



INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

April - May
2008

Overview

1. Insight into my personal experiences in India
2. Difficulties dealing with the local culture
3. Insight into pitch and outfield management in India
4. Understanding of challenges involved with Groundsmanship in India

Introduction

1. Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, Hyderabad – 10 weeks
2. Wicket & outfield, practice wicket management and staff training
3. Employed by Deccan Chronical
4. Invite by Deccan Chargers coach Robin Singh



Life in India

1. Cricket like a religion
2. Culture shock
3. Food challenge
4. Generally poor health



IPL Format

1. 8 Team Competition
2. Twenty/20 format
3. 14 match schedule
4. Top 4 teams progress into playoff rounds

→ **Intense schedule**

IPL Format

1. Franchise squad of 20 players
2. Each Franchise has 8 overseas players in squad
3. Each team had around 20 support staff
4. 25,000 – 35,000 people in attendance
5. Tens of millions of television viewers

→ **Well publicized event**

IPL Format

1. Substantial money involved
2. Most expensive franchise fee 111 million US dollars (Mumbai Indians)
3. Most expensive player MS Dhoni (Chennai Super Kings) 1.5 million US dollars

MS Dhoni (Chennai Super Kings) US\$1.5 Million

Andrew Symonds (Deccan Chargers) US\$1.35 Million

Sachin Tendulkar (Mumbai Indians) US\$1,121,250

Sourav Ganguly (Kolkata Knight Riders) US\$1,092,500

Yuvraj Singh (Kings XI Punjab) US\$1,063,750.00

Virender Sehwag (Delhi Daredevils) US\$833,750.00

Rahul Dravid (Royal Challengers) - US\$1,035,00

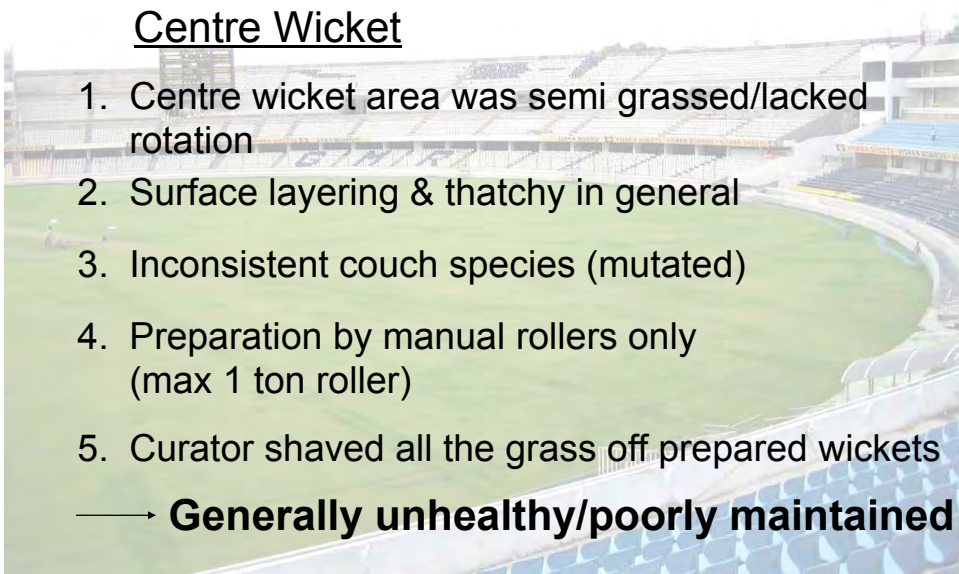




Ground Conditions on Arrival

Centre Wicket

1. Centre wicket area was semi grassed/lacked rotation
 2. Surface layering & thatchy in general
 3. Inconsistent couch species (mutated)
 4. Preparation by manual rollers only (max 1 ton roller)
 5. Curator shaved all the grass off prepared wickets
- **Generally unhealthy/poorly maintained**





Ground Conditions on Arrival

Practice Wickets

1. 100% bare/ run ups were 100mm high on arrival
2. Uneven surface levels
3. No water availability
4. Lacked equipment/ poor covers
5. Netting system of permanent nature, no flexibility to rotate

