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Australia's Glenn Maxwell is million-dollar catch at IPL-6

37 players sold at total cost of \$11.89 million

Our Bureau
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Australian Glenn Maxwell was the costliest catch in the IPL-6 auction here on Sunday with the Mumbai Indians coughing up \$1 million (Rs 5.3 crore) for the all-rounder.

It was a keen contest for the 24-year-old (whose bid started at a base price of \$200,000), with the new entrant Sunrisers Hyderabad too looking to buy him.

"We wanted a young all-rounder. Glenn can bat, bowls spin and is also a great fielder," said Mumbai Indians' owner Nita Ambani.

One hundred and eight players came under the hammer. Only 37 found buyers, at a total cost of \$11.89 million.

The auction was held at the ITC Grand Chola hotel in the city.

Royal Challengers Bangalore bought seven players, followed by Sunrisers (six), Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians (five each).

The 'mystery' spinner from Sri Lanka, Ajantha Mendis, came in second at \$725,000,



bought by Pune Warriors. Pune Warriors stretched its purse, picking up Mumbai all-rounder Abhishek Nayar for \$675,000 and Australian pacer Kane Richardson for \$700,000.

YOUNG TALENT

This wasn't an auction where big experienced players attracted attention, as franchi-

sees put their money on young talent, including lesser-known players.

Gurunath Meiyappan, Team Principal, Chennai Super Kings, which spent \$625,000 on 25-year-old South African Christopher Morris, said the team had released many players after IPL-5 to rope in younger ones.

Sri Lankan all-rounder Thisara Perera got \$675,000 from Sunrisers Hyderabad, while Indian pacer R.P. Singh was bought by RCB for \$400,000.

Kris Srikkanth, Mentor, Sunrisers, which also bagged West Indies captain Darren Sammy (\$425,000) and Indian medium-pacer Sudeep Tyagi (\$100,000), said the franchise

is keen on developing a team for the future. Uncapped Indian players Jaydev Unadkat and Pankaj Singh too found takers with Royal Challengers buying them both.

Australian captain Michael Clarke and former captain Ricky Ponting, who received the highest reserve price of \$400,000 ahead of the auction,

didn't generate much interest and were sold at their base price to Pune Warriors and Mumbai Indians respectively.

Ravi Bopara (England), Doug Bollinger (Australia), Matt Prior (England) and Rangana Herath (Sri Lanka) were among those unsold in an auction dominated by Australians and South Africans.

LOW-KEY EVENT

It was a low-key affair, with many unsold players, since those bought in the auction are available only for this year's tournament in April. Next year, the teams will undergo a major shuffle.

"This was a smaller auction and we were only looking to fill in the blanks, especially in our bowling attack," said Shilpa Shetty, Owner, Rajasthan Royals, which bought James Faulkner (Australia), Fidel Edwards (West Indies) and Kushal Perera (Sri Lanka).

The auction was conducted by Richard Madley, a professional auctioneer from London.

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