



SACHIN TENDULKAR MAN WHO BECAME GOD



Secret of success. A jubilant Little Master after India's 2011 World Cup final

It did not take much for the cricket pundits to spot a genius in Sachin Tendulkar after he made his international debut in a Test match in Karachi Nov 15, 1989. He was 16 then. More than two decades later, he has gone on to become one of the greatest batsmen the world will ever see.

Twenty-three years, one month, and eight days from his debut, the five-foot-five-inch cricketing genius has called time on a glittering one-day career. With 18,426 runs from 463 matches at an average of 44.83, Tendulkar has most batting records under his belt in the 50-over format as also in Tests.

He holds the record for the maximum number of appearances and is the highest run-getter and century-maker in both versions. He has turned out in six World Cups at a stretch, playing a key role in winning the title in 2011 and finishing runners-up in 2003.

The 'Little Master', as he is often called, is the only man to hit 100 centuries - 51 in Tests and 49 in ODIs - and also the first man to score a double-century in the 50-over format.

However, it was not all smooth sailing for the champion batsman in his initial ODIs. It took him all of five years and 78 matches to score his maiden hundred.

But experts never lost faith in him. Another Indian cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar commented that once he gets his first one, there will be no stopping him. Finally the big day came Sep 9, 1994, when Tendulkar struck a blazing 110 against Australia in Colombo.

The jinx broken, Tendulkar celebrated with two more three-figure knocks in the next two months. From then on, there was no looking back.

The memories of Tendulkar tearing into one of the greatest spinners of all-time, Shane Warne, at Sharjah, will forever be etched in the minds of cricket fans. In that tournament, he hit two back-to-back centuries (143; 134) against Australia -- the first helped India qualify for the final based on a better Net Run Rate and the second, in the finals -- which was played on Tendulkar's 25th birthday, helped India beat Australia to win the title.

After the tournament, Warne claimed that he had "nightmares" at the thought of bowling to Tendulkar after being dominated by him.

An abiding image of Tendulkar would be the hundred he scored in the 1999 World Cup match at Bristol. Ramesh Tendulkar, a novelist and professor, who had deeply inculcated in his son the virtues of modesty and humility, died when India were in the midst of the Cup campaign.

Tendulkar flew home to attend his father's last rites, and returned to the tournament, beating the Kenyan bowlers to pulp scoring 140 off 101 balls, and dedicated his innings to his father. On completing the hundred, Tendulkar looked at the sky, praying for his father, and has done likewise after reaching every milestone of his glittering career since then.

With the left-handed Sourav Ganguly, Tendulkar formed the



overs record 136 23 matches, openers, runs, partnership

But the Mumbai legend considered batsman of all Don once asked his wife to take a look at the Indian as he felt Tendulkar played like him.

It was Tendulkar's technique, compactness, and shot production that endeared him most to the Aussie, according to Roland Perry, who authored the book 'Don's Best'.

But in a revelation that even the 'god of cricket' has his human frailties, it took Tendulkar 370 days to get over an agonising century-less period after the 99th international hundred he got March 12, 2011 facing South Africa in Nagpur during the World Cup.

In recognition for the laurels he brought to the country, Tendulkar was nominated to the Rajya Sabha as an eminent personality by then president Pratibha Patil in April this year - the first sports personality to get the honour.

Mentored in his early cricketing days by his elder brother Ajit, Sachin later honed his skills under celebrated coach Ramakant Achrekar.

Tendulkar's talent stood out since his school days, and partnered by his friend Vinod Kambli the duo made the cricketing circles sit up and take notice after an unbroken 664-run stand in a Lord Harris Shield international school game in 1988.

The rest as they say is history. IANS

greatest opening partnership in limited cricket, and the pair holds the world for the most number of runs - 6609 in matches that includes 21 century and half-century stands. In 40 other batting together but not as the duo partnered another 1668 taking their total aggregate to 8277.

But the greatest adulation for the came from the Don Bradman - the greatest times. Sir

WE LEARNT a LOT from TENDULKAR - Dhoni

INDIA cricket captain M.S. Dhoni hailed Sachin Tendulkar's "immense" contribution to cricket here on Monday, stating that the Indian team would miss his experience and guidance in One-Day Internationals after the latter's retirement.

