

Research Article

Fatty acid profiling and comparative evaluation of carcass cut up yield, meat quality traits of Cobb Sasso, commercial broiler and native aseel chicken

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Abstract

The present study was conducted to evaluate three different breeds; Cobb Sasso, Commercial Broiler (Cobb 500) and native Aseel (Desi) birds for carcass cut up yield, meat quality, and fatty acid analyses. A total of 48 birds (16 birds per breed, 8 birds per sex) were selected and transported to a slaughtering facility, UVAS, Lahore. Results showed that breed and sex ad significant effects ($p < 0.05$) on carcass cut up yield. Dressing, breast and inner fillets; and the boneless percentages were found higher in broiler birds, while thighs, drumsticks and wings percentages were observed significantly higher in Cobb Sasso birds. The pH values were significantly higher ($p < 0.05$) at 0, 45 min and 2 hours in Broiler and Cobb Sasso birds as compared to Aseel birds. Furthermore, tenderness values were found significantly higher in Aseel birds followed by Cobb Sasso and Broiler birds which indicate the tougher meat in slow-growing birds. L* (lightness) value was observed higher in Broiler birds, while a* (redness) value was found higher in Aseel chicken at 2 and 24 hours after slaughtering. Results of fatty acid analyses showed a significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher level of SFA in Desi and MUFA in Cobb Sasso. No significant difference was observed for PUFA contents between Broiler and Aseel but significantly ($p < 0.05$) lower level was found in Cobb Sasso. In conclusion, a significant difference was found between the breeds as carcass cut up yield was observed higher in Broiler followed by Cobb Sasso than Aseel birds. Better meat quality attributes were found in Broiler and Cobb Sasso birds as compared to Aseel birds. Furthermore, PUFA contents were observed higher in Aseel and Cobb Sasso birds.

Keywords: Aseel; Cobb Sasso; Carcass cut up yield; Fatty acid profile; Tenderness

Introduction

In Pakistan, the human diet is deficient in animal protein sources, as every person is getting approximately 17gm of protein against the required 27gm / day in developed countries [1]. The poultry sector is considered most potent among all

animal protein sources due to its fast-growing potential and better feed conversion ratios. Pakistan has become the 11th largest poultry producer in the world with the production of 1.02 billion Broilers annually. The poultry sector has shown a

growth of 8-10 percent annually, which reflects its inherent potential [2].

However, the concept of food has undergone a radical transformation, as consumers are more concerned about their health. Poultry producers are influenced by consumer's priorities and paying attention to rear the chicken without antibiotic and other synthetic chemicals. In Pakistan, the poultry birds can be classified into 2 groups i.e. commercial Broiler (Cobb 500 & Cobb Sasso) and Indigenous (Aseel / Desi). The commercial Broiler (Cobb 500) is reared for 35-40 days to achieve 2.0 kg weight [3]. The higher body weight of Cobb (500) could be attributed to the high genetic potential of this breed, however, the Cobb Sasso is the choice for consumers interested in slow-growing, colored chicken. The indigenous Aseel (Desi) birds are oftenly reared for 100 days to achieve 1.0 kg weight without the use of antibiotics and synthetic chemicals due to better immunity. It has been reported that meat from slow-growing breeds is healthier having low-fat content and a high portion of n-3 PUFA [4]. Indigenous breeds of chickens are also more resilient to adverse environmental conditions like heat stress, high stocking density and metabolic disorders [5]. Chen [6] reported that in China and some bordering countries the market share of indigenous birds represents almost 50% of all meat-type birds and serves as whole carcass business for premium products.

Moreover, commercial Broilers despite having a fast growth rate and better feed conversion ratio (FCR) has certain challenges like high mortality, antibiotic resistance and less resistance to harsh climatic conditions, which adversely affect the production, meat quality and consumer preference [7]. Conversely, Aseel birds have stronger immunity and can grow in extreme conditions, however due to slow growth rate, poor FCR and low cut up yield i.e. Aseel birds cannot fulfill the meat requirement.

Keeping in view the consumer concerns, poultry industry needs a breed having characteristics like better production rate, immunity and cut up yield. Cobb Sasso (French breed) having modified genetics has been claimed with better livability, production and cut up yield which can fulfill the modern consumer's demand. Cobb Sasso can be reared without antibiotics and due to a relatively slow growth rate than Broiler may impart better flavor. So, the present study was conducted to compare the available Broilers, Aseel and Cobb Sasso breeds in Pakistan; for better carcass cut up yield, meat quality and fatty acids profile.

