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From the President's Desk

Indian hockey teams had mixed fortunes in the Olympic Qualifiers held at the MDC National Stadium in New Delhi during February 18-26, 2012. While the men's team made it to London Olympics after eight-years long wait by thrashing France 8-1 in the final, the women's team suffered a 1-3 loss to favourites South Africa to see their Olympic dreams shattered. Ace drag-flicker Sandeep Singh, who slammed five goals in the final, emerged as the highest scorer of the tournament with 16 goals. India remained the only unbeaten team. Midfielder Sardar Singh was declared the "Player of Tournament".

Indian women's team had themselves to blame for the loss to South Africa in the final as they allowed pressure to get the better of them. Indian girls began well beating Canada (4-1), Italy (1-0) and Poland (3-0) but South Africa stopped their winning streak with a comfortable 5-2 win in the group stage. The Indian girls paid the price for their defence lapses and lack of finishing.

A 62nd minute strike from Manpreet Singh proved the winner for DAV College, Jalandhar who beat Al-Ameen College, Bangalore 2-1 to lift 19th edition of the SAIL-Nehru Champion Colleges Hockey Tournament held at the MDC National Stadium in New Delhi. This was the Jalandhar team's 11th title win.

The Nehru Hockey Tournament Society is doing a great service in the promotion and development of our national game of Hockey. I appeal to all members of the Corporate Sector, PSU and Multi-national Companies to help the Society in financially in conducting successfully its annual five tournaments.

In this connection, I extend my grateful thanks to Shri Om Pathak, Chairman. SELA QUI Education Trust, for sponsoring the Winners Cash Prize and also instituting a Running Trophy for the "SELA QUI EDUCATION CUP".

Wishing our London Olympic Squad the very best.



(Arun Subhashchandra Yadav)

LONDON OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS TOURNAMENT FOR MEN (FEB.18-26, 2012)

A DREAM REKINDLED...

After a wait of eight long years, the Indian men's hockey team has made it to the (London) Olympics to be held this year, beating France by 8-1 in the final of the qualification tournament held at Maj Dhyan Chand National Stadium in Delhi. The win has got India's hockey team its pride back. Ace drag-flicker Sandeep Singh slammed five goals, including a hat-trick, as India qualified for London Olympics men's hockey after missing out the 2008 edition. Sandeep emerged as the highest scorer of the tournament with 16 goals.

Coming into the game with the memories of Santiago debacle four years ago still fresh in their minds, the Indians ensured that there was no repeat of the blunder this time around and toyed with the French defence throughout the 70 minutes to score the goals at will. The 18th ranked Frenchmen proved to be a mismatch for the erstwhile giants of the game as India scored three and five goals respectively in both the halves to dash the European team's London dreams. The difference between the two teams can be gauged from the fact that both India and France earned as many as seven penalty corners each, but the visitors failed to utilise a single one while the hosts converted six. With defending champions Germany, hosts Britain, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Pakistan having already qualified for the London Games, the qualifier at Delhi was important for the eight-time gold medallists India to correct the anomaly of not making it to Beijing four years ago.

No doubt, the draw favoured the hosts who took on lower-ranked teams that included Canada, France, Poland, Italy and Singapore. In fact, India's first three games were most one-sided with the hosts thrashing Singapore (15-1), Italy (8-1) and France (6-2) before facing some resistance in the tournament. Canada gave India some anxious moments before going down 2-3 and got the better of a fighting Poland 4-2 in the last league encounter. Physical fitness was the main reason behind Indian team's success and much of the credit should go to team coach Michael Nobbs who transformed the team into a winning combination. India's 44 goals in six matches point to a new aggression so far missing. The players played a team game and the sheer ability to convert penalty corners into goals was brilliantly showcased by Sandeep Singh who scored five goals from six chances.

The Olympics will be a different ball game. Indian team will face much tougher opposition in London. What one has to see is how the team handles defeat against stronger teams and whether it can come out stronger. The road up to the Olympics will be critical. It all depends on how the administrators resolve their differences and what platform they provide to the team. Here's wishing the team all the best! Dil Do Hockey Koi!

In the third-place play-off, Canada beat Poland 4-3 and Italy crushed Singapore 5-0 to finish fifth.

Final Standings : 1. India, 2. France, 3. Canada, 4. Poland, 5. Italy, 6. Singapore.

LONDON OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS TOURNAMENT FOR WOMEN (FEB. 18-26, 2012)

A DREAM SHATTERED...

