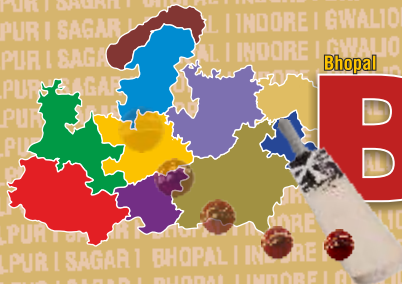


Message from Shri Sharad Pawar
Articles by ...
Shri Kant Swarup Bhatnagar
Capt. Manohar Sharma
Prof. S.P. Chaturvedi
Shri Shravanbhai Patel
Shri Vijay Nayudu



Big RUN'S
CRICKET
Bhopal Gwalior Ujjain Jabalpur
Rewa N'pura Sagar
Chambal Shahdol

Year 2 | Issue 4 | April 2014

MPCA Newsletter

January - March 2014

BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION

C S Nayudu

18.4.1914 - 22.11.2002

M M Jagdale

25.4.1914 - 13.1.1990

S Mushtaq Ali

17.12.1914 - 18.6.2005

SPECIAL ISSUE

in the memory of C S Nayudu, M M Jagdale & S Mushtaq Ali



C.S. Nayudu, S. Mushtaq Ali and M.M. Jagdale with Maharaja Yeshwant Rao Holkar

President's Message...

Dear Members of MPCA and all Well Wishers..

I am glad, as usual, to reach you through the eighth edition of the newsletter of MPCA. Two years back when we started the publication, there were some concerns about the efforts required to maintain the consistency in this endeavour. I appreciate the work done by the editorial panel to publish the magazine on a regular basis. The newsletter has been well balanced covering the current activities, proposed endeavours, history of cricket in our region, acknowledging the contributors for their support to the game, cherishing the old memories and also touching the personal achievements of our members, players, staff and others from the cricket fraternity.



Celebrating the Birth Centenary of three of our former cricketers - CS Nayudu, MM Jagdale and S Mushtaq Ali, is a humble effort on our part to pay a tribute to these cricketers for their immense contribution to cricket and MPCA.

The calendar published by MPCA is widely appreciated. To compile such a diverse information is a tough task. The calendar is surely a piece of art to be preserved for the coming generation.

The next activity of the series is the cricket quiz and the oration in the memory of the trio. While the quiz will be an opportunity for brushing up our memory and reliving the glorious moments of Indian cricket, the oration will attract the attention of cricket aficionados and supplement their desire of collecting information and anecdotes related to the earlier era of cricket and cricketers.

Speaking about the core cricket activities, the end of exams would make the upcoming players enjoy their field ventures. Talent scouting efforts, Coaching camps, tournaments will attract aspiring cricketers. Continuous efforts, perseverance and hard work will surely yield excellent results. Purposeful practice and hunger to excel are the key factors for players development.

MPCA is always keen to provide a conducive environment for development of cricket. Our multi faceted efforts in this direction are being appreciated all across. You shall be pleased to note that the Bangladesh Cricket Board has approached us for some quality practice games at our end. This confidence on part of a National Board speaks about the good reputation of MPCA. Our upcoming players have toiled hard to achieve such confidence. We are hopeful of very promising scenario in the near future.

I am keen to be with you during the cricket quiz and I do hope you shall attend the quiz to support and promote the activities undertaken by MPCA during the Birth Centenary year.

With regards

Jyotiraditya M. Scindia

BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION

C S Nayudu

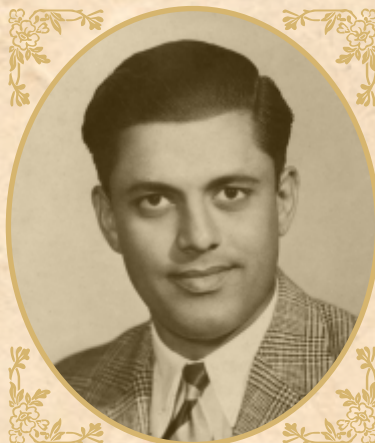
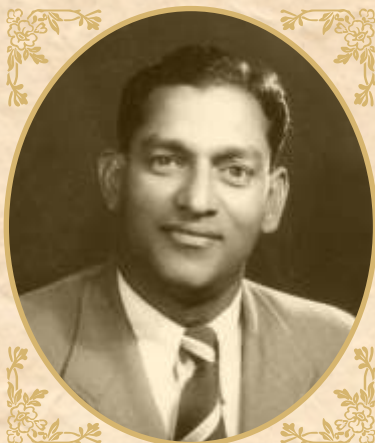
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A Message from *Shri Sharad Pawar*



SHRI SHARAD PAWAR

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE &
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FORMER PRESIDENT - ICC

FORMER PRESIDENT - BCCI

The achievements of Shri C.S. Nayudu, Capt. Syed Mushtaq Ali and Major M.M. Jagdale, whose birth centenary year coincides in the same year i.e. 2014, should be celebrated and their accomplishments cherished by all.