Materials and methods

Experimental birds

One hundred twenty straight-run birds for each breed, Cobb Sasso and commercial Broiler (Cobb 500) were reared on the littered floor by making replicates. Birds were reared with the similar commercial diets according to their growth phases till the slaughtering age; 35 days (Broiler), 64 days (Cobb Sasso) and 110 days Aseel.

Slaughtering and carcass cut up yield

A total of 48 birds, 8 males, and 8 females from each breed; were selected for slaughtering to obtain cut up yield (%). The birds were brought to Meat Processing Unit in the Department of Meat Science and Technology, UVAS, Lahore and after feed deprivation for 8 hours, all the birds were slaughtered, de-feathered according to Halal standards as described in Pakistan Halal Standards (PS3733:2013). Subsequently, the carcasses were eviscerated and the shanks and head were separated.

Carcasses were pre-chilled at 10 °C for 15 minutes in chilled water and placed in polystyrene trays wrapped with cling film and kept in air chiller at 0-4 °C for 4 hours before deboning. In the deboning hall, the carcasses were portioned; breast and thigh were weighed. Furthermore, shank, liver, gizzard, heart, intestine, drumstick, major fillet, inner fillet, back, wings, breast boneless yield, leg boneless yield, the total

boneless yield was measured. Each part was weighed separately and the proportion of specific part for live bird weight was calculated according to CFIA [8].

Meat quality measurements

pH

The pH was measured from the breast muscle by using calibrated pH meter (WTW, pH 3210 SET 2, Germany) at an interval of 0, 45 minutes and 2 hours after slaughtering. Three readings were taken from different points for each sample by inserting the probe of pH meter into muscle until it showed a stable value.

Color

Color values were measured from the breast muscle by using Minolta Calorimeter (Konica Minolta® CR-410, Japan) after 2 and 24 hours of slaughtering. Minolta calorimeter was placed over breast fillet in a way that no external light can influence its readings as described by Vieira and Fernandez, [9]. Lightness (L*), Redness (a*) Yellowness (b*), Chroma value (c) and hue angle (h) were the measured parameters of color.

Cooking loss

Weighed samples from the breast muscle were vacuum-packed individually by Multivac® Baseline P100 vacuum packaging machine is specifically designed to vacuum packaging bags (SR 150×200, PA/PE 90) and placed in a water bath (Mettmert WNB45, Germany) for cooking until attained core temperature of 72-74°C. Temperature of each sample was measured by placing a food-grade thermometer (TP101, CixiSinco, China) in the center of the sample as described by Liu *et al.* [10]. After cooking, samples were kept until they attained room temperature [11]. The cooking loss was calculated based on difference between weight before and after cooking as described by Liu *et al.* [10].

Tenderness

After cooking, 5 strips of approximately 1×1cm were cut parallel to the axis of muscle fibers orientation from each breast sample. Texture analyzer (TA. XT plus® texture analyzer, UK) was used to

determine the shear force value in N/cm² by placing the strips at a right angle under the V-Slot blade as described by Folch *et al.* [12].

Fatty acid analysis

The fatty acid analysis was performed at the National Centre of Excellence in Analytical Chemistry, University of Sindh, Jamshoro. In the first step, the fat was extracted from the meat samples with chloroform and methanol mixture (2:1). And in the second step, the fatty acid methyl esters (FAME) were prepared. A sample of 2.0 µL was injected into Gas Chromatograph Flame Ionization Detector (GC-FID) made by Perkin Elmer 8700 having non-polar capillary column DB-1 (30m × 0.25mm) and 0.2 µm film thickness. Oxygen-free nitrogen was used as a carrier gas with a flow rate of 3.5 mL/min. The injection port temperature was 230 °C and the detector temperature was 260 °C. The oven temperature was ramped to 130 °C for 3 min and increased to 180 °C at 1.5 °C/min; it was then held at 180 °C for 3 minutes. Finally, the temperature was increased to 220 °C at 1 °C/min. All the fatty acids were detected by comparing the retention time with a standard as described by Folch *et al.* [12].

