

ABSTRACT

A cross sectional model is developed with a view to establishing the factors that determine the valuation of professional athletes in a highly-specialised sport, with an application to cricket's Indian Premier League (IPL). We distinguish between personal characteristic and playing ability factors, and with respect to the former, between ability in different forms of the sport.

We find a number of interpretable variables that have explanatory power over auction values, while decomposition according to batting and bowling specialisations produces very different results depending on the use of data for the shortest format of the sport which is Twenty20 as this is the format played in the IPL. There is also possible evidence of inefficient bidding, inasmuch that overbidding was somewhat correlated with players with higher realised values.