Relationship between psychological skils **Tshwane University** and batting order in cricket

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Background		Cross-sectional research design			
		Quantitative measures:			
Former South African cricketer and 2011 Cricket World Cup		Standardised pen-and-paper questionnaires			
winning coach Gary Kirsten conceded:		Measure	Assessment	References	Cronbach's alpha
		The Athletic Coping Skills	28 items that assess respondents on a 4-point Likert-	Smith et al., (1995)	0.87
	66 It was only in my 101st test match, batting	Inventory - 28 (ACSI-28)	type scale ranging from 0 (almost never) to 3		
	under possibly the most stressful conditions I had		(almost always)		
	encountered, that I was able to understand my	Bull's Mental Skills	28 items that assess respondents on a 6-point Likert-	Bull et al., (1996)	0.76
	emotions while batting, and do something about	Questionnaire	type scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 6		
	them". Moreover, Kirsten affirmed "If only I knew		(strongly agree)		



then what I know now, I may have performed so much better earlier in my career. 77 (Upton, n.d: 8).

http://www.2oceansvibe.com/?s=Gary+Kirsten

Various studies have reported on the psychological antecedents of skilled batting in cricket (Renshaw & Fairweather, 2000; Slogrove, Potgieter & Foxcroft, 2003; Pyke & Davis, 2010). However, hardly any studies have attempted to discern the psychological differences within the batting line-up. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to assess the relationship between psychological skills and batting order among cricket players competing in the one-day format (50 overs) of cricket. Evidence of a significant relationship between psychological skills and batting order in cricket could provide useful insights into the psychological demands placed on batsmen who are prompted to bat at different stages during an innings. Knowledge relating to this could facilitate player optimisation about developing individualised psychological skills training programmes with the intent and for the purpose of fulfilling batting-specific roles. What is more, coaches / captains could more effectively strategise their team's batting line-up to contest demanding match situations imposed by limited-overs cricket.

 Table 1: Empirical design

Results



Figure 3: Performance on ACSI-28 subscales by batting order

Conclusion

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The order of batsmen is only significantly differentiated by the psychological characteristics of motivation and coachability, in which high levels of motivation are associated with skilled batting. The essential conclusion to be drawn is that there is no particular psychological skills profile for classifying batsmen into batting order and that the skill of batting in one-day cricket tends to be largely dependent on a combination of other perceptual motor, physical, and technical qualities. Future research should explore the exposure to and extent of psychological skills training among South African cricket players, and should determine the psychological skills differences in the batting order of homogenous groups to generate a broader understanding of the relationship between psychological skills and batting order in one-day cricket.

Methodology

A non-probability quota sampling process was used to select participants in the Pretoria, Gauteng region of South Africa. The subjects consisted of 127 A-side male cricketers playing one-day cricket across three progressive levels of competition recognised by the Northerns Cricket Union (NCU) of Cricket South Africa (CSA), ranging from amateur to professional level.

Figure 1: Level of Participation



Performance on the subscales of the ACSI-28 was largely the same, regardless of batting order. However, one-way analysis of variance (one-way ANOVA) indicated that lower-order (batting at 10-11) batsmen recorded higher coachability scores (F=2.723; p=0.047) than other batting-order groups (p<0.05) (Figure 3). This means that lower-order batsmen are potentially more open and willing to learn from coaches' instruction than top-order (1-4) and middle-order batsmen (5-7).

Performance on Bull's Mental Skills subscales by Batting Order 80.00% 60.00% Top Order 50.00% Middle Order Lower /Middle 40.00% Lower Order 30.00% 20.00% Mental Preparation Self-Confidence Anxiety and worry Concentration Ability Relaxation Ability

Figure 4: Performance on Bulls' subscales according to batting order

Performance on the subscales of the Bull's Questionnaire was mostly the same, regardless of batting order. However, one-way analysis of variance (one-way ANOVA) indicated that motivation (F=2.500; p=0.06) was the only psychological skill that separated top-order (batting at 1-4) batsmen from lower-order (batting at 10-11) batsmen (p<0.10), which implies that top-order batsmen are more motivated to achieve than lower-order batsmen (Figure 4).



http://www.rediff.com/cricket/report/slide-show-1-clt20-photos-davids-rudolph-help-titans-easepast-sunrisers/20130928.htm

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Figure 2: Distribution of Batting Order



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