



THE CRADLE OF INDIAN HOCKEY
Q U A R T E R L Y

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From the President's Desk

Of late, Indian girl teams have been more on view as they participated in the 6th Junior Women's World Cup in Boston and the second was the Girls Under-18 Asia Cup at Shanghai. Indian sport's perennial problem of inconsistent performance was once again the salient feature in the above two international events.



Two ace strikers of Indian hockey, Ignace Tirkey and Surinder Kaur, were among the 15 sportspersons honoured with the Arjuna Award for 2009 by the President of India on August 29, 2009. Also honoured on this occasion was the eminent hockey coach S. Baldev Singh, who was awarded the Guru Dronacharya Award for the year 2009.

Although India will not figure in the 31st ABN AMRO Champions Trophy for Men in Melbourne in November this year, an Indian has been nominated by the FIH to officiate in the tournament. Raghun Prasad, an International Grade-I umpire, figures in the Panel of Umpires selected for the tournament.

The 12th edition of the World Cup (Men) will take place in Delhi next year. Nine out of 12 teams have already qualified. This is the second time India will have the honour to conduct the mega event in the country. The Cup's fifth edition was conducted in Bombay in 1982. In the case of 2010 BDO World Cup for Women at Rosario during Aug-Sept, 2010 a dozen teams will participate in this mega event.

As in the past, the Nehru Hockey Tournament Society will conduct a two-day Seminar-cum-Clinic for domestic Umpires. To be held in Chandigarh during November 12-14, it will have Mr. Ermanno Silvano, Chairman of the FIH Umpiring Committee, as its Course Conductor.

The Society's Quiz Programme is attracting quite a large number of people belonging to the country's hockey fraternity.

Our Website is open www.nehruhockey.com

Ram Niwas Mirdha

6th Jr Women's World Cup in Boston : (Aug 3-16, 2009)

With some indifferent display, invincible one day and very ordinary on other occasions, the Indian team could only finish ninth among the participating 16 teams in the sixth edition of Junior Women's World Cup, held in Boston (USA).

The Indian women's team made a strong beginning to its campaign by upsetting Australia, with a 3-2 verdict in their Pool D encounter. The hosts USA and Belarus were the other teams in the Pool. India kept up their winning streak with a thumping 6-0 win over Belarus in their next game. A hat-trick by Rani Devi was the highlight of Indian team's facile victory. But a 2-4 loss to the hosts upset their calculations although they aggregated six points, as did two other teams in the Pool, Australia and the USA. But on goal difference, India were pushed to the second spot, behind

Australia. In the medal round, India faltered, losing to England (0-1) and Korea (2-3) but managed a 3-1 win over Chile that enabled them to play for the 9-10 positions. India beat New Zealand 2-0, Rani Devi scoring a goal in each half, to finish ninth. It was an improvement over the previous edition in Santiago (Chile) where India finished 11 among 16 teams.

Netherlands won the gold defeating Argentina 3-0 in the final. In the semi-finals, Netherlands beat Korea 5-0 while Argentina eliminated England with a 1-0 win. Defending champions Korea earned the bronze with a 2-1 win over England. Final standings: 1. The Netherlands 2. Argentina 3. Korea 4. England 5. Australia 6. Germany 7. China 8. USA 9. India 10. New Zealand 11. South Africa 12. Chile 13. Spain 14. France 15. Belarus 16. Lithuania.

2nd GIRLS U-18 ASIA CUP HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Inconsistent performance by Indian eves

Inconsistency in performance is, of late, making things difficult for Indian hockey teams. One day they are brilliant whipping the opposition while the very next day they seem to be off colour and go down without any resistance.

It was a similar case for the under-18 girls team in the 2nd Girls U-18 Asia Cup Hockey Championship, held at Shanghai (China) during July 17-26, 2009. Seven countries took part in this prestigious Continental Championship. The teams were divided into two groups. Led by Amubi Devi Ningomban, India were placed in group-A along with hosts China, Sri Lanka and Thailand while the other group had Japan, South Korea and Pakistan.

The Indians began their campaign confidently with a smashing 20-0 verdict over Sri Lanka. But they could not put it across China in their next match and were forced to share four goals. Apparently, China, of late, has been

proving to be a thorn in India's progress on the hockey field. However, India topped their group after crushing Thailand 10-0 to finish with seven points.