The Olympic dreams of the Indian women's hockey team came crashing as they lost 1-3 to tournament favourites South Africa in the final of the 2012 London Olympic qualifiers at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium. For World No. 12 South Africa, the win was a fitting reply to the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC), which had forced them to go through the qualification process despite their having earned a direct berth. South Africa were always at ease right from the start and played freely while pressure got the better of World No. 13 India, whose last Olympic appearance was way back at 1980 Moscow edition, where the men's team had won the last of their record eight Olympic gold medals.

While there wasn't much difference between the rankings of the two teams, South Africa were clearly

the superior side. They churned out a clinical performance and changed gears cleverly to take the Indians by surprise. South Africa had also beaten India 5-2 in the group stages. India had only themselves to blame for the loss as they allowed pressure to get the better of them. They attacked in patches but there was a lack of coordinated effort from C.R. Kumar's girls, who came close to qualifying but fell short.

Indian girls beat Canada (4-1), Italy (1-0) and Poland (3-0) but South Africa proved too strong for them. In a desperate situation, the hosts beat Italy 1-0 to make it to the final where they were outplayed by South Africa. The final lacked the intensity it deserved. The Indians were below par. They were too cautious in their approach and were mediocre in their performance against the well-co-ordinated effort from South Africans. World number 12 South Africa scored through Shelley Russell (4th minute), Pietie Coetzee

(30th) and skipper Marsha Marescia (57th) to qualify for the London Olympics. They remained unbeaten run in the tournament. Asunta Lakra-led India paid the price for their defence lapses and lack of finishing as South Africa rode on their better co-ordination, agility and solid defence to crush the hosts at their home ground. The Indians crumbled under pressure as they fumbled with the ball and lacked co-ordination. Even though they penetrated the rival camp, the hosts failed to build a single concrete attack.

Italy narrowly edged out Ukraine 2-1 to finish third. Italy performed admirably in the tournament. They were one goal away from qualifying for the final, losing to India 0-1 courtesy a late goal. Ukraine stunned India on the opening day with a draw (1-1) and then beat Canada (5-2) to earn a berth for 3rd-4th places.

Final standings: 1.S Africa 2.India 3.Italy 4.Ukraine 5.Canada 6.Poland

LONDON OLYMPICS (2012)

India, Pakistan in different groups

Traditional rivals India and Pakistan have been drawn in opposite groups for the July 27-August 12 Olympic Games hockey tournament this year.

This Michael Nobbs – Coached and Bharat Chetri – led team finds itself in the same group (group-B) as 2008 Olympic Champions Germany and former winners the Netherlands. South Korea, Belgium and New Zealand complete what seems to be a rather tricky group. The draw means that India have a realistic chance to finish in the top six. For India, Germany and the Netherlands will be the teams to beat in Group-B

but the team cannot discount sides like New Zealand, Belgium and South Korea.

Group-A Consists of Australia, Great Britain, Pakistan, Spain and Argentina. The Sixth team in this group will be decided after the qualifying tournament to be held in the Japanese city of Kakamigahara from April 25 to May 6, 2012.

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society wishes the Indian men's team a Podium finish at the London Olympics.

19TH SAIL-NEHRU CHAMPION COLLEGES TOURNAMENT (FEB. 28-MAR. 5, 2012)

DAV College (Jalandhar) annex the trophy 11th time

The object of the SAIL-Nehru Champion Colleges hockey tournament, conducted annually on behalf of the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society, has been to promote the national game in the University sector. Since its inception in 1993, the colleges tournament has generated considerable interest for the game among the collegiates and also in improving its standard, with a view to provide incentive to the teams, the 19th edition of the Champion Colleges tournament, organized by the Nehru Hockey Society, at the Maj Dhyani Chand National Stadium during Feb 28-March 5, carried a cash prize of Rs. 2,08,000 among the various teams. An amount of Rs. 1 lakh and a running trophy was donated by Shri Om Pathak, Chairman, Selaqui Education Trust. As in the previous year, the tournament was again sponsored by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and was organized jointly by the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society and the Association of Indian Universities.(AIU).

Shri Kukoo Walia, renowned International umpire Grade-I and Secretary of the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society (JNHTS), has made sure that the standard of tournament is always maintained, like all other tournaments of the Society. He makes it a point that discipline and punctuality are never compromised

even while players and participating teams are provided all necessary facilities.