Statistical analysis

Collected data were analyzed using factorial ANOVA under a completely randomized design (CRD). Post-hoc analysis was conducted by Fisher's LSD test using SAS 9.1 and $p \leq 0.05$ was considered significant.

Results and discussion

Carcass cut-up yield

The present study was conducted to evaluate the carcass cut up yield, meat quality and fatty acids profile of three different breeds. Carcass cut up yield is an excellent indicator to determine the efficiency of meat-producing birds. Results showed that dressing, breast fillets and boneless meat yield percentages were found significantly higher in Broiler followed by Cobb Sasso and Aseel birds. Many researchers have also reported

similar results, as standard commercial Broiler having better carcass yield as compared to indigenous breeds at marketing age [13-15]. In present trial dressing % was observed as 67%, 63% and 58% for Broiler, Cobb Sasso and Aseel respectively, the results are in agreement with Wang *et al.* [14] who reported that dressing (%) above 60% is considered good. Moreover, dressing % was found higher in male as compared to the female birds which agreed with the reports of Lopez *et al.* [16]. Significantly higher thighs, drumsticks and wings (%) was observed in Cobb Sasso as compared to Aseel and Broiler, however there was no significant difference between Broiler and Aseel birds (Table 1). Nielsen *et al.* [17] reported similar results by comparing thigh and breast yield of slow-growing and fast-growing chicken. Moreover, thigh and drumstick yield were found higher in male birds as compare the female. Mendes and Santos [18, 19] also reported analogous results by comparing the thigh yield of male and female chicken. However, no significant effect of sex was found on the percentage of wings.

Significantly higher inner fillets yield (%) was recorded among all three breeds Female showed a significantly higher inner fillets yield as compared to the male birds. Gizzard and shanks yield (%) were influenced by different genotypes as Desi showed a significantly higher yield when compared to Broiler and Cobb Sasso. Interestingly, gizzard yield was not affected by the sex (Table 1). Similar results were reported by Musa *et al.* and Ojedapo *et al.* [20, 21], when they studied different genotypes. But the shanks yield was found higher in males as compared to female birds and parallel findings were also reported by Munira *et al.* [22] who observed lower values of shanks yield in female birds.

Liver (%) was found significantly higher in Aseel and Broiler as compared

to Cobb Sasso while liver yield was not affected by sex (Table 1). Similar results were reported by Taha *et al.* [23], they studied native Egyptian chicken and Canadian breed. However, Enaiat *et al.* [24] reported the influence of sex on liver yield.

Effect on meat quality

Meat quality (pH, color, cooking loss % and tenderness) of poultry products is very important, as it reflects in first (color) and repeated purchase (tenderness) by the consumer. In the present study, significantly higher pH was observed at 0 hours (immediately after bleeding) in Broiler as compared to Cobb Sasso and Aseel but, there was non-significant difference between Cobb Sasso and Aseel (Table 2). However, sex showed no significant effect on pH at 0 hours. A similar trend of pH fall was observed in pH recorded at 45 minutes. However, pH value at 2 hours was significantly higher ($p < 0.05$) in males as compared to females and Broiler showed a higher pH followed Aseel and Cobb Sasso. pH decline is most important event in the conversion of muscle to meat because, it affects texture, color and water holding capacity [25]. The drastic decline in pH is associated with more protein denaturation which adversely affects color, water holding capacity and texture [7, 26]. According to Debut *et al.* [27] active or slow-growing birds are more prone to stress which leads to rapid breast muscle acidification. Many other researchers have also reported a similar trend of lower pH in slow-growing birds as compared to fast-growing birds [28-30]. Selection for better breast meat yield might have impacted on glycogen reserves of breast muscle that might explain the differences between ultimate pH in fast, medium and slow-growing chicken [31, 32].

