

Ishan, Travis shine bright for Sunrisers

Head's 31-ball-67 and Kishan's unbeaten 106 off 47 balls guide Sunrisers Hyderabad to 44-run victory

PTI, HYDERABAD: Ishan Kishan's blitzkrieg trumped the heroic efforts from Sanju Samson and Dhruv Jurel as Sunrisers Hyderabad buried Rajasthan Royals under a deluge of runs to start its IPL 2025 campaign in style with a 44-run win, here, on Sunday.

After Travis Head teed off with a 31-ball-67 adding 94 for the opening stand with Abhishek Sharma, Kishan (106 not out off 47 balls) smashed a 45-ball-100 in his first appearance for the new franchise as Sunrisers Hyderabad scored 286 for 6, their second highest total in the history of IPL.

But Royals were never in hunt as they finally managed 242 for 6 in their 20 overs and their effort will certainly help their net run-rate.

At a sultry Hyderabad, Royals' inexperienced skipper Riyan Parag committed a harakiri by opting to bowl on the flattest deck on offer in IPL and this decision could come back to haunt them at the business end of the tournament.

In a tale of three flamboyant keeper-batters, although two of them didn't keep on the day, Samson (66 off 37 balls) and Jurel (70 off 35 balls) did make full use of a belter by at least scaring the SRH fans during a stand of 111 in just 9.5 overs.

While Sunrisers were always favourites to win the run-fest, the match decisively turned in two overs - 11th bowled by Adam Zampa (1/48 in 4 overs) and 12th sent down by skipper Pat Cummins (0/60 in 4 overs) which yielded only seven runs cumulatively.



Sunrisers Hyderabad batter Ishan Kishan celebrates his century during the IPL match against Rajasthan Royals at Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, in Hyderabad, Sunday

SCOREBOARD
Sunrisers Hyderabad: Abhishek Sharma c Jaiswal b Theekshana 24, Travis Head c Hetmyer b Deshpande 67, Ishan Kishan not out 106, Nitish Kumar Reddy c Jaiswal b Theekshana 30, Heinrich Klaasen c Parag b Sharma 34, Aniket Verma c Archer b Deshpande 7, Abhinav Manohar c Parag b Deshpande 0, *Pat Cummins not out 0. **Extras:** 18. **Total:** 286-6. **Fall of wickets:** 45-1, 130-2, 201-3, 258-4, 279-5, 279-6. **Bowling:** Fazalhaq Farooqi 3-0-49-0, Maheesh Theekshana 4-0-52-2, Jofra Archer 4-0-76-0, Sandeep Sharma 4-0-51-1, Nitish Rana 1-0-9-0, Tushar Deshpande 4-0-44-3.
Rajasthan Royals: Yashasvi Jaiswal c Manohar b Singh 1, Sanju Samson c Klaasen b Patel 66, *Riyan Parag c Cummins b Singh 4, Nitish Rana c Cummins b Shami 11, Dhruv Jurel c Kishan b Zampa 70, Shimron Hetmyer c Manohar b Patel 42, Shubham Dubey not out 34, Jofra Archer not out 1. **Extras:** 13. **Total:** 242-6. **Fall of wickets:** 20-1, 24-2, 50-3, 161-4, 161-5, 241-6. **Bowling:** Mohammed Shami 3-0-33-1, Simarjeet Singh 3-0-46-2, *Pat Cummins 4-0-60-0, Abhishek Sharma 2-0-17-0, Adam Zampa 4-0-48-1-0, Harshal Patel 4-0-34-2
Man-of-the-Match: Ishan Kishan

TWISTS & TURNS

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Pacer Harshal Patel (2/34 in 4 overs) understated brilliance at the back-end also needs an honourable mention. The difference became the number of dot balls consumed in the end. While Royals managed only 25 dot balls during SRH innings, Cummins and his men were able to bowl 15 more.

Noor, Rachin & Ruturaj star in Super Kings win

PTI, CHENNAI: Afghanistan mystery spinner Noor Ahmad excelled on his Chennai Super Kings debut before skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad stuck a sublime fifty to set up a four-wicket win over their biggest rival Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League, here, on Sunday.

Ahmad's four-wicket haul limited Mumbai Indians to a below-par 155/9 after the hosts put them in to bat on a slow surface.

