

Ep. 41: Money in Cricket from The Seen and the Unseen

Abstract:

The podcast discusses the impact of commercialization on cricket, as well as the evolution and innovation in the sport. The commercialization of cricket, particularly sparked by Kerry Packer's involvement in 1977, led to significant changes in the game. Packer's introduction of World Series cricket revolutionized the sport, turning players into celebrities and giving rise to one-day cricket. The document explores the commercialization of cricket and its impact on the spirit of the game, as well as the financial opportunities it provided to players. Additionally, it delves into the innovative changes that World Series cricket brought, such as players wearing helmets and playing under lights. The document also discusses the challenges faced by traditional formats like Test matches, as shorter forms of cricket gain popularity. It raises questions about the future of Test cricket, its declining popularity, and the lack of financial viability. Furthermore, it explores how T20 cricket has standardized players' skills and resulted in less investment in match outcomes. The document also touches on the lack of adaptability in modern players and the administration's lack of long-term planning. Overall, this podcast highlights the transformation of cricket due to commercialization and the challenges it poses to traditional formats.

Key Insights

Impact of Commercialization on Cricket

- □ The introduction of Kerry Packer's World Series cricket marked a significant turning point in the sport, changing it forever.
- □ Gideon Frane's book "The Cricket War" explores the commercialization of the game and its impact on the spirit of cricket, making it relevant even today.
- □ The audacious recruitment of the best producers by a private entrepreneur for a television spectacular during the centenary test showcased the potential impact of private capital in cricket.
- □ The emergence of Packer in cricket was a result of a unique combination of circumstances, raising questions about whether the evolution of the sport would have happened without him.
- □ The recent pay dispute in Australia showed that when players act collectively, they have the power to stand strong and not be divided.
- □ The new form of cricket provided players with greater financial opportunities, which they deserved, and added excitement to the game.
- □ The introduction of money in cricket turned players into entities in a free market of entertainment, allowing them to potentially sell themselves to the highest bidder.
- □ Kerry Packer's impact on cricket was not just about introducing new forms of the game, but also about taking full commercial advantage of innovations like night cricket and reshaping the sport according to the priorities of his own television station.
- □ The constant bending of the game by commercial agendas and political ambitions raises concerns about the preservation of the true spirit of cricket.

Evolution and Innovation in Cricket

- □ World Series Cricket brought innovative changes to the game, such as players wearing helmets, playing under lights, and wearing colored

players wearing helmets, playing under lights, and wearing colored clothes, setting the stage for future advancements in cricket.

- □ The richness and complexity of Test cricket, with factors like pitch conditions and fighting against a good attack, cannot be captured in shorter formats like T20 cricket.
- □ The absence of fear and investment in the result allows players to perform without drama and repetition, focusing on doing the unexpected and enriching the game.
- □ The game of cricket is uniquely satisfying, skillful, fun, and full of comradeship, blending people from different backgrounds and teaching respect for opponents and officials.

Long Summary

The commercialization of cricket has led to significant changes in the game, including the rise of players as celebrities, the dominance of shorter forms of cricket, and the challenges faced by traditional formats like Test matches.

[00:00](#) □ The commercialization of cricket, sparked by Kerry Packer's involvement in 1977, led to the emergence of players as celebrities and the growth of one-day cricket.

- ○ On December 2, 1977, a cricket match took place at a large stadium with only 500 spectators, but it was significant as it was supervised by Garfield Sobers and involved the captains Ian Chappell and Clive Floyd, marking a turning point in cricket history, and this topic will be explored through the lens of World Series cricket and the IPL with guests Gideon Hay and Primp Annika, both renowned cricket writers.
- Gideon Frane's book "The Cricket War" from the early nineties is still relevant today as it explores the commercialization of cricket and its impact on the spirit of the game.
- Cricket experienced the arrival of private capital, which led to the commercialization of the game, the emergence of players as celebrities, and the growth of one-day cricket.
- Packer's involvement in cricket in 1977 was a unique and necessary catalyst for the evolution of the sport.
- Cricket players in Australia felt underpaid and exploited by their administrators, leading to the creation of World Series cricket, which was supported by figures like Kerry Packer and involved players from various pursuits.
- A man named Packer revolutionized the magazine market in Australia and saw the potential of sport to create content, leading him to become a powerful figure in Australian cricket and influencing players to follow him.