Color is also an admirable indicator of meat quality [33, 34]. Myoglobin is the most important protein in the muscles

which involves the appearance of meat. However, pre-slaughter and post-slaughter factors also affect the meat color. Results showed that after 2 hours, color values of Broiler breast meat showed comparatively higher L* (lightness) value as compared to Cobb Sasso and Desi. Redness (a*) values were observed significantly high in desi birds followed by Cobb Sasso and Broiler. While, yellowness (b*) values were found comparatively high in Cobb Sasso followed by Broiler and Desi birds. There was no significant impact observed on c* (chroma) and h (hue angle) by any breed. Furthermore, a similar trend was also observed in color values after 24 hours post slaughtering (Table 2). Berri *et al.* [32] reported similar trend as breeds selected for fast growth showed the paler color of meat (higher L*), which can be explained by the low level of heme pigment which normally increases with age. Moreover, many researchers have also reported that the slow-growing birds have redder meat in comparison with fast-growing or high-performance birds [31, 32, 35]. According to Lonergan *et al.* [36], the difference in redness among genotype might be because of the difference in muscle fiber type.

Aseel birds had a significantly higher cooking loss compared to Cobb Sasso and Broiler but, was not affected by sex (Table 2). Although cooking loss percentage in Cobb Sasso (23.88) was higher compared with Broiler (21.28), the margin is reduced. Castellini *et al.* [37] reported higher cooking loss (%) in organic or free-range chicken compared to commercial Broiler, because of the low ultimate pH in organic chicken. Meat tenderness was observed significantly higher in Aseel birds followed by Cobb Sasso and Broiler. Tenderness was not affected by sex. Koohmarai *et al.* [38] explained it as the higher value of tenderness could be

associated with the increase of connective tissues with age.

Fatty acid profile

The results of fatty acids analysis are presented in the (Table 3). Palmitic acid concentrations were not affected significantly ($p>0.05$) by sex and strain. While, stearic acid was observed higher in Aseel birds. Total SFA contents were found significantly higher ($p<0.05$) in Aseel followed by Broiler and Cobb Sasso, but not effected by sex. Similarly, Wattanachant *et al.*, [29] compared the fatty acids profile of indigenous and Broiler by offering the same diet and reported the higher levels of SFA was present in indigenous birds. In the MUFA contents, palmitoleic acid and oleic acid were found significantly higher in Cobb Sasso, but no significant effect of sex was determined on the MUFA contents in the present study. Total MUFA yield was observed significantly higher in Cobb Sasso followed by Broiler and Aseel birds, respectively. Chae *et al.* [39] reported that palmitic acid from SFA and oleic acid from MUFA are the main fatty acids found in indigenous and commercial chicken, which are following the present study.

Poultry meat has been considered as good source of PUFA in the human diet [40, 41]. Total PUFA contents were found higher ($p<0.05$) in Aseel and Broiler as compared to Cobb Sasso while, it was not influenced by sex. Furthermore, feeding behavior and genetics of different breeds have been found an important factor affecting the fatty acid profile [35]. Marcincakova *et al.* [41] reported that meat from slow-growing birds has higher PUFA concentration compare to fast-growing birds. Likewise, DHA contents were found higher in Aseel birds. Furthermore, n-3 fatty acids (α-linoleic acid, EPA and DHA) concentrations were found lower in Cobb Sasso as compared to Broiler and Desi.

Table 1. Effect of breed and sex on carcass cut-up yield

Parameters (%)	Cobb Sasso		Broiler		Desi		Sex	Strain	Overall
	M	F	M	F	M	F			
Dressing %	63.53±1.84	59.64±2.64	67.53±1.92	63.65±1.48	56.42±2.78	54.84±1.44	***	***	NS
Thigh %	17.73±1.09	16.79±0.53	16.66±1.80	15.59±0.93	16.12±0.80	15.93±0.94	**	***	NS
Shank %	3.82±0.34	3.16±0.19	3.70±0.28	3.51±0.29	4.87±0.33	2.95±0.23	***	***	***
Liver %	1.84±0.50	1.63±0.29	1.95±0.20	2.17±0.23	2.20±0.24	1.87±0.36	NS	**	**
Gizzard %	1.26±0.31	1.27±0.12	1.26±0.16	1.68±0.34	2.32±0.44	1.63±0.30	NS	***	***
Drum Stick %	10.18±0.57	9.08±0.44	8.90±0.31	8.38±0.53	9.65±0.42	8.26±0.36	***	***	**
Breast Fillet %	11.59±2.08	12.08±1.17	19.41±1.23	17.38±1.31	8.15±0.94	9.37±0.89	NS	***	***
Inner Fillet %	4.13±0.50	4.72±0.44	4.30±0.26	4.65±0.55	3.01±0.30	3.30±0.28	***	***	NS
Wings %	5.88±0.27	6.05±0.70	5.31±0.37	5.69±0.39	5.83±0.14	5.15±0.28	NS	***	***
Boneless %	35.21±2.90	37.91±2.39	42.67±2.15	40.22±1.72	27.84±2.05	30.87±1.82	NS	***	***
Bones %	20.16±1.76	17.28±1.54	17.63±1.37	17.56±1.75	18.93±1.37	16.84±0.88	***	*	**

