

Cricketers Who Made Stunning Comebacks After Career Slumps

Cricket is as much a mental battle as it is a physical one. Even the greatest players go through lean patches – loss of form, injuries, criticism, or self-doubt can derail careers. However, what truly defines legends is their ability to rise again. Over the years, several cricketers have scripted inspirational comeback stories after career-threatening slumps. In this blog, we revisit **cricketers who made stunning comebacks after career slumps**, proving that resilience and belief can conquer all.



1. Virat Kohli – From Prolonged Drought to Peak Dominance

Few slumps were as widely discussed as **Virat Kohli's lean phase between 2020 and 2022**. The former Indian captain went nearly three years without an international century, facing immense scrutiny and pressure. Critics questioned his technique, mindset, and even his place in the team.

Kohli silenced everyone with a remarkable return to form, beginning with a T20I century against Afghanistan in 2022. Since then, he has consistently delivered match-winning performances across formats.

Why his comeback stands out:

Mental strength, technical adjustments, and unwavering belief helped Kohli reclaim his status as one of the world's best batters.

Know More: [Virat Kohli Career Stats and Overview](#)

2. Steve Smith – Redemption After Controversy

Australia's **Steve Smith** faced the biggest setback of his career following the 2018 ball-tampering scandal. Banned from international cricket and stripped of captaincy, Smith's reputation took a massive hit.

On his return, he responded in the best possible way – with runs. His sensational Ashes performances in England showcased his unmatched batting ability and hunger to prove himself again.

Why his comeback stands out:

Smith transformed adversity into motivation, returning stronger and mentally tougher than ever.

3. Ben Stokes – From Injury Woes to National Hero

England's all-rounder [Ben Stokes](#) has endured repeated injury setbacks and mental health struggles. At one point, his availability and long-term future were under serious doubt.

Stokes' comeback moments – especially his heroic innings in the 2019 World Cup final and the unforgettable Headingley Ashes Test – cemented his place among modern greats. As England's Test captain, he has further reinvented himself as a leader.

Why his comeback stands out:

Stokes didn't just return; he transformed pressure moments into iconic victories.

4. Mohammed Shami – Rising Above Setbacks

Indian pacer [Mohammed Shami](#) faced early career struggles, fitness issues, and personal challenges that threatened his international future. For a period, he was out of favour in limited-overs cricket.

Through consistent domestic performances and relentless hard work, Shami made a strong comeback. He became India's go-to bowler in ICC tournaments, delivering match-winning spells under pressure.

Why his comeback stands out:

Persistence and discipline turned Shami into one of India's most reliable fast bowlers.

5. David Warner – From Slump and Suspension to Match-Winner

Like Steve Smith, **David Warner** faced suspension after the 2018 controversy and later endured poor form across formats. Many believed his aggressive style was losing effectiveness.

Warner proved his critics wrong with crucial performances in ICC tournaments, including a Player of the Tournament-winning campaign in a T20 World Cup. His aggressive intent and consistency returned at the right time.

Why his comeback stands out:

Warner adapted his game while retaining his fearless approach.

6. Shakib Al Hasan – Reinventing a Career

Bangladesh's **Shakib Al Hasan** experienced form slumps, injuries, and disciplinary issues that interrupted his career. Despite setbacks, he consistently reinvented himself as an elite all-rounder.

Shakib's return to form saw him dominate with both bat and ball, becoming one of the most influential players in Bangladesh's cricket history.

Why his comeback stands out:

Versatility and adaptability allowed Shakib to remain relevant across eras.

Conclusion

Career slumps are inevitable in cricket, but comebacks define greatness. From Virat Kohli's mental resurgence to Steve Smith's redemption and Ben Stokes' heroic returns, these stories inspire millions. They remind fans that setbacks are temporary, but determination lasts forever.

The **cricketers who made stunning comebacks after career slumps** didn't just revive their careers – they rewrote their legacies. Their journeys prove that in cricket, as in life, resilience is the ultimate game-changer.