[09:45](#) □ Players in cricket have realized their power and unity, as seen in contract disputes, and the introduction of World Series Cricket brought innovative changes and financial opportunities, impacting the game and its cultural significance.

- ○ Players in cricket have realized their power and ability to defy administrators, as seen in instances where they collectively stood together during contract disputes, proving that they cannot be broken or divided.
- Players in Australia have learned the importance of sticking together and supporting each other, even in the face of individual financial opportunities, as they have realized the value of collective unity.
- The speaker discusses their initial shock and fascination with the introduction of a new form of cricket that offered greater financial opportunities for players.

○ World Series Cricket brought innovative changes to the game, such

- World Series Cricket brought innovative changes to the game, such as players wearing helmets, playing under lights, and enhanced television coverage, with cameras providing close-up action and multiple angles, making it a more immersive experience for the audience.
- Changes in cricket can impact the game itself, the stakeholders involved, and its place in culture, with the most interesting aspect being the cultural significance of cricket.

[14:56](#) □ Cricket's commercial success has led to players selling themselves to the highest bidder, the rise of Packer revolutionizing the sport, and a lack of accidental innovation, with Indian cricket often driven by connections and money.

- - Cricket became a tradable commodity, allowing players to sell themselves for the highest bidder, which led to the rebellion of the 1980s and players taking advantage of opportunities to enrich themselves.
 - Packer revolutionized cricket by popularizing one-day cricket and night cricket, and gained significant power and influence over the sport through his organization's role as the official marketing arm of the Australian cricket board.
 - The commercial success of cricket, particularly with the introduction of the IPL, has brought about a new paradigm in the sport, where every decision is carefully calculated and there has been a lack of accidental innovation or external influence.
 - Indian cricket has always been dragged into new eras by someone forcing the issue, such as the ICL, and the commercial success of Indian cricket is often due to connections and money.
 - The changes and disruptions in cricket, including the rise of Packer, were inevitable due to a logical sequence of circumstances, and it is amusing that today there is a fetishization of disruption in the sport.
 - Cricket has a rich cultural history and is not influenced by medical computers or different Omegas.

[23:14](#) □ The future of traditional cricket formats like five-day matches is uncertain as shorter forms of cricket are gaining popularity, but the value and preservation of Test cricket are challenged by declining popularity and financial viability.

- - Cricket monopolies like the BCCI may face competition from other forms of entertainment, but as the world changes and people have more options for entertainment, the future of traditional cricket formats like five-day matches is uncertain.
 - The shorter forms of cricket are losing the epic and enduring nature of the game, as seen in longer test matches, which leave a lasting impression compared to the explosive moments of shorter formats.
 - In an ideal world, there should be a balance between the short form and long form of cricket, but ultimately economics plays a role in determining the value of Test cricket.
 - Test cricket is valuable for its richness and complexity, but its declining popularity and financial viability pose a challenge for its preservation and promotion.
 - The narrative in cricket is largely created by the marketing, media, and administrative wing, resulting in a single narrative that carries the burden of the sport, while other teams are left with a more basic narrative.
 - The narrative of cricket involves eleven players from two countries, with the India-Australia series being a prime example of brilliant marketing and memorable performances.

[32:37](#) □ The rise of T20 cricket has made players more standardized and less memorable, but it has also expanded their skills and variety, allowing them to disrupt opponents and play different formats simultaneously, leading to a breakdown of traditional structures and less investment in match

outcomes.