*P < 0.05; **P < 0.01; ***P < 0.001; ns

Different alphabets on means (Mean ± S.E) showing significant difference p≤0.05

Table 2. Effect of breed and sex on meat quality

Parameters	Cobb Sasso		Broiler		Desi		Sex	Strain	Overall
	M	F	M	F	M	F			
pH at 0 hrs	5.99±0.34	5.91±0.19	6.51±0.13	6.53±0.14	5.94±0.25	6.07±0.12	NS	***	NS
pH at 45 Min	5.82±0.28	5.90±0.26	6.38±0.15	6.36±0.26	5.87±0.16	6.05±0.12	NS	***	NS
pH at 2 hrs	5.69±0.07	5.86±0.18	6.25±0.17	6.32±0.23	5.82±0.17	6.00±0.11	***	***	NS
L* at 2 hrs	59.22±1.20	59.16±1.26	60.38±10.66	60.26±1.14	56.46±8.57	56.38±7.45	NS	**	NS
a* at 2 hrs	17.53±0.34	17.49±0.43	16.04±7.04	16.00±0.55	19.64±5.60	19.56±4.46	NS	**	NS
b* at 2 hrs	19.13±0.81	19.09±0.76	18.27±7.40	18.26±0.74	17.55±4.17	17.52±4.13	*	**	*
c* at 2 hrs	22.01±0.69	21.97±0.74	21.14±7.62	21.10±0.73	23.91±5.01	23.87±3.80	*	NS	**
h at 2 hrs	46.82±8.54	46.78±8.30	7.37±79.17	47.33±11.42	215.44±72.75	216.77±70.87	*	NS	*
L* at 24 hrs	58.70±4.97	58.67±2.73	60.79±2.75	60.74±4.47	56.46±7.04	56.41±5.71	**	**	NS
a* at 24 hrs	17.39±4.04	17.36±2.55	17.57±3.48	17.53±5.08	20.35±5.69	20.31±3.70	NS	NS	***
b* at 24 hrs	18.55±1.83	18.51±4.14	17.23±4.74	17.19±3.36	16.04±8.49	16.01±6.81	**	***	**
c* at 24 hrs	23.74±2.93	23.73±3.89	22.14±3.61	22.10±4.01	23.43±9.14	23.40±7.02	NS	**	**
h at 24 hrs	46.72±3.36	46.66±2.96	47.68±4.39	47.66±4.19	47.98±4.31	48.02±3.40	**	***	**
Cooking loss %	23.90±5.31	23.85±1.66	21.30±3.34	21.27±3.57	25.74±1.62	25.78±4.61	NS	NS	NS
Tenderness(Kg/cm ²)	17.30±1.06	17.23±1.14	10.12±0.78	10.08±0.48	23.96±0.81	23.92±0.88	***	***	**