India, however, failed to progress beyond the Semi-final stage where they were humbled by the Asian powerhouse South Korea. The other Semi-final saw China overwhelming Japan. In the match to decide the third position, India went down 1-3 to Japan.

The Summit clash took place between the two toppers of Asian hockey, namely South Korea, the current women's World Cup Champions, runners-up in Asia Cup and World No. 10 and China, Asian Games Champions, Olympic Games runners-up and World No. 4. The former won the title scoring 2-1 through a 'golden goal'.

Final placings : 1. South Korea, 2. China, 3. Japan, 4. India, 5. Thailand, 6. Sri Lanka and 7. Pakistan.

President Presents National Awards to Sportspersons

The Arjuna Award, the Union Government's one of the top sports honour, specifically meant for outstanding sportsmen and women of the country, has generated into a purposeful institution, established in 1961. Arjuna, the greatest warrior of an era and the mighty hero of the Mahabharata, must be turning in his heavenly abode, for, the Award is named after him, although it neither represents his valour nor his supreme excellence in the art of archery.

August 29 has been designated as the National Sports Day by the Government of India to honour the nation's greatest-ever sportsman, the late Major Dhyan Chand. To commemorate the legend's birth anniversary on this day, the President of India, of all dignitaries, presides over the presentation ceremony with all solemnity it deserves at the gorgeous Ashoka Hall in the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Upholding the great tradition, it was on this day at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, the President, Her Excellency Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil presented seven categories of National Awards to the nation's top sportsmen and women in the presence of distinguished guests and sportspersons. Arjuna Award is one of them. The President presented this Award to 15 sportsmen and women. The awardees included among others two hockey stalwarts, ace strikers Ignace Tirkey and Surinder

Kaur belonging to both men and women sections of the discipline of hockey for the year 2009.

Also honoured on this occasion was the eminent hockey coach S. Baldev Singh, who was awarded the Guru Dronacharya Award for the year 2009. This prestigious award was instituted in 1985.

The three awardees received a Statuette, a Certificate, ceremonial dress and a cash award of Rs. 5 lakh each.

31st ABN AMRO CHAMPIONS TROPHY (MEN)

The 31st edition of the ABN AMRO Champions Trophy hockey tournament for men will be held at Melbourne (Australia) from 28th November to 6th December, 2009. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has released the names of six participating teams. They are Australia (hosts and defending Champions), Germany (2008 Olympic Champions and 2006 World Cup Champions), Spain (runners-up in 2008 Olympics), Netherlands (4th in 2008 Olympics), Great Britain (5th in 2008 Olympics) and Korea (6th in 2008 Olympics).

This Six-nation tournament is structured in the round-robin format, concluding in the final matches determined by the final rankings of the competing teams. With no World Cup scheduled for 2009, this trophy will be

the premier hockey event for the year as also the first elite international hockey event since the Beijing Olympics in 2008. The last edition of this trophy was held at Rotterdam (Netherlands) during June 21-29, 2008 where Australia crushed Spain 4-1 to win the 30th edition.

India won the third position in the 4th edition at Amsterdam in 1982. It stood fourth in the next five editions and stood fifth and sixth on three occasions each. Germany will open its campaign on 28th November when they meet England. Hosts Australia face Korea on the same day.

India's eminent umpire Raghu Prasad, an International Grade-I umpire, has been nominated by the FIH to officiate in this tournament.

HERO HONDA WORLD CUP (MEN) 2010

Nine teams have qualified so far

The 12th edition will witness a dozen top teams of the world competing in the Hero Honda FIH World Cup (Men) to be held at the State-of-the-art Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi during February 28-March 13 next year.

Nine teams have already qualified for this prestigious event. They are 1. India (hosts), 2. Canada (Champions of the 3rd Men's Pan American Cup), 3. Korea (Champions of the 8th Men's Asia Cup), 4. South Africa (Champions of the Africa Cup of Nations, 2009) 5. Australia (Champions of the 6th Men's Oceania Cup), 6. England (Champions of the 12th Men's EuroHockey Nations Championship), 7. Germany (Silver medalist of the 12th Men's EuroHockey Nations Championship), 8. Netherlands (Bronze medalist of the 12th Men's EuroHockey Nations Championship), 9. Spain (4th ranked team of the 12th Men's EuroHockey Nations Championship).

