

Kapil Dev

A. Lead – in:

Cricket has become an immensely popular game in India. Everyone seems to love it. Why do we all admire the cricketer Kapil Dev? You will probably say because India won the previous Prudential World Cup in 1983 under his captaincy. He has become a household name not only in our country but also wherever cricket is played. Kapil Dev is known as one of the best all-rounders in the world. What are his other admirable qualities as a human being ?

Here is an essay on Kapil Dev. Go through it and learn more about him.

B. The Text:

In 1978 Raj Singh Dungarpur called me over to discuss the team to go to East Africa. While discussing that team, I remembered an over bowled to me earlier in the season in the Wills Trophy. A young lad called Kapil Dev had shown not only enormous potential but also a willingness to learn. I remember telling him in that match that he should come closer to the stumps because his outswinger then would be more effective. “Mind you, all that happened when we were playing against each other in the same match.”

A couple of players from his team rushed to him thinking that I was using a bit of gamesmanship to try and make him bowl the wrong line. But that was farthest from my mind because, after a long time, there was a bowler in Indian cricket who was promising and fast in the competition and it is always good fun to play against good bowlers rather than try your ability against lesser fast bowlers. Kapil was a quick learner and, in the next over, one could see him making an effort to come closer to the stumps and bowl and, as soon as he got that right, it was apparent that he was going to be a force in cricket.

He bowled extremely well in that match and with his bowling set us back a great deal and helped his side to win. His side was strong any way and could have won in normal circumstances, but his was a particularly **memorable** spell and gave him a lot of prominence and brought him into national focus. This match was at the back of my mind when we sat to pick the team to go to East Africa. This was going to be a friendly tour and the team comprised experienced Test players and those who were highly promising. We had included Pataudi, Vishwanath, Yajurvinder Singh and Eknath Solkar among Test stalwarts and among the youngsters were Kapil Dev and Suru Nayak. The two were picked to get some experience of foreign conditions which would help them considerably. Playing abroad against an opposition which is different, under different conditions with different bowlers and different players comes in handy at all times and goes a long way towards making one a better cricketer.

Kapil did well on this trip. He was not only the bowler who got us vital breakthroughs, but also a magnificent batsman who hit many a towering six, and won the hearts of East Africa cricket lovers. One noticed on this trip how Kapil improved match by match and towards the end of the tour in three day game against the strongest East African side, he was **wellnigh** unplayable. After the team returned to India Kapil was selected to play for the Rest of India in the Irani Trophy match at Bangalore. It was a trial game before the team's tour to Pakistan was selected. Kapil scored a **hurricane** 61 and bowled most impressively and thus found a berth for himself in the side to go to Pakistan, although even at that stage, it was doubtful if he would really find a place for himself in the Test team. It was thought that the tour would give him a lot of experience and so when the West Indies team came to India later that season, Kapil could be very useful.

However, his performance in Pakistan in the beginning was such that he could not be ignored and he was picked for the first Test at Faisalabad. It was a good trip which afforded a fair amount of bounce to the new ball bowlers and in the first few overs Kapil forced Sadiq to discard his green Pakistan cap for a helmet. As it turned out, it was a wise move and, in the next over, a bouncer from Kapil hit Sadiq flush on the helmet and went away for four byes. With that one delivery Kapil had proved that he

could not be taken lightly in Test Cricket and India, after a long long time, had a bowler who could use the new ball to bowl with fire.

Thereafter, there was no stopping Kapil. He scored 59 as a night-watchman and thus earned the tag of an all-rounder. He confirmed this later in the season when he scored a century against the West Indians. The only time the tag of an all-rounder did not fit him was on the 1979 tour of England when this dynamic cricketer failed with the bat. He bowled with his **customary** fire and efficiency in the Test matches and also in other matches but somehow failed to get the runs. He used to get out in his eagerness to hit the ball in the air, rather than take his time and play his shots. This, of course, was solely due to inexperience, which was amply proved on the 1982 tour of England when he scored 300 runs in three Test matches.

