

Balachandra Akhil

Balachandra Akhil is a 30-year-old cricket player from Bangalore, India. A handy medium pace bowler and middle-order batsman, Akhil has been a steady fixture for Karnataka at the first class level. He has also put up some impressive displays in the Twenty20 format of the game, which brought him a place in the squad of the Bangalore Royal Challengers in the first season of the Indian Premier League.

Balachandra Akhil burst on to the scene in the Cooch Behar Trophy for the Karnataka Under-19 team in 1995. He then moved on to the Karnataka senior team in 1998, where he has been a regular fixture. Yes to score a first-class century, Akhil's best highest scores are 80 and 91 in First-Class and List A tournaments respectively, maintaining an average in the twenties in both formats. With over 100 matches under his belt and close to 20 half-centuries, Balachandra Akhil remains a vital part of the middle order in Karnataka's domestic team.

Akhil's useful medium-pace bowling also makes him a strong asset in Karnataka's middle order. The 30-year-old has picked up close to 100 wickets for Karnataka, with once five-wicket haul at the first class level, career-best figures of 5-58. Besides being a useful wicket-taker, Balachandra Akhil is also economical with the ball. Akhil's career economy rate is an impressive 2.60 and 4.38 at the First-Class and Class A levels respectively.

Balachandra Akhil's competence with both bat and ball, economical bowling and some impressive Twenty20 performances for Karnataka, which include a healthy strike rate of 150 and a bowling average of 27.58, drew the attention of the Bangalore Royal Challengers, who drafted the local into their squad at the cost of \$50,000 for the inaugural season of the Indian Premier League, a Twenty20 league started by the Indian cricket board that consists of the world's top players in teams from eight different Indian cities.