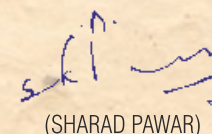
Their exploits in the cricket fields during the period 1941- to 1955, had brought many laurels to the Holkar Cricket Association, presently known as the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association.

I am glad to know that MPCA will be celebrating the Birth Centenary Year of all these three stalwarts and will publish a souvenir booklet to commemorate the occasion.

The Holkar Team participated competitively in the Ranji Trophy Tournament for 14 long years and amassed four titles and finished as second in the tournaments in another six finals, speaks of the creditable performance of the Holkar Team and these three stalwarts in particular.

The celebrations and the souvenir will be a fitting tribute to these champions who through their devotion, talent and contributions, upheld the sporting spirit of this great game.

I wish the Centenary Celebrations a grand success.



(SHARAD PAWAR)

BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION



Kant Swarup Bhatnagar (88)

KS Bhatnagar, IAS (Retd.) is blessed with multifaceted talent, having excelled in studies as well as sports. He had represented Agra University in Tennis & Cricket, and later served the Government of India as an IAS Officer with distinction.

He played for Holkar Team in Ranji Trophy during the period 1947-48 to 1951-52. He is one of those who had the privilege of watching the great Holkar Team from very close quarter.

It is fascinating to recall the days of the Holkar era and my association with the great personalities who dominated the very sphere of the game.

I have seen many great players during the last 7 odd decades, but none can be compared with the players of Holkar team and I am fortunate to not only be able to witness their exploits on the field but also I was a part of the team on quite a few occasion, especially the three whose birth centenary falls this year.

MM JAGDALE : I had known Balasaheb Jagdale since my early college days, dating back to 1942-43 season, and it was through a common friend that I came to know about him.

He helped me to understand the game of cricket. I am deliberately using the word 'understand' because there is much more in cricket than just playing it and it is this advice that made me a keen student of the game.

Later, as a member of the Holkar team (my playing career was short – 1947/48 to 1951/52) I shared the ups and downs in the game with Balasaheb and quite often we were allotted berth in the same compartment when on tours. This gave further opportunities to develop a close bond of friendship. His close association with Osterley Middlesex in late 30's made me understand the setup, approach and manner of English cricket, then our model.

Later in 1986 I succeeded him as Secretary of the Devi Alhilyabai Charities (Khasgi & Alampur Trusts) which opened up a new area of his personality. The Zeal, Zest and integrity he brought to bear in his task, was something to be proud about.

It has all along been the most joyous association in our lives.

CS HAYUDU : I came to know CS rather late in life, more closely when I was playing for Holkar team. To us youngsters freshly selected in the team he was model for depth of concentration and excellence in physical fitness. Although said to be a slow bowler, he was medium slow rather a pure slow bowler and the googly was a real googly - completely disguised and unreadable.

I was his compartment mate when travelling to Jorhat, Assam with the Holkar side. The slow train put us in Nagpur after 22 hours and he seemed to have gone stiff. I along with 3-4 junior players we did fielding cum catching on the Wardha Railway station platform where our train was held up due to a crossing. We travelled for the next two days and he felt stiff. So to loosen an otherwise stiff body, we did some pull-ups, holding on to the hat rack in the compartment. Finally when CS did his share the hat rack came down. A stickler for physical fitness he was a model to follow.

Playing cricket without being physically fit, nay tough, was unthinkable. But he was a model and never expected others to do what he might be not able to do himself.

A rare model indeed....

MUSHTAQ ALI : It was in July 1936 that I realized the greatness of Mushtaq Ali when at Manchester facing a deficit of more than 350 runs that Mushtaq scored a scintillating 103 in partnership with Vijay Merchant to put on 203 runs for the first wicket. Then I was a school going boy at Nagpur. With passage of time we

BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION

came to Indore and then I had a glimpse of him in early 40's

I realized his greatness and deep desire to help younger generation of cricketer when batting with him in Colombo in 1951. In a rain spoiled wicket I could not make out anything when the fast bowler were on rampage. After crossing over to the bowlers end I asked for help and for the next 3-4 overs he faced the bowling asking me to observe pace of the wicket and swing. I survived.. and survived to be a different cricketer with some sense of confidence and greater understanding of such conditions. Something I could have never learned in any other way.

In 1945-46 during Australian series the Australian Services played at Delhi. He hit up a hundred perhaps before lunch and Lindsay Hassett, the Australian

captain, described him as a "first class awkward batsmen against whom the bowler knows not what to bowl or where to pitch". That seems his unorthodox style and the word 'first class' is a pointer to his class of batsmanship.

My one regret has been that he could not, owing to personal reasons, make a the tour to Australia in 1948. They would have watched an 'Oriental Version of Fabulous Cricket'.

His style was unique, awesome but thrilling and absolutely fascinating. To put in words of a known urdu poet -

“यही थी उसकी हस्ती, और इसी में थी उसकी मस्ती....”

This was his personality
and in it lay his beauty/ grace.



Vijay Merchant and S. Mushtaq Ali put on a record 203 runs opening partnership in the match against England at Manchester in 1936.

BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Capt. Manohar Sharma (Former Ranji Trophy Cricketer & Vice President - MPCA)



Maj. M.M. Jagdale :

I recollect as a child way back in 1955 when Maj. M.M. Jagdale, tall, well built, handsome, graceful cricketer in his white dress driving black Austin'8 Car came to Maharaja Shivraji Rao High School ground to play a cricket match. I was staying just opposite the ground. Holkar Cricketer Dhiru Bhai Parekh my immediate neighbour was also going for the match. I, as young lad, also went with him and sat under a tamarind tree to watch the game.

A decent crowd gathered to witness the match. The clapping started as soon as Maj. Jagdale came to bat. A few minutes game and spectators started shouting "we want sixer". As a true sportsman Balasaheb, as he was fondly called, obliged us and hit a six in the same side where we were sitting.

Similar situation was seen by me when I conducted Monsoon Cricket Tournament at Chimman Bagh ground and Balasaheb went on scoring a few huge sixes.

On Yeshwant Club ground also, Balasaheb always came with flying colors as far as batting is concerned and could hit all the bowlers for a six at will, including the incomparable Vinoo Mankad. It was a treat to watch him bat. I saw Balasaheb, with a reasonable run

up bowling the new ball with fantastic out swing. A cricketer with good height, long hands and big palm. When I shook hand it was a very different feeling. He always appreciated my performances, whenever I did well on the ground. He went all out to make me the member of Central Gymkhana Club. I owe a lot to respected Balasaheb for what all he did for me. It is indeed unforgettable.

Capt. Syed Mushtaq Ali :

Everyone knows about Mustaq Ali's cricketing caliber. What I would like to share is personal relations and a few memorable incidents.

He was our Ranji Trophy selector during 1957-58. A trial match was on at Yeshwant Club ground. The car Morris – black colour in which



Mustaq Ali came to the ground and parked it near the side screen. When I was batting it so happened that a couple of shots of mine landed just close to the car. I was warned by him not to hit the ball near his car, otherwise I will not be selected. Even though a few shots went near the car, I was picked up by him to play Ranji Trophy as a school boy. It was his magnanimity.

In a Ranji Trophy match at Udaipur against Rajasthan Cricket Association, which had stalwarts of yester-

BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION

year i.e., Rusi Surati, G.R. Sundaram, Raj Singh Dungarpur, Saleem Durrani, Subhash Gupte and all time great Vinoo Mankad, I as an opening batsman could score a century before lunch. This was covered in WISDEN. I remember that when we came back from Udaipur Syed Mushtaq Ali came close to me congratulating and hugged me which speaks volumes about the love he showered on me.

Capt.C.S.Nayudu :

My first Ranji match I played when C.S. Nayudu was playing for U.P. Cricket Association. The match was at Green Park, Kanpur. As a young cricketer what I saw is still very fresh in my mind. MPCA was fielding and our Captain C.T. Sarwate took four quick wickets with impressive bowling analysis. The middle order of UPCA went for a six. At this stage C.S. Nayudu changed his batting order from No.10 to No.7 and came to bat. He was very hard hitting batsman. Next over when C.T. Sarwate delivered a flighted ball, C.S. jumped out and hit a hard one on the ankle of Sri Sarwate, which resulted in bringing the bowler to the pavilion. UPCA could manage to score the required runs in that match.

In 1960 when Pakistan Cricket team, led by Fazal Mahmood, played a three day match against MPCA. C.S. Nayudu was leading MPCA. All time great Haneef Mohammad and his younger brother Mustaq Mohammad were batting and C.S. Nayudu bowling without mid on/mid off. C.S. Nayudu could stop all the shots not allowing the batsman to score runs in that area. Age was no bar for him – he could perform well at that advance age, putting youngsters to shame.

What I like in C.S. Nayudu is that he was very serious on the ground while off the field he was very jovial and



S. Mushtaq Ali
steps on for batting at
Yeshwant Club
Ground, Indore

used to enjoy our jokes, mimicry, dances and also participate equally. In his presence we could take liberty of such nature.

Even though these three greats are no more, but the memories are as fresh as ever in our mind. Each minute we spent with them was enjoyable, eventful and memorable. I feel that I am one of the most fortunate to have taken their blessings and guidance – which made me a decent cricketer and above all a humble human being.



"CS" takes
his stance.

BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION

प्रो. सूर्यप्रकाश चतुर्वेदी



उनके साथी, समकालीन दोस्त, उनसे छोटे और उनसे बड़े तथा उनके प्रशंसक सभी उन्हें स्नेह व सम्मान से बाला साहब के उद्बोधन से सम्बोधित करते थे। एक हरफनमौला यानी ऑल राउण्डर खिलाड़ी के रूप में वे होलकर टीम के विश्वसनीय सदस्य रहे। सीधे हाथ के आक्रामक शैली से खेलने वाले बल्लेबाज के रूप में कभी उन्हें शीर्ष क्रम पर तो कभी मध्य क्रम पर खेलने के लिए भेजा जाता था। और सीधे हाथ के गेंदबाज के रूप में वे नई गेंद से मध्यम गति की ओर पुरानी गेंद से ऑफ स्पिन गेंदबाजी करते थे। अतः एक खिलाड़ी के तौर पर उनकी टीम में महत्वपूर्ण जगह थी।

वे 64 प्रथम श्रेणी मैच खेले और उन्होंने 2763 रन बनाए तथा 72 विकेट लिए। 49 रणजी मैचों में उनके खाते में 2222 रन दर्ज हैं। उनके अविस्मरणीय प्रदर्शनों में 1945-46 के रणजी मैच में मैसूर और कर्नाटक के खिलाफ होलकर के जिन 6 बल्लेबाजों ने एक ही पारी में सर्वाधिक शतकों का कीर्तिमान बनाया था, उनमें बाला साहब के 164 रनों की पारी भी थी। इसके अलावा 1947-48 के रणजी फायनल में मुंबई के खिलाफ 58, फिर 1949-50 के रणजी फायनल में बड़ौदा के खिलाफ 52 रन व गेंदबाजी में 7.4-2-16-2 का विश्लेषण, 1951-52 के रणजी फायनल में मुंबई के खिलाफ पहली पारी में 59 रन महत्वपूर्ण थे। 1944-45 में मुंबई के खिलाफ उनकी 43 रनों की छोटी पारी भी यादगार थी।

यदि खिलाड़ी के रूप में वे अपने जीवन की पहली पारी खेलें तो प्रशिक्षक व प्रशासक के रूप में खेली गई पारी उनके जीवन की दूसरी पारी थी। और यह दूसरी पारी उनकी पहली पारी से कहीं ज्यादा सार्थक,

एम.एम. जगदाले



उपयोगी, परिणामपरक व महत्वपूर्ण थी। प्रथम श्रेणी क्रिकेट से निवृत्ति के बाद वे सेंट्रल जिमखाना के लिए स्थानीय स्पर्धाओं व अभ्यास मैचों में खेलते रहे। इसी के साथ वे नए युवाओं को प्रोत्साहन व मार्गदर्शन भी देते रहे। तब इन्दौर में सर्व मंगला स्पर्धा तथा गर्मियों में सुबह खेली जाने वाली स्पर्धा की धूम थी। बाला साहब खुद भी खेलते थे तथा स्कूली बच्चों की टीम बनाकर उसे भी खिलाते थे। वे साउथ तुकोगंज में रहते थे और उनके घर के सामने श्री मध्य भारत हिन्दी साहित्य समिति का पिछला हिस्सा पूरी तरह खुला हुआ था। उस मैदान को समतल करवाकर वहां वे स्कूली बच्चों को खिलाया करते थे व उन्हें आवश्यकतानुसार उपयोगी सलाह भी देते थे। उस दौरान उभरकर सामने आए युवा खिलाड़ियों में बंडू खेर, मनोहर शर्मा, अशोक जगदाले, भगवानदास, रमेश भाटिया, संजय जगदाले व मंजूर हसन प्रमुख थे। ये सब बाला साहब के साथ खेलकर ही तैयार हुए व फिर मध्यप्रदेश की टीम में खेले। लगातार बरसों तक खिलाड़ियों को तराशने व उन्हें मार्गदर्शन देते रहने के अलावा वे विश्वविद्यालयीन टीम को चुनने व उसे तैयार करने का काम भी करते रहे। मुझे उनके सम्पर्क में आने का सौभाग्य तो 1957 में ही मिल गया था, लेकिन निकटता तभी बढ़ी जब मैं उनके साथ विश्वविद्यालयीन चयन समिति का सदस्य बना।

जी.एस.आई.टी.एस. के प्रो. भिड़े व क्रिश्चियन कॉलेज के प्रो. सुशील कुमार तथा होलकर कॉलेज के प्रो. विश्वप्रकाश विजयवर्गीय व मैं बाला साहब के साथी सदस्य थे। उनका उत्साह व उनकी समझ का हमें बहुत लाभ मिला। हमारी टीम एक बार तो रोहिंगटन बारिया ट्रॉफी अंतर विश्वविद्यालय के फायनल में भी पहुंची। हम पश्चिम क्षेत्र विजेता रहे व हर बार पश्चिम क्षेत्र के फायनल में पहुंचते रहे। लोग हैरान थे कि जिस प्रदेश की रणजी टीम मध्य क्षेत्र की सबसे कमजोर टीम मानी जाती है वहीं की एक विश्वविद्यालयीन टीम अखिल भारतीय स्तर पर इतना अच्छा प्रदर्शन कर रही है। तभी उनके पुत्र संजय ने एक क्लब बनाकर जिमखाना