After that 1978 tour, it has been a case of rising career graph. He is now **reckoned** to be one of the top all-rounders in the world, if not the topmost. People talk about Imran Khan, Ian Botham, Kapil Dev and Richard Hadlee as the leading all-rounders in the world. It is indeed difficult to pick the best among them all. But one thing is sure any captain would love to have all four of them on his team and win a match, because all of them are attacking cricketers, all of them have put in sterling **performance**; all of them performed under pressure and proved that they have the **flamboyance** and ability to take on any opponent at any given time. Picking the best players out of them is basically a subject of extensive exercise and there would always be people who would agree with you and also disagree with you on the merits and demerits of each.

In Kapil's case he has the disadvantage of not having a strike bowler along with him which means that the entire pressure of taking wickets is entirely on him. The opponents also know that since he is the only player capable of running through the side, they are extra careful while playing him and thus he does not always capture the kind of wickets that is expected of him. Also during Kapil's time, the Indian batting has not been consistent, with the result that he has hardly time to take off his bowling boots and put on his batting shoes before he is called to go in for the rescue act. This had undoubtedly put a lot of pressure on Kapil and it has, at times, made him play some loose shots which have brought about his early dismissal.

But with greater experience and added responsibility after becoming the captain, such shots have become rare and will definitely contribute to a consistent performance in future. And I am convinced that if Kapil had more experience, the 1979 Oval Test which we drew and did not win, falling short by nine runs, could easily have been won. Kapil went there, promoted in batting order, and the first delivery itself he tried to **whack out** of the ground and ended up being caught at long on.

Today, the same Kapil would have snatched a few runs in singles and twos and got his legs moving, then had a good look at the bowling, and played his shots. He could have certainly taken India to that **incredible** victory. There is no place for ifs and buts in cricket and one only lives in a dream world if one tries to think what would have happened if it was this way or that way.

Kapil's greatest triumph, however, has been leading India to win the Prudential World Cup in June 1983. Nobody could have dreamt that India, so often the underdog in one day cricket, could have ended up as winners. But Kapil led by example in the game against Zimbabwe when five Indian wickets had gone for 17 runs to a mixture of good bowling and poor strokes. Kapil went out and played an innings that is truly unforgettable. His first 70 to 80 runs were really calculated in the sense that he pushed and **nudged** the ball and only hit those which he was convinced should be hit. After that, he had enough confidence and when he saw that he had partners who would stay with him, he launched a counter-attack the like of which one had never seen before. It was absolutely unbelievable stuff. He was hitting the bowlers as if at will and we were **applauding** each and every shot. Our hands became weary but each shot was absolutely thrilling. When he was around 160, we all had our hearts in our mouths. We knew that the record score of 171 was so near and perhaps Kapil was not aware of it, and in his anxiety to get as many runs as possible, he would perhaps play an ambitious shot and get out.

It was obvious at this stage that he was a tired man and might hit a tired looking shot and get out. But fortunately, he didn't do that and went on to make 175 not out, which is a record in the Prudential World Cup. Then he came on to bowl four overs of tight medium pace bowling and did not give Zimbabwe players any respite at all.

That was the turning point of the tournament and thereafter, the Indian team really went from strength to strength and took in their side Australia, England and the West Indies. With this win, Kapil has become a household name not only in India, but all over the world where cricket is played. His grinning face holding the Prudential Trophy with sheer joy stamped on it has become as memorable as the win itself.

His brothers have started a hotel and named it after Kapil. 'Hotel Kapil' is a **tribute** to him from his brothers for all the glory he has brought to India and to the family name. His success has given encouragement and **impetus** to thousands of youngsters all over the country and not only in metropolitan cities. This will act as a **spur** to many youngsters to give their best in international cricket.

Kapil's advent in international cricket is the best thing that could have happened to Indian cricket because we had spinners who earned a name for themselves and the country but there never was a fast bowler to lift the country's prestige so high in the past. With Kapil's example before them, boys in the street are walking to their marks purposefully, coming in from a distance and hurling the ball quickly at the opposing batsman. Today's cricket is jet age cricket when speed is more important than subtleties of spin and speed follows the batsman wherever he goes, and with the cricketers like Kapil Dev to inspire the youngsters, more and more of the younger lot will take to fast bowling and it will be for the good of Indian cricket. And even if all of them cannot make the Test grade, at least they will be able to provide adequate practice to our batsmen so that they are not found wanting when facing the fast bowlers of other countries.