- - The familiarity and prevalence of T20 cricket has diminished the aura and uniqueness of players like Steve Smith, as the skills and styles of players are becoming more standardized and less memorable.
 - T20 cricket has introduced new skill sets to players, expanding the range of skills in cricket beyond the ability to consistently reproduce certain core skills to a high standard.
 - Players in cricket now have more skills and variety, allowing them to disrupt opponents' rhythm and play different formats of the game simultaneously.
 - The World Cup in 2015 showcased a new model of ODI cricket that combined test match quality bowling with t20 batting skills, making it a compelling tournament to watch, and the breakdown of traditional structures in cricket has led to players not being as invested in the outcomes of matches.
 - Playing without fear of the result and focusing on doing the unexpected is the key to success in cricket.

[37:51](#) □ Test matches in cricket have become less competitive with larger margins of victory, raising questions about the impact of coaching and the lack of adaptability in modern players.

- - McGraw's predictable bowling style and his refusal to adapt to unorthodox challenges make him an ideal opponent for fully or maybe Villiers, who exemplifies the approach of process over results in cricket.
 - McGrath's psychological strength and ability to come back after a challenging delivery has raised the overall quality of play in contemporary cricket, making momentum more important, while test teams now easily disintegrate when one team gains an advantage due to their lack of versatility.
 - Test matches in cricket have been becoming less competitive over the past decade, with larger margins of victory, and the question arises of whether having a batting coach would have made a difference for a modern batsman like Keith.
 - Towards the end of his career, the speaker received valuable coaching advice to not make changes to his technique and instead have faith in himself, which he believes is a quality that modern players often lack.

[42:00](#) □ Players prioritize aggression and positive mindset in cricket, while the game brings people together and is influenced by external factors, but lacks organization and long-term planning in administration.

- - Players in modern-day cricket prioritize aggression and taking control of the game, as seen in the example of a batsman like Glean Donald who would rather attack than focus on survival.
 - Positive mindset and thinking positively can make you a better player in cricket, even if you don't always play aggressive shots.
 - Playing cricket for a club for 24 years has made the speaker hopeful and fulfilled, as they love the game, their teammates, the challenges, and the unique perspective it offers.
 - Cricket is a great game that brings people together, teaches respect, and constantly humbles players.
 - The game of cricket is often influenced by external factors such as commercial agendas and political ambitions, but the true love for the game lies within the players and the audience who are captivated by the contests, even if nothing significant is happening.
 - Cricket administration lacks organization and long-term planning, with decisions often driven by short-term financial gain rather than the overall growth and development of the sport.

[48:17](#) □ The speaker expresses hope in the administration of cricket, stating that fans will fight against attempts to take the game backwards.

- - The speaker expresses hope in the administration of the game of cricket, stating that fans will fight against attempts to take the game backwards.

cricket, stating that even if they try to take it backwards, the fans will fight and persevere.

- o Buy Gideon's book "The Cricket War" on Amazon.

Q&A

What impact has the introduction of T20 cricket had on player uniqueness and memorability?

The introduction of T20 cricket has had a significant impact on player uniqueness and memorability. With the rise of T20 cricket, players' skills and styles have become more standardized and less memorable. The familiarity and prevalence of T20 cricket have diminished the aura and uniqueness of players, including renowned players like Steve Smith, whose skills are becoming less remarkable.

However, it's noteworthy that T20 cricket has also expanded players' skills and variety, allowing them to disrupt opponents and play different formats simultaneously. This expansion of players' skill sets has brought new dimensions to cricket beyond traditional skills and has enhanced their versatility. As a result, players now possess a wider range of abilities, enabling them to adapt to various formats of the game.

Nevertheless, the standardized nature of T20 cricket has led to a breakdown of traditional structures and less investment in match outcomes. The focus in T20 cricket often revolves around playing without fear of the result and doing the unexpected, rather than strategic investment in match outcomes. This shift in focus may contribute to a decrease in the individual memorability of players, as the outcomes of matches become less crucial than the exhilaration of unexpected moments.

In summary, the introduction of T20 cricket has resulted in a decrease in the uniqueness and memorability of players due to the standardization of their skills and styles. However, T20 cricket has also expanded players' skill sets, providing them with added versatility and the ability to excel in different formats of the game.

Here are the original questions along with the text with citations removed:

What impact has the introduction of T20 cricket had on player uniqueness and memorability?