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मैदान पर अभ्यास शुरू किया। मैं भी उसका सक्रिय सदस्य था। हम लोगों ने सर फ्रैंक वॉरेल के नाम पर आमंत्रित लीग क्रिकेट स्पर्धा शुरू की। बाला साहब पूरी सक्रियता से हमारे साथ थे। उन्होंने सतीश मल्होत्रा से कहकर ट्रॉफी का भी इंतजाम किया। मैच अभ्यास देने के लिहाज से हमने विश्वविद्यालयीन टीम को भी उसमें खिलाना शुरू किया। कालांतर में यंग पैंफर्स नाम का यह क्लब क्रिकेट क्लब ऑफ इन्दौर में तब्दील हो गया। फ्रैंक वॉरेल स्पर्धा 25 साल तक चली हर बार पुरस्कार वितरण के लिए हमने या तो किसी खिलाड़ी को बुलाया या फिर किसी खेल प्रशासक को। एक बार मास्टर चंदगीराम से भी पुरस्कार वितरण करवाया। पर मुझे खुशी है कि हमने स्पर्धा का पहला पुरस्कार इन्दौर में क्रिकेट स्पर्धा की नींव डालने वाले जी.आर. पण्डित के हाथों दिलवाया। और अंतिम पुरस्कार वितरण नरी कंट्रेक्टर ने किया।

बाला साहब क्रिकेट विशेषकर विश्वविद्यालयीन क्रिकेट में कितनी रुचि लेते थे यह इसी से प्रकट होता है कि वे हमसे कहते थे कि यदि टीम फायनल में पहुंचती है तो वे जरूर मैच देखने आएंगे। वे कोल्हापुर भी आए व बड़ौदा भी। उनके मार्गदर्शन में कई अच्छे खिलाड़ी तैयार हुए और फिर वे बरसों तक मध्यप्रदेश के लिए खेले। मध्यप्रदेश के चयनकर्ता होने के बाद वे मध्यप्रदेश क्रिकेट एसोसिएशन के सचिव बने। और उन्होंने मुझे भी इन्दौर संभागीय क्रिकेट एसोसिएशन का सचिव बनने के लिए प्रेरित किया। उनके साथ व निकटता ने मुझमें अच्छा क्रिकेट समझने की दृष्टि



बांये से दांये : सय्यद मुश्ताक अली, बालासाहेब जगदाले एवं खंडू रांगणेकर

विकसित की। उनकी नज़र बहुत तेज़ व बारीक थी। वे गेंद पर तेज़ नज़र रखते थे और कोई घटना या परिवर्तन उनकी आंखों से ओझल नहीं हो पाता था। तभी तो वे पल भर में एक नज़र में खिलाड़ी को भांप जाते थे व मन ही मन उसके स्तर कर मूल्यांकन कर लेते थे। घंटों तक नेट में खिलाड़ियों से अभ्यास कराना तो वे ठीक मानते थे पर मूल्यांकन के लिए वे इतना समय लेना वे समय की बर्बादी बताते थे। और मैंने देखा कि उनका आकलन कभी ग़लत नहीं हुआ।

वे खुद तो सिखाने व दूसरों को खेलते हुए देखने में समय बिताते ही थे, अन्य आयोजकों की भी भरपूर मदद करते थे। वे कहते भी थे कि खुद के खेल लेने में कम समय लगता है पर दूसरों को खिलवाने में बहुत समय व्यतीत होता है। और हर चयनकर्ता व आयोजक को इसके लिए मानसिक रूप से तैयार होना चाहिए। उन्होंने रेडियो के लिए विशेषज्ञ कमेंट्रेटर की भी भूमिका निभाई। पर इसके पहले वे राष्ट्रीय चयनकर्ता बने। उन्हीं के समय अजीत वाडेकर की कप्तानी में भारत ने वेस्टइंडीज जाकर वेस्टइंडीज को व फिर इंग्लैंड में इंग्लैंड को हरा कर पहली बार विदेशी दौरे में लगातार 2 शृंखलाएं जीतीं। बाला साहब के पास क्रिकेट के हिस्से व घटनाओं का बहुमूल्य खज़ाना था। और वे उन्हें सुनाते भी बड़े रोचक अंदाज में थे।

वे इंग्लैंड भी गए थे और वहां वे सी.एस. नायक इंडियन को जिताने की ओर से खेले। उन्होंने फ्रेंकवली की आकर्षक बल्लेबाजी भी देखी और वहां के खेल पत्रकारों के संगठन राइटर्स क्लब का काम भी देखा था। इन्दौर में उसी की तर्ज पर उन्होंने खेल पत्रकारों का संगठन बनाना चाहा। उसकी शुरुआत तो हुई पर अंत में वह इस्पोरा यानी इन्दौर स्पोर्ट्स राइटर्स एसोसिएशन में बदल गया। बाला साहब बताते थे कि कभी इंग्लैंड में पेशेवर खिलाड़ियों को हिकारत से व नफरत किया। खिलाड़ियों को एकजुट से देखा जाता था पर देखते ही देखते क्रिकेट में व्यावसायिकता बढ़ गई।