Kapil's brand of cricket is also the attacking brand which makes him a crowd puller wherever he goes. It will certainly go a long way towards ensuring that the cricket India plays is the kind of cricket which will bring in the crowds. No longer will Indian cricket and Indian cricketers be called '**dull dogs**' as was the case in the early fifties and people will come to believe that the Indian cricket team can play attractive cricket.

It has been a rapid rise for a lad who batted at No.11 in East Africa to come to the fore as one of the leading all-rounders in the world. Kapil, to this date, remains the same simple fellow that he was in 1978, with, of course, a lot more confidence in dealing with people that he had in 1978. This confidence came as he gained more successes in international cricket. But with this confidence, and with these successes, his attitude towards people has not changed. He is still polite, courteous to the senior cricketers and is prepared to listen to everyone. These characteristics have been difficult to find in recent years and Kapil is richly endowed with these along with his many splendoured cricketing talents that God Almighty has showered on him. He is still 24 and has years and years of Test cricket ahead of him and, I am confident, these years will be the years when the standard of Indian cricket will keep rising and reach heights unheard of before.

C. About the Author:

Sunil Manohar Gavaskar (born 10 July 1949) is a former cricketer who played for India during the 1970s and 1980s. Widely regarded as one of the greatest opening batsmen in the history of cricket, Gavaskar set world records during his career. He held the record of 34 Test centuries for almost two decades before it was broken by Sachin Tendulkar in December 2005. For his contribution to cricket, Gavaskar received Arjuna Award in 1975 and the prestigious civilian award Padma Bhushan in 1980. He has written four books on cricket- **Sunny Days** (autobiography). **Idols, Runs n' Ruins** and **One Day Wonders**.

In the present piece written in 1983, Gavaskar focuses on the early days of Kapil Dev as a cricketer and describes how it was easy to notice how talented he was. He also gives an account of the magnificent performance of Kapil Dev both as a player and a captain in the memorable 1983 Prudential World Cup.

D. Notes and glossary:

memorable :	worth remembering
wellnigh :	nearly
hurricane :	violent storm
customary :	usual
reckoned :	not to be ignored
sterling :	excellent in quality
flamboyance:	confident
whack out :	strike with a hard blow
incredible :	unbelievable
applaud :	to show approval by clapping
nudged :	pushed gently
tribute :	gift
impetus :	inspiration / boost
spur :	give encouragement to
dull dogs :	boring people / incapable of doing something watch worthy.

E. Let's understand the text:

- (a)
- 1) Who were the youngsters selected for the tour ?
 - 2) What was Gavaskar's opinion about playing a match abroad ?
 - 3) Why did Kapil Dev win the hearts of East African cricket lovers?
 - 4) What was the trial game played before the Indian team went to Pakistan ?
 - 5) What was the intention of the selectors to pick Kapil for the Pakistan tour ?
 - 6) In which tour did Kapil score 300 runs in 3 test matches ?

- 7) Who were the leading all-rounders then ?
- 8) Why does any Captain love to have all the four leading allrounders in his team ?
- 9) Kapil does not always capture wickets that is expected of him. Why?
- 10) What was Kapil's greatest triumph as Captain ?
- 11) Kapil is a household name where cricket is played. Why ?
- 12) What did his brothers do for the glory he brought to India and their family as well ?

(b) Choose the correct statement in relation to the text:

- (i) I remembered an over bowled to me earlier in the season in the Wills Trophy.

Here the the word 'I' stands for _____ .

- a) Raj Singh Dungarpur
- b) Kapil Dev
- c) Sunil M. Gavaskar

- (ii) The author opines that it is always good fun to play against _____ .

- a) lesser fast bowlers
- b) good bowlers
- c) spinners

- (iii) Gavaskar and Kapil Dev were two great players of India.

Before the Indian Team went to play in East Africa, Gavaskar and Kapil Dev were playing the Wills Trophy match _____ .

- a) in the same team
- b) against each other
- c) none of the above

(iv) Kapil Dev proved himself as _____.

a) a pace bowler

b) a batsman

c) an all rounder

(v) In the 1979 tour of Pakistan Kapil failed with _____.

a) ball

b) bat

c) both bat and ball

(C) Here is a list of events described in paragraphs 11 and 12. However, the events are not in order in which they actually happened. Rearrange the list correctly / sequentially by writing the serial number (1, 2,3) in the brackets. The first event has been indicated for you.