The introduction of T20 cricket has had a significant impact on player uniqueness and memorability. With the rise of T20 cricket, players' skills and styles have become more standardized and less memorable. The familiarity and prevalence of T20 cricket have diminished the aura and uniqueness of players, including renowned players like Steve Smith, whose skills are becoming less remarkable.

However, it's noteworthy that T20 cricket has also expanded players' skills and variety, allowing them to disrupt opponents and play different formats simultaneously. This expansion of players' skill sets has brought new dimensions to cricket beyond traditional skills and has enhanced their versatility. As a result, players now possess a wider range of abilities, enabling them to adapt to various formats of the game.

Nevertheless, the standardized nature of T20 cricket has led to a breakdown of traditional structures and less investment in match outcomes. The focus in T20 cricket often revolves around playing without fear of the result and doing the unexpected, rather than strategic investment in match outcomes. This shift in focus may contribute to a decrease in the individual memorability of players, as the outcomes of matches become less crucial than the exhilaration of unexpected moments.

In summary, the introduction of T20 cricket has resulted in a decrease in the uniqueness and memorability of players due to the standardization of their skills and styles. However, T20 cricket has also expanded players' skill sets, providing them with added versatility and the ability to excel in different formats of the game.

How has money and commercial success influenced the decisions made in cricket, particularly with the IPL?

Money and commercial success have had a significant influence on the decisions made in cricket, particularly with the Indian Premier League (IPL). The commercialization of cricket, spurred by Kerry Packer's involvement in 1977, transformed the sport, turning players into entities in a free market of entertainment. The emergence of private capital in cricket led to the rise of players as celebrities and the growth of one-day cricket.

Kerry Packer's impact on cricket went beyond introducing new forms of the game; he also took full commercial advantage of innovations like night cricket, reshaping the sport according to the priorities of his own television station. This trend continued with the IPL, which revolutionized cricket in India. The IPL's commercial success had a profound impact on the decisions made in cricket, shaping the game according to financial considerations and influencing player selection based on connections and money.

The IPL brought about a new paradigm in which every decision is carefully calculated, leading to a lack of accidental innovation or external influence in the sport. The commercial success of the IPL and shorter forms of cricket have raised concerns about the future of traditional formats like five-day Test matches. Test cricket's declining popularity and financial viability have been challenged as shorter formats gain more popularity.

Overall, the influx of money and commercial success has greatly influenced the decisions made in cricket, especially with the IPL, leading to a more calculated approach to player selection and a shift towards shorter formats of the game.

What role has accidental innovation and external influence played in the development of Indian cricket?

Accidental innovation and external influence have played a significant role in the development of Indian cricket. One document mentioned the lack of accidental innovation in the sport, particularly in the context of Indian cricket, which is often driven by connections and money. However, it is worth noting that in the past, Indian cricket has been dragged into new eras by someone forcing the issue, such as the Indian Cricket League (ICL). These external influences have brought about changes and disruptions in the sport, challenging traditional formats and introducing new skill sets to players.

Furthermore, the commercialization of cricket, particularly with the introduction of the Indian Premier League (IPL), has had a significant impact on Indian cricket. The IPL has revolutionized the sport in India and brought about a new paradigm, where every decision is carefully calculated, and there has been a lack of accidental innovation or external influence. The commercial success of Indian cricket is often attributed to connections and money. However, it is important to note that external influences and innovative changes in the game, such as the introduction of T20 cricket, have expanded the range of skills players possess and allowed them to disrupt opponents' rhythm. These external influences have shaped the development of Indian cricket, both in terms of the game itself and the financial opportunities it provides for players.

In conclusion, accidental innovation and external influence have both played a role in the development of Indian cricket. While some documents highlight the lack of accidental innovation and the influence of money and connections, others emphasize the disruptive nature of external influences and the expansion of players' skills. The IPL, in particular, has revolutionized Indian cricket and brought about significant changes in the sport.

Here are the original questions along with the texts with citations removed:

What role has accidental innovation and external influence played in the development of Indian cricket?