1959-60 में पाकिस्तानी टीम के भारत दौरे के दौरान जब टीम इन्दौर आई तो बाला साहब ने क्रिकेट प्रेमी पत्रकार प्रभाष जोशी के साथ मिलकर हिन्दी का पहला स्कोर बोर्ड बनाया था। 'नईदुनिया' ने उसे छापा था। बाला साहब ने होलकर युगीन क्रिकेट पर 'नईदुनिया' के लिए कुछ लेख भी लिखे थे।

बाला साहब चूंकि होलकर पेलेस में रहे थे। अतः वे यह अच्छी तरह जानते थे कि किससे किस तरह बात करना चाहिए। स्वभाव से विनम्र व मृदुभाषी बाला साहब सबसे मिल जुलकर बात करते थे। मैंने उन्हें कभी

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किसी से किसी की चीज के लिए इनकार करते नहीं देखा। हमेशा सबकी मदद करने वाले दरियादिल बाला साहब तकलीफ उठाकर भी यहां वहां चले जाते थे। वे क्रिकेट के अलावा टेनिस व फुटबॉल के भी अच्छे खिलाड़ी रहे थे और खुद मराठा होते हुए उन्होंने इन्दौर के मशहूर कॉम परिवार की विमला कॉम से प्रेम विवाह किया था। विमलाजी भी खुद टेनिस की अच्छी खिलाड़ी थीं पर उनका शौक अकादमिक था। वे अंग्रेजी, हिन्दी व अर्थशास्त्र में एम.ए. थीं तथा इन्दौर के प्रबुद्धजनों में उनकी गणना होती थी। उन्होंने अपने पिता की स्मृति में स्कूल की स्थापना की जो आज स्कूल के साथ-साथ कॉलेज स्तर पर व्यावसायिकता व मार्केटिंग के इस दौर में आदर्श शिक्षा दे रहा है।

बाला साहब को 2 बार दिल का दौरा पड़ चुका था। अतः विमलाजी उनको इधर-उधर लगातार यात्रा करने से रोकती थीं। वे सिगरेट भी बहुत पीते थे। विमलाजी ने उसे रोका भी। पर बाला साहब घर में सिगरेट न पीते हुए मोटरकार में सीट के नीचे छिपाकर रखते थे और मौका पड़ने पर पीते रहते थे। एक बार मैंने भी रोका तो बोले जब खेलता था तब डर के खेला नहीं अब डर के सिगरेट कैसे छोड़ दूं।

उनका देहांत बड़ी दुःखद परिस्थिति में हुआ। मेडिकल कॉलेज, भोपाल के छात्र उन्हें अपने खेल आयोजन के पुरस्कार वितरण में आमंत्रित करने के लिए आए। मैं भी वहीं बैठा हुआ था। इस पर विमलाजी ने कहा कि उन्हें इस तरह बाहर नहीं जाना चाहिए। बाला साहब बोले कि ये भी अपने ही बच्चे हैं और डॉक्टर पढ़ रहे हैं अतः ये मेरी अच्छी तरह से

देखभाल करेंगे, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं हुआ। भोपाल में उन्होंने बाला साहब को एक होटल की ऊपरी मंजिल पर ठहराया। वे चल के ही ऊपर गए। लड़के सुबह आने का कहकर चले गए। रात को ही बाला साहब की तबियत बिगड़ी। उन्होंने मैनेजर से घर के फोन नम्बर पर सूचना देने को कहा व भोपाल के भी कुछ नम्बर दिए। देर अधिक हो चुकी थी। अतः उसने घर पर तो सूचना दी और उन्हें वह अस्पताल ले गया। वहीं उनका देहावसान हो गया। किसी को खबर तक नहीं हो पाई। सुबह लड़के उन्हें लेने आए तब उन्हें बताया गया। घबराकर वे अस्पताल पहुंचे व वहां अफरा-तफरी मच गई। कहीं कुछ पता नहीं चल रहा था कि बाला साहब की देह कहां है। भोपाल के अनेक राजनेता व अफसर जमा हो गए। घर से भी संजय पहुंच गए थे। तभी किसी ने बताया कि उनका पार्थिव शरीर कहां रखा हुआ है। एक जाने-माने व्यक्ति जिसकी समाज में इतनी प्रतिष्ठा थी, के जीवन का अंत ऐसी परिस्थिति में हुआ, यह त्रासदीपूर्ण था।

इन्दौर व मध्यप्रदेश ने ही नहीं देश ने भी एक अच्छा क्रिकेट प्रशासक व जानकार खो दिया। उनके दो बेटे अशोक व संजय मध्यप्रदेश व मध्यक्षेत्र के लिए खेले। संजय, तो मध्यप्रदेश क्रिकेट एसोसिएशन के सचिव फिर भारतीय जूनियर व सीनियर टीम के चयनकर्ता व बोर्ड के सचिव भी बने। अपने पिता की ही तरह उन्होंने भी युवा खिलाड़ियों को प्रशिक्षित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।