(i) Kapil's greatest triumph was the Prudential World Cup in 1983. (1)

(ii) Kapil made 175 runs not out, which is a record in Prudential World Cup.

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(iii) Five Indian wickets had gone for 17 runs.

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(iv) When Kapil was around 160, everybody had their hearts in their mouths.

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(v) Kapil was hitting the bowlers as if at will and people were applauding each and every shot.

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(vi) Kapil played an innings that is truly unforgettable

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F. Let's read between the lines:

1) What does 'gamesmanship' mean in the text ?

2) What was the real intention of Gavaskar while he talked to Kapil Dev?

- 3) What made Gavaskar think that Kapil Dev was a quick learner ?
- 4) How do you explain 'Sadiq's discarding of green Pakistan Cap for a helmet was a wise move' ?
- 5) What is the role expectation from a night-watchman in cricket ?
- 6) Which were the two turning points in favour of India in Prudential Cup- 1983?
- 7) How do you explain the expression 'jet age' cricket ?
- 8) Is India still a Dull Dog in cricket ? If yes / no, why ?

G. Let's learn some words / expressions:

Look at the following chart.

Game	Place	Equipment= minimum things you need for the game	Score= the points / goals / runs you have.
Football	Ground	Net, football	Two goals to one
Volleyball	Court	Net, volleyball	Fifteen points to ten
Cricket	Pitch	Ball, bat, stumps	251 runs in 50 overs.
Basketball	Court	Basket, a ball	60 – 44 points
Tennis	Court	Net, racket, tennis ball	Six games to three 6 – 2 is one set in tennis.
Rugby	Pitch / ground	Rugby ball	Ten points to six.
Hockey	Ground	Stick, ball, net	Five goals to three

Now write T for True and F for False. The first one has been done for you. After the exercise, convert the false statement into true ones.

True (T) / False (F)

- i) You score goals in basket ball.
- Ans: You score points in basket ball.
2. You play rugby with a puck.
3. You score runs in cricket.

4. You play football on a court.
5. You score points in hockey.
6. You have a net in tennis and volleyball.
7. You play cricket with a stick.

H. Let's learn language :

Mark the sentence :

- (a) A young lad called Kapil Dev had shown not only enormous potential but also a willingness to learn.

Here is **not only** followed by a Noun Phrase and **but also** by a Noun Phrase as well.

Here **not only**..... **but also** is used with Noun Phrases after them.

Note that this structure is usually 'balanced' so that words of the same kind follow **only** and **also**.

Compare the following sentences :

- Shakespeare was not only a writer but also an actor (not only + Noun Phrase, but also + Noun phrase)
- The story is not only interesting but also instructive. (not only + Adjective Phrase, but also + Adjective Phrase)
- He not only studies hard but also plays well.
(not only + verb, but also +verb)
- She writes not only fast but also legibly.
(not only + Adverb Phrase, but also + Adverb Phrase)

Join the following pairs of sentences using **not only**..... **but also**.

- 1) He can speak English
He can speak French.
- 2) Mr Das is a brilliant writer.
He is an excellent speaker.

- 3) The teacher is sincere.
He is honest.
- 4) My friend is a good sportsman.
He is a good student.
- 5) We study at school.
We play there.
- 6) Meera can stitch dresses.
She can knit sweaters.
- 7) I can drive a car.
I can repair a car.
- 8) She speaks fluently.
She speaks distinctly.

(b) Mark the sentences :

He **used to** get out in his eagerness to hit the ball in the air.

Here **used to** is used for past habitual action.

Look at the following sentences of this type :

- I used to run ten kilometers at a stretch when I was young. (But I do not do now) (Past habitual action)
- I used to have a Robin Hood bicycle in my childhood. (Past habitual state)

Used to can be used to talk about **states** and **situations** as well as actions in the past.

(c) Note that **used to is not used to say how long something took, or how often it happened :**

- My father went to England ten times when he was young.
We cannot say / write : My father used to go to England.....(unacceptable sentence)
- I lived in Kolkata for three years.
(Not I used to live in Kolkata for three years.)

Note that :

(d) **Used to** has no present form in modern English. To express the idea of present habit, we use an adverb, e.g. I usually play football. (Not I use to play football.)

