

MY PERFECT FIELDING XI

NASSER HUSSAIN

Every cricketer has to do it, and it's the vital third element of the game. But who would be in a team made up of the world's best fielders? Our Nas decides...



1 Jack Russell

Wicketkeeper

Outstanding hands and good glove work standing up.

Wicketkeeping standing back is relatively straightforward but Jack would stand up to the stumps to the medium-quickmen. He gave sides a lot of buzz and energy; he was a fighter, and he was also slightly eccentric. That's what I want in my wicketkeeper.



2 Ricky Ponting

First slip

All of my cordon are exceptional catchers. If we had four slips,

I would put Sir Ian Botham in there because I did play against him. But these guys are the best. They actually sit field second slip, where your best catcher goes, but I wouldn't drop any of them for a specialist at first slip. Ponting is wonderful as a catcher, he has great concentration.



3 Mark Waugh

Second slip

Mark made batting look effortless, and he was the same in the slips.

Utterly exceptional as a catcher and he made it look so easy, as though the ball was going towards him in slow motion – which it wasn't. It's very hard to remember him dropping anything.



4 Jacques Kallis

Third slip

Kallis has bucket-like hands. He just swallows the ball up. All of my

cordon are batsmen, which means that you don't have to re-egg it when you change the bowling. Warne and Flintoff were very fine slips though. And I should also mention Mahela Jayawardene as a slip to spin bowler. He and Murali were one of the great spinner/slip combinations.



5 Jonty Rhodes

Backward point

The man who really invented modern fielding, and made

this position specialist. He could catch anything, had unbelievable athleticism and he threw himself at the ball. Saved hundreds of runs in the field for South Africa, and was feared by batsmen across the world. No one took liberties with Jonty and survived.



6 AB de Villiers

Cover

You could consider de Villiers the best all-round fielder in the

world, because he's a great slipper, has a fantastic arm, can catch on the boundary and even keeps wicket from time to time. But I'd put him at cover. His speed is outstanding, and he has great hands. He does the remarkable and the spectacular.



7 Herschelle Gibbs

Midwicket

The third of the great South African outfielders.

You could put him anywhere in the ring, from point to square leg. Again, he has that athleticism that has come into the game over the last couple of decades. You can even forgive him for the famous dropping of Steve Waugh in the World Cup.

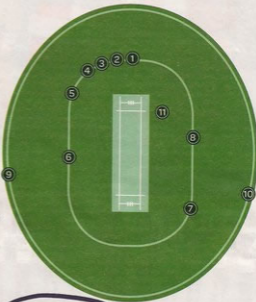


8 Paul Collingwood

Square leg

I have to get Colly in there somewhere.

One of the best fielders England have had for many a year at backward point, in the ring, or in the slips. A very dedicated cricketer who works and works at his game. He has had some inspirational catches at some very important moments.



9 Ian Pont

Boundary rider

Of all of the players I played with, Pont had the best arm. His throw was so powerful, he went to try for a professional baseball contract in the US. Throwing in from the boundary is all about trajectory. The more powerful the arm, the flatter the throw, and the quicker it comes in.



10 James Anderson

Boundary rider

It's not necessarily strength that makes a good arm. Generally, it's the bowlers who have the good arms. Players used to be coached to let the ball go while they were in the air, to throw it all in

one movement. Now it's about having a solid base. Jimmy's got a rocket arm, and he's a tremendous catcher too.



11 David Boon

Short leg

The Aussies gave you a lot of chatter, but Boony would just look you up and down. He had the courage you need to stay down when players are swinging those big bats and you're a couple of yards away. Everyone remembers his fantastic grab to catch Devon Malcolm for Warne's hat-trick at the MCG in 1994 – magnificent.



LIVE: SOUTH AFRICA
V INDIA, FIRST TEST,
STARTS THU 16 DEC,
8.30AM, SKY SPORTS 1