बाला साहब कर्नल नायडू को अपना आदर्श मानते थे और सी.एस. नायडू व मुश्ताक अली के हमउम्र थे तथा ये तीनों साथ-साथ खेलकर बड़े हुए थे। उन्होंने व विमलाजी ने अपने परिवार को बहुत अच्छे संस्कार दिए। वे दोनों शालीनता की मिसाल थे। उनके जाने से इन्दौर की एक शख्सियत बिदा हो गई।

उनके परिवार में क्रिकेट की परम्परा रही। उनके बड़े बेटे अशोक मध्यप्रदेश टीम ही नहीं मध्यक्षेत्र के भी सफल ऑल राउण्डर रहे और मझले बेटे संजय जगदाले भी मध्यप्रदेश व मध्यक्षेत्र के लिए एक ऑल राउण्डर के तौर पर खेले। बाला साहब इतने शालीन व पाक साफ थे कि जब भी उनके बेटों का नाम विश्व-विद्यालयीन टीम में चयन के लिए आता था वे मीटिंग से यह कहकर बाहर चले जाते थे कि फैसला अन्य चयनकर्ता करें। ऐसे लोग भला दुनिया में कितने हैं?



सी.के. नायडू की कप्तानी में होल्कर संघ

सय्यद मुश्ताक अली- खड़े हुए बांये से तीसरे, बालासाहेब जगदाले - खड़े हुए बांये से आखरी, सी.एस. नायडू - बैठे हुए बांये से आखरी

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Shravan Patel (Former Ranji Trophy Cricketer & Former President of MPCA)



Standing Tall

I am extremely delighted to know that the MPCA has resolved to celebrate birth centenary of three outstanding cricketers who served the cause of cricket and MPCA for many years.

I have had the singular honour to have learn my cricket under these three giants of yester-years.

I very vividly recall some incidents in my life which I would like to share with my friends.

As a child, my father late Shri Parmanandbhai Patel, greatly encouraged me to take to cricket. In my family all members were great cricket lovers. My father himself was a Ranji Trophy player and later became the President of MPCA and thus was closely associated with cricket activities in Madhya Pradesh.



"CS" and "CK" at Bombay Gymkhana during the First Test Match played in India in December 1933

Once the great C.K. Nayadu visited our house in Jabalpur. It was a great occasion in my life. He was invited for an evening tea. I was throughout present in the sitting room while my father and C.K. chatted on cricket and its management in Madhya Pradesh. This is the story of late 50's when I was just a small lad. Suddenly the great C.K turned to me and instructed me to get my bat. He asked me how would I stroke a ball, really hard. I was completely perplexed and showed him different positions for stroke making but he was not satisfied. Eventually he took the bat from me and said "you would strike the ball thus - with your full might as you fell a tree!" This sentence I have never forgotten even till this age.

C.K. Nayadu's brother C.S. Nayadu was a great competitor. As a budding cricketer and Ranji probable I was taking training on the field in Indore from C.S as my coach. While fielding we used to dread his deadly throws in catching practice. Once one of our colleagues suffered a fracture in his finger owing to his hard throw. He was a very tough task master and a man of very few words.

Perhaps very few people would be aware of the fact that the only three-days international cricket match between the touring West Indies Cricket Team (under the captaincy of Alexander) and Central Zone was played in Jabalpur in 1957-58 which was organized by my late father late Shri Parmanandbhai Patel and N. Dattatraya Rao along with Jabalpur cricketers. As a lad when I saw the run up of medium pacer J. Taylor in the Garrison Ground of Jabalpur I was so thrilled that on the same day I decided that I would become a

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medium pace bowler, but later on I turned an off spinner. The only other international match in Jabalpur was organized by me in late 80's between the Ole Collegians of Australia and Star Cricketers of India.

Maj. M.M Jagdale in addition to being an accomplished cricketer was also a great gentleman; extremely soft spoken; very considerate and articulate and had keen insight into the game and could instantly discover talent when he saw one. He also held key posts in the BCCI as its selector and secretary. He was very closely associated with the welfare and activities of MPCA.

I also had the opportunity to play with his two illustrious sons – Ashok Jagdale and Sanjay Jagdale. Ashok according to me was the most talented and gifted cricketer of my times. He could have walked into the Indian side but alas the hard work and repeated practice which is extremely essential at the highest level was lacking in this mercurial cricketer. He was sheer talents. He could bat middle order, he could open the innings; he could swing the ball as a medium pacer both ways and when situation warranted he could flick his fingers to bowl unplayable leg spinners. I would be inclined to compare him with Salim Durrani who also played India with sheer talents.

Sanjay Jagdale younger brother of Ashok was a complete opposite of Ashok. Sanjay took his cricket very seriously and was totally dedicated to the game. He played central zone by putting in hard work and eventually retired as cricket promoter and administrator. I still very clearly remember when late Shrimant Madhav Rao Ji Scindia President of MPCA on phone asked me to name my choice between two candidates to take over as Secretary of MPCA, and our choice fell unanimously on Sanjay. Eventually this proved to be the right choice because Sanjay went up from merit to merit to achieve the highest level of positions and reputation in the BCCI.