(e) It is not used when we describe habitual actions in the very recent past.

We don't say or write - Last week I used to get up at 5 a.m.

Replace the verbs in italics by **used to** :

(1) At home I **got up** early.

(2) I **studied** at a co-education school.

(3) My father **went** to school at 10 a.m. every day.

(4) My headmaster **had** a Bajaj Scooter. (but he does not have one now)

(5) When he was on holiday, he often **sat** for hours watching television.

I. Let's listen and speak:

When Arjun (Sachin's son) got hurt while playing cricket with Sachin Tendulkar, the conversation they had may have gone like this:

Arjun : Ouch !

Sachin: I'm sorry, my dear son.

Arjun : That's all right. It wasn't really your fault. So cheer up !

When we want to apologise for a mistake we have made, we say 'sorry' / 'I'm sorry' / 'I'm so sorry'.

We usually respond to an apology by saying 'That's all right' / 'It doesn't matter' / 'Never mind' / 'Don't worry' etc.

Now form a pair. Then take turns to respond appropriately to what 'A' says:

Example:

(i) A : Oh, what a shame, I've missed the bus !

B : Don't worry, the next one will come soon.

(ii) A : I've done very badly in the monthly test.

B :

(iii) A : Sorry, I couldn't come to your birthday party last evening.

B :

(iv) A : Ouch ! You stepped on my foot !

B :

(v) A : You're late ! I asked you to come on time.

B :

J. Let's write :

(i) Here is an imaginary cricket score board showing the details of the Indian Innings in an India – Australia one-day match.

Players		Runs	Balls	4s	6s
G. Gambhir	C. Wade b. Lee	5	5	1	0
Tendulkar	C. Doherty b. Hilfenhaus	35	32	4	1
Kohli	C.D. Hussey b. Hilfenhaus	12	25	0	0
Rohit	C. Wade. b. Lee	10	10	0	0
Raina	C. Wade. b. Christian	28	41	1	1
Dhoni	C. Christian b. Helifenhaus	56	84	2	1
Jadeja	C. Forrest b. Stanc	28	35	1	0
Irfan Pathan	C. Wade b. Hilfen Haus	29	27	1	1
Vinay Kumar	b. Lee	16	26	1	0
Zaheer	C. Wade b. Hilfenhaus	9	11	2	0
Umesh Yadab	Not out	02 230	04 300	0	0

Fall of

wickets: 1-8, 2-15,
3-16, 4-36,
5-82, 6-164,
7-172, 8-180,
9-201, 10-228

(a) Now describe how each of the ten Indian players got out and mention the runs including fours and sixes scored and balls they played. The first one has been done for you.

1) Gambhir was caught by Wade of the bowling by Lee. He faced five balls and scored five runs which included one four.

2) Tendulkar

3) Kohli.....

4) Rohit

5) Raina

6) Dhoni

7) Jadeja

8) Irfan Pathan

9) Vinay Kumar

10) Zaheer

11) Yadav.....

(b) Read the chart / score board again.

Answer the following questions.

1) How many runs had been scored when the 3rd wicket fell ?

2) How many fours did India hit ?

3) Who was the highest wicket taker of Australia in this match ?

4) How many runs did Umesh Yadav score ?

5) Who was the top scorer in the Indian team ?

(ii) Writing a Summary:

Read the following passage and write a summary in about 65/70 words.

One Sunday, it was apparent India were consuming a lot of time between overs. When bowler Vinay Kumar felt a cramp while trying to bowl the first ball of the 37th over, he stopped midway, continued to brood for a long time, before the support staff came in with energy drinks. There seemed to be no haste to get on with the game. Such delays and the big hitting by the Aussies in the slog overs meant that India eventually extended the innings by almost 28 minutes.

At its meeting in June, 2011 in Hong Kong, the ICC Executive Board had discussed the issue of slow-over rates and accepted the recommendation of the ICC Committee that a captain of an international side should be suspended for one match if his side is guilty of two minor over-rate offences in the same format over a 12 – month period.

Dhoni pleaded guilty to the charge and the subsequent penalties were accepted both by Dhoni and India. Dhoni also acknowledged that he had been kept informed of the position regarding over-rates on a regular basis throughout the match and therefore accepted the decision.

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