The remaining three teams will be filled through qualifying tournaments in October-November this year.

They are 1. FIH World Cup Qualifier at Lille (France) during October 31 - November 8 where Pakistan, Japan, France, Poland, Russia and Italy will participate; 2. BDO FIH Men's World Cup qualifier at Invercargill (New Zealand) from November 7-15 in which New Zealand, China, Malaysia, Austria, Scotland and Wales take part; 3. BDO FIH Men's World Cup Qualifier at Quilmes (Argentina) during November 14-22 where Belgium, Argentina, Ireland, USA, Czech Republic and Chile fight it out.

Incidentally, this is the second time in its 39-year-old history that this prestigious Cup will be held in India. Its fifth edition was conducted in Bombay in 1982. India's lone title win was in 1975 at the 3rd edition in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and finished second at its second edition at Amsterdam (Holland) in 1973 and third at the inaugural edition at Barcelona (Spain) in 1971.

Germany will defend the title as they won the last edition defeating Australia 4-3 in the final held at Monchengladbach (Germany).

2010 BDO World Cup Hockey for Women

The 12th edition of the BDO World Cup Hockey Championship for Women will take place at Rosario (Argentina) during August 30- September 12, 2010.

Till now seven nations have already qualified for this 12-nation elite Championship. Only five vacancies are to be filled through qualifying tournaments. The seven teams that have already qualified are 1. Argentina (hosts and Champions of the 3rd Women's Pan American Cup; 2. South Africa (Champions of the Africa Cup of Nations, 2009); 3. New Zealand (Champions of the 6th Women's Oceania Cup); 4. Netherlands (Champions of the 9th Women's EuroHockey Nations Championship); 5. Germany (silver medallist of the 9th Women's EuroHockey Nations Championship); 6. England (Bronze

medallist of the 9th Women's EuroHockey Nations Championship) and 7. Spain (4th ranked team of the 9th Women's EuroHockey Nations Championship).

The gold and the silver medallist teams of the 7th Women's Asia Cup, which is scheduled to be held at Bangkok (Thailand) during October 30 -November 8, 2009, will qualify for the 2010 BDO World Cup Hockey Championship for Women. The rest of the three teams will have to come through the World Cup Qualifiers.

In this 12th edition, the Netherlands will defend the title. They defeated Australia in the final of the last edition held at Club de Campo, Madrid (Spain) on October 8, 2006. India stood 11th, just one position above South Africa.

Seminar-Cum-Clinic for Umpires

In its continuous endeavour to improve the standard of hockey umpiring in the country, the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society will conduct a Seminar-cum-Clinic at Chandigarh during November 12-14 this year when the Junior and Senior Nehru Hockey tournaments are scheduled to take place.

Mr. Ermanno Silvano, Chairman of the FIH Umpiring Committee will be the Course Conductor. The country's 30 top umpires, both men and women, will be taking part in this Seminar-cum-Clinic. It is for the third time that the Nehru Hockey Society is organising such a programme to develop the skills and technical knowledge of domestic umpires.



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DO YOU KNOW?

Answer if you Know

The Screening Committee of the Nehru Hockey Tournament Society's Quiz Programme is glad to announce the names of persons, who have won the gorgeous RAKSHAK track-suit prizes for the quarter July-September, 2009. They are : Shri Raghu Prasad, Shri A.K. Mathur and Shri Surender Khanna.

The Two questions were :

1. Which match was the first Olympic Men's match to be decided after a penalty stroke competition?

Answer : Poland defeated France in Munich 1972 for the 11th place.

2. Hockey first appeared at the Olympic Games at London in 1908. Who were the participating teams?

Answer : England, France, Germany, Ireland; Scotland and Wales.

Given below are the two questions to be answered.

Question 1 : Name the Indian father and son duo who had played in the Olympic Hockey Tournament and in which year?

Question 2 : Who scored the fastest goal in the Olympic Hockey Tournament?

The answers should reach the Society through e-mail (nehruhockey64@hotmail.com) or (kukoowalia@usa.net) on or before the 15th of November, 2009. The decision of the Screening Committee is final and binding for all.