Gaikwad, batting at number three instead of opening alongside Rachin Ravindra, smashed 53 off 26 balls before the latter took over to ensure CSK got over the line in 19.1 overs. Ravindra remained unbeaten on 65 off 45 balls. IPL debutant Vignesh Puthur (3/32), a left-arm spinner from Kerala who has never played senior cricket, made life tough for CSK who eventually found a way to start their 2025 campaign with a win.

The 24-year-old Puthur removed Gaikwad, Shivam Dube and Deepak Hooda in quick succession with all three failing to dispatch the rookie spinner into the stands. Ravindra deposited Puthur for couple of sixes towards the end to keep the crowd going. The deafening roar came when M S Dhoni walked into the middle with four runs needed for the win but Ravindra hit the winning six.

With the loss, Mumbai Indians maintained their dubious record of not winning their opening game of the IPL since 2012.

Earlier, Ahmad (4/18) ran through the Mumbai Indians middle-order after Khaleel



Chennai Super Kings' Noor Ahmad celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Mumbai Indians' Robin Minz during the IPL match, at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai, on Sunday

Ahmed (3/29) removed openers Rohit Sharma (0 off 4) and Ryan Rickelton (13 off 7) in the powerplay. On a typical Chepauk surface, CSK got the early breakthroughs after putting the opposition in to bat.

Rohit was the first one to depart, flicking straight into the hands of Shivam Dube at mid-wicket off Khaleel. Playing his first game for Mumbai Indians, Rickelton looked good in his brief cameo which ended when he played on to give Khaleel his second wicket.

R Ashwin, returning to CSK after 10 years, struck in his first over to make it 36 for three as Will Jacks offered a simple catch to Dube at mid-off.

Suryakumar Yadav (29 off 26) and the in-form Tilak Varma (31 off 25) forged a 51-run partnership to take the innings forward before

the M S Dhoni effected a lightening quick stumping off Ahmad to send back Mumbai Indians stand-in captain. Dhoni showed he remains as sharp as ever behind the stumps with bails being dislodged even before Suryakumar could complete his bat swing.

SCOREBOARD

Mumbai Indians: Rohit Sharma c Dube b Ahmed 0, Ryan Rickelton b Ahmed 13, Will Jacks c Dube b Ashwin 11, *Suryakumar Yadav st Dhoni b Ahmad 29, Tilak Varma lbw b Ahmad 31, Robin Minz c Jadeja b Ahmad 3, Naman Dhir b Ahmad 17, Mitchell Santner lbw b Ellis 11, Deepak Chahar not out 28, Trent Boult c Gaikwad b Ahmed 1, Satyanarayana Raju not out 1. **Extras:** 10. **Total:** 155-9. **Fall of wickets:** 0-1, 21-2, 37-3, 87-4, 95-5, 96-6, 118-7, 128-8, 141-9. **Bowling:** Khaleel Ahmed 4-0-29-3, Sam Curran 1-0-13-0, Nathan Ellis 4-0-38-1, Ravichandran Ashwin 4-0-31-1, Ravindra Jadeja 3-0-21-0, Noor Ahmad 4-0-18-4.
Chennai Super Kings: Rachin Ravindra not out 65, Rahul Tripathi c Rickelton b Chahar 2, *Ruturaj Gaikwad c Jacks b Puthur 53, Shivam Dube c Varma b Puthur 9, Deepak Hooda c Raju b Puthur 3, Sam Curran b Jacks 4, Ravindra Jadeja run out (Rickelton) 17, MS Dhoni not out 0. **Extras:** 5. **Total:** 158-6. **Fall of wickets:** 11-1, 78-2, 95-3, 107-4, 116-5, 152-6. **Bowling:** Trent Boult 3-0-27-0, Deepak Chahar 2-0-18-1, Satyanarayana Raju 1-0-13-0, Mitchell Santner 2-1-0-24-0, Will Jacks 4-0-32-1, Vignesh Puthur 4-0-32-3, Naman Dhir 3-0-12-0.

Man-of-the-match: Noor Ahmad

TODAY'S IPL FIXTURE

Delhi Capitals vs Lucknow Super Giants, at the ACA International Cricket Stadium, Visakhapatnam, 7.30 pm

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