"As you all know, Paaji has announced his retirement from ODIs," Dhoni began, in his address to the media at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. "We're disappointed we won't see his 50th century in coloured clothing or his 100th half century — he was four short. He's been an inspiration in encouraging thousands and millions of people to take up the sport."

The Indian captain acknowledged Tendulkar's role as an elder in the team. "As youngsters, when we came into the side, it was important to see how he prepared himself for a game," he said.

"For him for each and every game was big. At the same time, he showed us how to be humble in life and how to digest success — one of the most difficult things to do."

His own batting in ODIs had benefited from playing alongside Tendulkar, Dhoni felt.

"I personally learnt a lot from him — how to calculate [how to play] an innings, which bowlers we could attack and what the target in the next four or five overs should be, all those things.

His contribution is immense. His batting, his experience, the suggestions he can come up with — we'll miss all that." THE HINDU



Meet Sachin Tendulkar, A PRANKSTER!

- Sachin Tendulkar went to watch the movie Roja in 1995 with a beard and disguise. It all went wrong when his glasses fell off and the crowd in the cinema hall recognised him.
- Sachin Tendulkar was the first batsman to be given out by the third-umpire. In 1992, on the second day of the Durban Test, a Jonty Rhodes throw caught Tendulkar short of the crease. After watching TV replays he was adjudged out.
- When young Sachin fell from a tree on a Sunday evening during his summer vacation, while Guide was shown on national TV, his infuriated brother (and mentor) Ajit sent him to cricket coaching class as punishment.
- The first advertisement in which Sachin featured was for a sticking plaster.
- Dedicated Sachin Tendulkar used to sleep with his cricket gear during his junior days.
- Sachin Tendulkar loves collecting perfumes and watches.
- His first car was a Maruti-800
- The naughty Sachin Tendulkar used to go fishing for tadpoles and guppy fishes in the stream that ran through the compound of Sahitya Sahwas at Bandra East
- Sachin Tendulkar once told a Marathi news channel in an interview that his weakness is 'vada-pao', a traditional Maharashtrian snack.
- Sachin used his favourite vampire bat during the innings in which he scored the historical 50th Test ton
- Sachin Tendulkar was a huge fan of John McEnroe. He grew his hair and tied a band around it to copy his idol. Sachin was also fondly called McEnroe by his friends.
- Sachin Tendulkar himself a role model to many, admires Pete Sampras, Boris Becker and Diego Maradona.
- Sachin loves Kishore Kumar and rock group Dire Straits.
- Sachin calls Ganguly 'Babu Mashai' while Sourav calls him 'Chhota Babu'.
- Sachin once made his mother look for a frog bhaji recipe!
- The nanny who looked after Sachin has been universally

called Sachuchi bai.

- Sachin is so possessive about his Ferrari that wife is not allowed to drive it. Anjali
- Sachin loved to play tennis ball cricket and darts during rainbreaks.
- A prankster that he is, Sachin once put a hose pipe into Sourav Ganguly's room and turned the tap on. Ganguly awoke to find his gear floating!
- Sachin Tendulkar fielded for Pakistan as a substitute during a one-day practice match against India at the Brabourne Stadium in 1988.
- Sachin Tendulkar was without a bat contract until the start of the 1996 Cricket World Cup. At the end of the tournament a famous tyre manufacturer sponsored his willow.
- Sachin has the most number of stadium appearances - 90 different venues
- Sachin Tendulkar batted in his debut Test against Pakistan wearing the pads gifted to him by Sunil Gavaskar.
- Tendulkar wanted to become a fast bowler, but was rejected by Dennis Lillee's MRF Pace Foundation in 1987. Lillee advised the young Tendulkar to focus on his batting, while the other youngster turned away by Lillee along with Tendulkar was none other than Sourav Ganguly.

ThatsCricket



Sachin Tendulkar of India celebrates his 200, the first ever double hundred in a one day international, during the 2nd ODI between India and South Africa at Captain Ropoo Singh Stadium on February 24, 2010 in Gwalior, India.