—————> **Below standard**

Ground Conditions on Arrival

Outfield Irrigation System

1. Ineffective designed & operated system
2. Lacked pressurized water points
3. Revamped watering system
4. Watering wickets with 2 inch poly pipe

—————> **Labor intensive**





Security

1. Extremely high level
2. 24 hour surveillance
3. Pre-match inspections from bomb squad
4. Concentrated match day security

——→ **Very imposing**





Facility Development

Outfield

1. Aeration
2. Fertilized by hand
3. Reconfigured irrigation system
4. Irrigated outfield on a program

——→ **Intense maintenance program**



Facility Development

Outfield - upgrade

1. Striped cutting pattern
 2. Rolled outfield
 3. Lightly top dressed isolated areas in outfield
 4. Iron application 2 days before each match
- **Majority of efforts were aimed towards appearance**





Centre Wicket - upgrade

1. Light, regular applications of fertilizer
2. Dethatched vigorously
3. Changed hand watering system
4. Introduced 'machine rollers'

→ **Concentrated maintenance inputs**

Practice Wickets - upgrade

1. Stononised all practice wickets
 2. Top dressed all practice wickets
 3. Appointed full time staff to nets
 4. Use practice strips on edge of ground
- **Introduced regular maintenance program**

Wicket Preparations

Schedule

1. Deccan Chargers - 14 home & away matches
2. Allocation of 3 centre wickets for the 7 home matches
3. Two 4pm starts
4. Five 8pm starts

————→ **Favorable schedule**



Wicket Preparations

1. Short version of the game was favorable
2. Allowed reuse of wickets
3. Less pressure
4. Less conflict in relation to views on preparation methods

→ **Generally found pitch preparation straight forward**



Climatic Conditions

1. Dry climate
2. Temps in/around 40
3. Daily evaporation rates of 10mm and above
4. Rain every day for first week, No rain thereafter

→ **Conditions generally favorable**

Soils & Grasses

1. Typical black soils
2. Swelling & shrinking abilities
3. Typically characteristics with a CEC of around 40, and have an IR of around 2-3mm/hour
4. Local Bermuda Grass

————→ **Similar to Hong Kong & Australia**

Preparation Techniques

1. Sole aim to produce high scoring matches
2. 8 day preparation
3. Started all preparations with 100% grass cover
4. Pre preparation watering to just under field capacity (just over 90%)

————→ **Systematic approach**

Preparation Techniques

1. Three rollers in use
2. Balanced rolling hours between light, heavy & hand roller
3. Generally started with hand rolling, and worked up in roller weight
4. Maintained wicket damp & pliable early preparation with hand watering
5. 1/3 of total hours consisted of cross rolling (hand roller)



Preparation Techniques

1. Each wicket was prepared to be ready approx 2 days before match day
2. Hand brushed wickets
3. Removed 50% of grass cover
4. Re-watering & application of grass clippings
5. Controlled moisture with hessian mats

——→ **Managing moisture was challenging**





Preparation Techniques

1. All pitches were prepared using grass clippings
2. Grass clippings presented wicket evenly
3. Assisted the wicket in playing evenly
4. Prevented any sideways movement
5. Shiny appearance under lights
6. Held together any small bare areas

→ **Generally provide batsmen friendly conditions**









Match Day Preparation

1. Light roller across wicket for few minutes to seal cracks
2. Covered with hessian majority of day
3. Soil sampling
4. Bounce test

—————> **Mindful of over rolling**



Prepared Wickets

1. White in color
2. Evenly grassed
3. Typical cracking patterns
4. Cracks were evident, but stable

—————> **Locals impressed with presentation**



Match Day Routine

1. Double cut outfield
2. Cut & watered centre square
3. Grass clippings bare areas
4. Ground markings
5. Mosquito fumigation