The Flagship tournament of the Society was inaugurated by Shri Nannder Batra, Secretary General, Hockey India, in the presence of distinguished personalities including S' Shri H S Hanspal, Harbinder Singh, Dr D. R. Saini and Sh Bhupinder Singh, Secretary General, Hockey Delhi, Sanjeev Nehraa, Member, Advisory Protocol and PR.

Besides the finalists (DAV College, Jalandhar and Al Ameen College, Bangalore), 10 other college teams participated in the five-day meet. The teams were divided into four groups of three teams each. Each group winner made it to the semi-finals. Those making the semi-finals were Municipal College (Rourkela), CRA College (Sonapat), DAV College (Jalandhar) and Al Ameen College (Bangalore). The semi-finals saw DAV beating Municipal College 5-1 and Al Ameen getting the better of CRA College with a 7-5 verdict, via tie-breaker after the teams were locked 3-3 at the end of extra-time.

In the final, a 62nd minute strike from Manpreet Singh proved the winner for DAV College Jalandhar, who beat Al-Ameen College, Bangalore 2-1 to lift the Champions College hockey trophy for the 11th time.

The champion team was presented Rs. 1 lakh and the coach of the team, Manu Sood, was given Rs. 8,000. The runner-up team was given Rs. 64,000 and its coach Manohar Katke was awarded Rs. 5,000. In the third-place play-off, CRA College Sonapat rode on Naveen Sangwan's hat-trick to beat Minicipal College Rourkela 5-2. Amit Lochab and Parvesh were the other scorers for the winners while Sunil Ekka and India probable Amit Rohidas scored for the Rourkela college. The Sonapat team received Rs 32,000 and its coach Manjeet Panwar got Rs 3,000.

The final was presided over by Shri B B Singh, Director (Personnel), SAIL. Among those present on the occasion included Shri R K Singhal, General Manager SAIL, Nehru Society's Vice-President Shri H S Hanspal, Shri Subhash Kapoor, Shri Harbinder Singh and Dr D. R. Saini. Also present to cheer the finalists were Shri Om Pathak, and Shri Gurdeep Singh, Dy. Secretary, AIU.

40TH HOCKEY ENTHUSIASTS JOIN THE SOCIETY AS PATRONS

As the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society enters into its 48th successful year of existence, it takes pride and feels humble that the entire hockey fraternity, including players, administrators, State and Central Governments, sponsors and sports enthusiasts have stood by it through thick and thin. Thanks to the advice and help received from time to time from its well-wishers, the Society has been able to successfully conduct as many as five tournaments for all age-groups (both boys and girls) annually.

To run tournaments at such a large scale, the Society obviously needs sponsors. The fact that sponsors are coming to hockey has been a great

motivation for the Society. Nevertheless it is good for the sport and hockey needs it.

The Vibrant Secretary of the Society has instituted a novel scheme this year to enable any individual, hockey lovers, corporate sector, Public Sector undertakings, multinational companies etc, to donate a sum of only Rs. 5,000 or more to become a Patron of the Society.

The Scheme has been well received by the hockey lovers across the country. At the time of going to the Press as many as 40 hockey enthusiasts have already become Patrons of the Society.

PARGAT SINGH ENTERS NEW FIELD

Yet another Olympic hockey veteran has entered another field – politics. Two-time skipper Pargat Singh has made it to the Punjab Assembly by successfully contesting the Jalandhar Cantonment Seat on a SAD ticket, defeating Congress candidate Jagbir Brar with a margin of 7,798 votes. Village Sansarpur is a part of the Jalandhar Cantt. Constituency, which is known as Indian hockey's nursery. Sansarpur has produced a number of Olympians, international and national hockey players.

Pargat Singh's ability as a defender of high order was quickly realized. He led the country in two Olympics (1992-Barcelona) and 1996 (Atlanta). He was the first player given the unique honour of leading the country in the two successive Olympics.

The Nehru Hockey Society wishes Pargat Singh all success in his political life.

Shri Ramesh Kapur Joined Nehru Society

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society is extremely glad to announce that Shri Ramesh Kapur Chairman Steelbird International has joined the Society as Chairman Souvenir Committee. His experience and vast knowledge will surely benefit the society in various ways.

has Been over a year since we started our own (www.nehruhockey.com)
to provide maximum information on the game.

Hockey lovers are requested to go to the site and get all the latest information on hockey.

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