthik during the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy

In December 2009, Karthik was recalled to the ODI team during the Sri Lankan tour of India after Dhoni was banned after the second match for two matches because of low over rates. Karthik kept wickets in the next two matches, scoring 32 and 19 (unbeaten in both) and helping guide India to the target in successful run chases.[3] He retained his place as a middle-order batsman in the fifth and final match when Dhoni returned after Tendulkar was rested and Yuvraj was injured, but the match was ended early due to an unsafe pitch.

Karthik retained his place for the ODI tri-series in Bangladesh against the hosts and Sri Lanka after Tendulkar was rested for the tournament. He was an opener with Gambhir in the last two of the round-robin matches, after Sehwag was rested. Although Karthik made 48 and 34 in quick time as India won both matches, he was dropped for the final (which India lost).[3]

Karthik was recalled to the Indian ODI team for the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy after a good domestic season and IPL performance. He scored back-to-back centuries in the two warm-up games, securing his place on the team for the tournament.

On 10 December 2017 Karthik faced 18 deliveries without scoring a run against Sri Lanka, an ODI record.[57] He was flown in for the third Test of India's 2017–18 tour of South Africa to replace the injured wicket-keeper, Saha.[58] The substitute, Patel, was included on the side before he injured his right index finger; Karthik began keeping the wickets on day four of the Test.[59] Although he was on the squad for the limited-overs matches, he did not make the playing eleven (except for the final T20I, when he made a six-ball 13).[60] Karthik was again named to the squad for the March 2018 Nidahas Trophy, after team regular (and wicket-keeper) Dhoni was rested.[61] He played a match-winning knock of an unbeaten 29 off eight balls in the final of the tournament against Bangladesh. Coming to bat when India required 34 runs off the last two overs, Karthik's assault (which included a six when requiring five runs off the last ball) won the match and the tournament.[62][63]

In April 2019, he was named to India's squad for the 2019 Cricket World Cup.[64][65] On 6 July, in the match against Sri Lanka, Karthik played his 150th international match for India.[66]

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