→ **Match day spent on presentation**

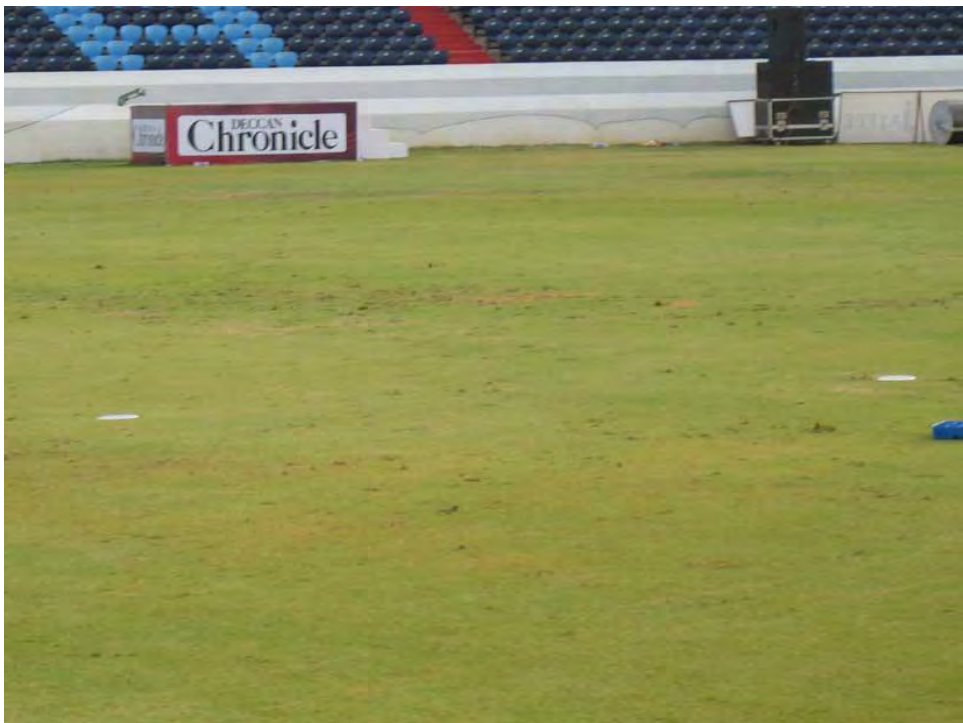


Match Day – General

1. Vibrant atmosphere
2. Overwhelming
3. Demanding
4. High security

—————→ **Generally exciting**





Deccan Chargers Home Matches -2008 IPL

Date	Opposition	Start Time	Wicket No.	Winner	Scores	Avg Runs/ Over	Avg Runs/ Wicket
22 nd April	Delhi Daredevils	8pm	4	Delhi Daredevils	D/Chargers 8/142(20) D/DareDevils 1/143(12)	9.1	31.6
24 th April	Rajasthan Royals	8pm	4	Rajasthan Royals	D/Chargers 5/214(20) R/Royals 7/217(19.5)	10.8	36.9
1 st May	Kings Punjab	8pm	4	Kings Punjab	D/Chargers 8/164(20) K/Punjab 3/167(18.5)	8.5	30.1
11 th May	Kolkata Knight Riders	4pm	3	Kolkata Knight Riders	K/Riders 4/204 (20) D/Chargers 7/181(20)	9.6	35
18 th May	Mumbai Indians	8pm	3	Mumbai Indians	M/Indians 7/187(20) D/Chargers 7/163(20)	8.5	24.2
25 th May	Royal Challengers	4pm	2	Royal Challengers	D/Chargers 169(20) R/Challengers 5/171(19)	8.6	22.4
27 th May	Chennai Super Kings	8pm	2	Chennai Super Kings	D/Chargers 8/147(20) C/Super Kings 3/148(19.2)	7.5	26.8
Total Average						9.1 runs/over	24.9 runs/wicket

General

1. Pre-conceived ideas/opinionated locals
2. Against any grass cover on wickets
3. Other countries fix their wickets
4. Rebuilding is their first solution
5. Incentive system

→ **Difficult environment**



Performance Barriers

1. Excessive cricket, no respect for maintenance
2. Poor practice wicket infrastructure
3. Inconsistent practice schedules
4. Ineffective Irrigation system
5. Poor outfield drainage



Performance Barriers

1. General lack of resources
2. Poor finance allocation
3. Time constraints – difficult to make any significant improvements
4. Lack of staff training
5. Power black outs

Finally

1. Great opportunity to implement skills
2. Test of character & skills
3. Great learning curve
4. Career development
5. Well worth the effort