Accidental innovation and external influence have played a significant role in the development of Indian cricket. One document mentioned the lack of accidental innovation in the sport, particularly in the context of Indian cricket, which is often driven by connections and money. However, it is worth noting that in the past, Indian cricket has been dragged into new eras by someone forcing the issue, such as the Indian Cricket League (ICL). These external influences have brought about changes and disruptions in the sport, challenging traditional formats and introducing new skill sets to players.

Furthermore, the commercialization of cricket, particularly with the introduction of the Indian Premier League (IPL), has had a significant impact on Indian cricket. The IPL has revolutionized the sport in India and brought about a new paradigm, where every decision is carefully calculated, and there has been a lack of accidental innovation or external influence. The commercial success of Indian cricket is often attributed to connections and money. However, it is important to note that external influences and innovative changes in the game, such as the introduction of T20 cricket, have expanded the range of skills players possess and allowed them to disrupt opponents' rhythm. These external influences have shaped the development of Indian cricket, both in terms of the game itself and the financial opportunities it provides for players.

In conclusion, accidental innovation and external influence have both played a role in the development of Indian cricket. While some documents highlight the lack of accidental innovation and the influence of money and connections, others emphasize the disruptive nature of external influences and the expansion of players' skills. The IPL, in particular, has revolutionized Indian cricket and brought about significant changes in the sport.

How does positive thinking and mindset contribute to players' performance in cricket?

Positive thinking and mindset play a significant role in contributing to players' performance in cricket. It is believed that maintaining a positive outlook can make a player better, even if they don't always play aggressive shots.

Having a positive mindset helps players in several ways. Firstly, it allows players to approach the game with confidence and self-belief, which can have a substantial impact on their performance. Positive thinking helps players overcome challenges and setbacks, enabling them to stay focused and motivated.

Moreover, a positive mindset enables players to maintain composure and make better decisions under pressure. By staying positive, players can effectively handle high-pressure situations and avoid getting overwhelmed.

Additionally, positive thinking helps players unleash their true potential and perform at their best. It allows players to stay resilient and bounce back from failures, promoting a growth mindset that fosters continuous

improvement and learning.

In summary, positive thinking and mindset contribute significantly to players' performance in cricket. It helps them approach the game with confidence, make better decisions under pressure, and unleash their true potential. By maintaining a positive outlook, players can overcome challenges, stay motivated, and continuously strive for improvement.

In what ways has T20 cricket disrupted traditional structures and affected investment in match outcomes?

T20 cricket has disrupted traditional structures in multiple ways and has had an impact on investment in match outcomes. Firstly, T20 cricket has standardized players' skills and made them less memorable. The familiarity and prevalence of T20 cricket have diminished the uniqueness and aura of players, as their skills and styles have become more standardized and less memorable. This standardization of skills has led to a breakdown of traditional structures in cricket.

Furthermore, T20 cricket has expanded the skills and variety of players, allowing them to disrupt opponents' rhythm and play different formats of the game simultaneously. This has resulted in less investment in match outcomes, as players are no longer as invested in the results of matches. The focus has shifted from long-term strategies and building innings to playing without fear of the result and doing the unexpected.

As a consequence, Test matches in cricket have become less competitive, with larger margins of victory. The lack of adaptability in modern players, as well as the focus on process over results, has contributed to this decline in competitiveness. This disrupts the traditional structure of Test cricket, which is known for its richness and complexity, requiring factors like pitch conditions and fighting against a good attack.

Overall, T20 cricket has disrupted traditional structures by standardizing players' skills and reducing investment in match outcomes. This has led to less competitiveness in Test matches and a shift in focus towards playing without fear of the result.

Note

- This content is generated by AI, we believe it is accurate, but we don't claim any liability of inaccuracies in the AI generated content.

Listen to the Entire Episode

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSs8HhIb508>

Newer

Older

14th August 2023

Ep 341: The Steady Determinati...

11th August 2023

NJJPodcast with Ananya E...

Manoj Nayak © 2022-2025

Archive RSS feed Twitter Email QR Code

Made with [Montaigne](#) and by [anton](#) 