*P < 0.05; **P < 0.01; ***P < 0.001; ns

Different alphabets on means (Mean ± S.E) showing significant difference p≤0.05

Table 3. Effect of breed and sex on fatty acids profile

Parameters	Cobb Sasso		Broiler		Desi		Sex	Strain	Overall
	M	F	M	F	M	F			
Lauric acid	0.00	0.00	0.74±0.70	0.51±0.49	0.38±0.43	0.00	NS	**	NS
Myristic acid	0.60±0.24	0.81±0.45	1.44±1.39	0.76±0.30	0.88±0.23	0.96±0.08	NS	NS	NS
Palmitic acid	24.71±0.84	24.90±2.08	24.78±1.91	26.79±2.76	26.85±3.91	26.77±0.57	NS	NS	NS
Stearic acid	6.22±1.24	5.81±1.47	7.48±0.96	7.244±1.86	12.06±4.00	9.49±0.76	NS	**	NS
Arachidic acid	0.00	1.88±2.59	0.41±0.05	0.97±0.62	1.56±2.73	0.00	NS	NS	NS
¹ SFA	31.53±1.39	33.15±2.88	34.58±1.09	36.33±3.37	39.73±1.38	39.20±0.53	NS	***	NS
Myristoleic acid	0.00	0.00	2.65±1.81	0.84±1.23	0.00	0.00	NS	***	NS
Palmitoleic acid	4.11±0.32	3.94±2.01	3.03±1.37	1.44±1.51	2.02±1.20	2.58±1.62	NS	**	NS
Oleic acid	34.24±8.79	26.21±6.80	12.04±1.49	9.24±1.37	10.94±2.68	8.84±0.66	NS	***	NS
Paullinic acid	0.73±0.27	2.15±2.80	4.38±4.16	4.74±2.85	1.32±0.79	0.56±0.32	NS	**	NS
² MUFA	39.08±8.76	32.30±4.90	19.58±1.11	18.38±1.06	14.18±0.94	12.08±1.07	NS	***	NS
Linoleic acid	19.15±3.55	17.41±7.90	3.87±2.64	3.66±1.65	4.07±0.97	1.60±0.63	NS	***	NS
α-linolenic acid	3.73±3.73	5.43±1.76	2.48±0.41	2.82±1.77	2.50±2.22	2.10±0.60	NS	NS	NS
Eicosadienoic acid	0.67±0.15	0.55±0.21	4.21±0.37	1.83±3.13	3.88±6.37	1.69±0.34	NS	NS	NS
Eicosatrienoic acid	0.00	0.00	3.10±0.55	0.71±1.43	0.28±0.55	2.66±0.14	NS	***	***
Arachidonic acid	0.75±0.09	0.67±0.19	7.07±1.04	6.74±1.53	7.95±3.72	6.17±0.80	NS	***	NS
Eicosapentaenoic acid	1.14±0.74	0.87±0.39	0.53±0.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	NS	**	NS
Adrenic acid	0.00	0.00	2.17±0.33	13.71±7.43	0.93±1.32	3.20±0.22	**	***	**
Docosapentaenoic acid	1.27±1.45	3.28±4.12	14.95±3.59	3.13±5.10	16.67±3.22	16.67±3.23	NS	***	**
Docosahexaenoic acid	0.85±0.65	4.41±5.34	5.72±1.02	11.59±4.94	8.17±3.39	10.92±1.13	**	**	NS
³ PUFA	27.56±9.75	32.61±5.94	44.13±0.38	44.19±3.15	44.44±2.19	46.85±0.69	NS	***	NS
Total Fatty acids (Detected)	98.17±0.16	98.07±0.47	98.29±0.54	98.97±0.95	98.17±0.96	97.97±0.84	NS	NS	NS
PUFA/SFA	0.88±0.35	0.99±0.21	1.28±0.03	1.23±0.22	1.12±0.09	1.20±0.03	NS	*	NS
N3/n6 ratio	0.32±0.23	1.34±1.85	1.94±0.71	2.33±0.83	2.47±0.92	3.35±0.41	NS	*	NS

*P < 0.05; **P < 0.01; ***P < 0.001; ns ; ¹Saturated Fatty acids ; ²Mono-unsaturated Fatty acids; ³Poly-unsaturated Fatty acids
 Different alphabets on means (Mean ± S.E) showing significant difference p≤0.05

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the present study, it can be concluded that males having higher carcass cut-up yield, so separate rearing can increase the yield. Cobb Sasso birds showed higher carcass cut up yield than native Aseel birds. Similarly, a slow rate of pH fall was observed in Broiler and Cobb Sasso when compared to Aseel birds, which minimizes the incidence of PSE (pale soft exudative) and also reflects in better meat quality as low water loss. Tenderness values of Broiler and Cobb Sasso were also found superior than to Aseel birds and were not affected by sex. Furthermore, PUFA concentrations were observed higher in Desi and Broiler as compare to Cobb Sasso.

Authors' contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: MH Jaspal & S Ali, Performed the experiments: I Rehman, Analyzed the data: M Naeem, N Rajput & I Rehman, Contributed reagents/ materials/ analysis tools: FN Talpur, Wrote the paper: N Rajput, S Ali & M Naeem.

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