

Top 10 Match-Winning Knocks Under Pressure

Cricket is a game where pressure can break even the best players. Chasing impossible targets, saving collapsing innings, or delivering on the biggest stages requires extraordinary mental strength. Over the years, several batters have produced unforgettable knocks when their teams needed them the most. In this blog, we revisit the **top 10 match-winning knocks under pressure** that still define cricketing greatness.



1. Kapil Dev – 175 vs Zimbabwe (1983 World Cup)*

With India reeling at 17 for 5, captain **Kapil Dev** played one of the greatest rescue acts in cricket history. His unbeaten **175** lifted India to a competitive total and kept their World Cup hopes alive.

Why it stands out:

Extreme pressure, minimal support, and a must-win match – Kapil delivered when it mattered most.

2. **MS Dhoni – 91 vs Sri Lanka (2011 World Cup Final)***

Chasing 275 in a World Cup final, India lost early wickets. [MS Dhoni](#) promoted himself up the order and played a calm, authoritative 91 to seal India's second World Cup title*.

Why it stands out:

Leadership, composure, and the iconic winning six on the biggest stage.

3. **Ben Stokes – 135 vs Australia (Headingley 2019)***

England were virtually beaten at 67 for 4 chasing 359. [Ben Stokes](#) produced a miracle innings, shielding the tail and smashing an unbeaten 135 to complete one of the greatest Test chases ever.

Why it stands out:

A once-in-a-generation innings under relentless pressure.

4. **Virat Kohli – 82 vs Pakistan (T20 World Cup 2022)***

In a high-voltage clash, India were struggling at 31 for 4. [Virat Kohli](#) played an extraordinary 82 at the MCG*, pulling off impossible shots and guiding India to victory.

Why it stands out:

Pure class, mental strength, and unmatched intensity on a global stage.

5. **Sachin Tendulkar – 143 vs Australia (Sharjah, 1998)**

Known as the “Desert Storm” innings, [Sachin Tendulkar’s 143](#) helped India qualify for the final against a dominant Australian side.

Why it stands out:

A high-pressure knock against the world’s best attack with tournament qualification on the line.

6. Carlos Brathwaite – 101 vs England (2016 T20 World Cup Final)*

Chasing 155 in the final over, **Carlos Brathwaite** smashed four consecutive sixes, finishing with a stunning **101*** and sealing West Indies' World Cup triumph.

Why it stands out:

Ice-cold nerves and unmatched power in a World Cup final.

7. Jacques Kallis – 113 vs Australia (1999 World Cup Semi-Final)*

South Africa were under immense pressure in a rain-affected semi-final. **Jacques Kallis** played a composed knock, anchoring the innings against a fierce Australian bowling attack.

Why it stands out:

Technical excellence under knockout-stage pressure.

8. Kevin O'Brien – 113 vs England (2011 World Cup)

Ireland were chasing a massive target when **Kevin O'Brien** produced one of the fastest World Cup centuries, guiding his team to a historic upset.

Why it stands out:

Fearless batting against a heavyweight opponent in a global tournament.

9. Rahul Dravid – 180 vs Australia (Kolkata Test, 2001)

Asked to follow on, India were staring at defeat. **Rahul Dravid**, alongside VVS Laxman, played an epic **180**, turning the Test match on its head.

Why it stands out:

Patience, resilience, and match-saving brilliance in Test cricket.

10. AB de Villiers – 79 vs Pakistan (2015 World Cup)*

In a tense World Cup match, **AB de Villiers** absorbed pressure and finished the chase with an unbeaten **79**, proving why he was considered one of the best finishers ever.

Why it stands out:

Composure combined with explosive finishing under pressure.

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Conclusion

Match-winning knocks under pressure define cricket's most iconic moments. Whether it's World Cup finals, miracle chases, or do-or-die games, these innings showcase courage, skill, and mental toughness at the highest level.

The **top 10 match-winning knocks under pressure** remind us why cricket is unpredictable and why true legends rise when the stakes are highest.