Our former president late Shrimant Madhav Rao Scindia was a Cricket enthusiast; his love for this game was unmatched. He had so much of faith and confidence in me that on every big decision making he would invariably call me up on phone and take my opinion.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that looking to his caliber, sagacity, love for his country, unique talents as a parliamentarian, and great organizational capacity he was undoubtedly the Prime Minister in waiting; but unfortunately fate had ruled otherwise. In

one of his meetings organized in U.P. on 30th September 2001 his life span was cut short in a plane mishap when his small plane entered a nimbus cloud and was shattered into pieces. That very evening at 4 pm I had appointment with him in Delhi but that appointment never arrived. The MPCA had lost its ablest administrator and a great cricket lover.

Shrimant Madhav Rao Ji had appointed me Minister in charge of Gwalior and Morena, and it fell upon me to organize



Holkar Team (early 1940's)

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his last funeral rites as he was a former Union Minister at that time. All high dignitaries attended the last rites of our dear beloved president of MPCA.

I shall never forget the extreme honour that was bestowed upon me to carry his ashes in an urn to the holy Sungam in Allahabad where with moist eyes I committed him to the holy rivers Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati.

Later in the Vidhan - Sabha, against the convention, I personally went to the speaker Shri Shriniwas Tiwari Ji and sought his permission to pay my tribute to the departed soul in the house. From the Congress Party only my chief minister Shri Digvijay Singh and I spoke. During my speech I made the following observations "Those whom the Gods love - die young."

‘अल्लाह तुम्हें महफूज रखें, कहते हैं यह रस्में दुनिया है, वह पहले ही तोड़े जाते हैं जो फूल महकते होते हैं’

With this came to an end an era of leadership of a great administrator and a cricket enthusiast in Madhya Pradesh.

Early next year I got a phone call from Shri A.W Kanmadikar who had served the cause of cricket for many - many years and who had such cricketing acumen that he was an indispensable figure in the administration of MPCA for over 25 years. Shri Kanmadikar Ji through me sought appointment with our Chief Minister Shri Digvijay Singh and on the appointed day several senior cricketers mostly from Indore met the Hon. Chief Minister to persuade him to accept the Presidentship of MPCA I was also present in this meeting. However the Hon. Chief Minister politely declined and instead proposed that since I was a dedicated Ranjhi cricketer and had been Sports Minister of M.P four times earlier I would be the most appropriate person for the job.

Shri Kanmadikar along with all present readily agreed and in the next AGM of MPCA I was pivoted to the highest post of President of MPCA.

My greatest hour in the game of cricket came when no other person then the great Syed Mushtaq Ali Ji one of the greatest cricketers of all times stood up and proposed my name to become next President of MPCA. My Guru and my mentor captain C.T. Servate seconded this proposal and I was elevated to the highest post in MPCA which I served for four full years.

Captain Mushtaq Ali was a very soft spoken human being extremely humble in spite of the fact that he was regarded as one of the greatest cricketers of India of his times. He had great love and affection for me. Whenever I went to him his guidance and advice was always forthcoming. His illustrious son Gulrez Ali was a great friend of mine and we both played Central Zone Schools together.

On passing away of Captain Syed Mushtaq Ali at a very ripe age it was my privilege to pay my tribute to this great son of the soil and it was my duty to visit my friend Gulrez Ali and spend some time with him and his family.

It is rightly said that "A gem cannot be polished without friction." All the above three great players of Madhya Pradesh at some of points had to encounter great hardship and yet through their sheer devotion, dedication and determination they reached the pinnacle of glory. May God grant their soul, peace and inspire our budding cricketers of Madhya Pradesh to follow their footsteps and bring glory to our State and Association.

This Association has followed noble tradition in cricket and has gone from strength to strength under the present leadership of our dynamic President Shri Jyotiraditya Ji Scindia who is truly an illustrious son of an illustrious father.

I wish this Association glorious times ahead.

BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Vijay Nayudu (Former Ranji Trophy Cricketer & Former Vice President of MPCA)



Nostalgia - A Leaf from the past

The game of cricket has thrown so many icons ever since the game was first played that it has become very difficult to single them out or compare them with other. They had left their impeccable mark on the annals of Indian cricket as they played the game with sole objective of entertaining the spectators. If any one takes the later criteria for greatness then players from the great Holkar team beat all other players, from any era, hands down. Holkars had players which would beat any team on their day. It was a team of "alrounders" in true sense of the word, ably led by one and only the legendary "CK". The present generation may not comprehend the brand of cricket the great Holkar team played during 1940s and 50s. The old timers, very few of whom are alive, recall every bit of matches they were lucky to have witnessed. It is fascinating to listen to the stories of that golden era of cricket.

Three of the members of Holkar team namely C.S. Nayudu, M.M. Jagdale and S. Mushtaq Ali would have celebrated their 100th birthday in 2014 had they been alive today. All the three were very useful all-rounder and have immensely contributed to the success of the Holkar team. This is an attempt to gather stories around them and their exploits from people who knew them or were fortunate to have played with or against them. This is to revive those nostalgic memories of the golden era of cricket.

Capt. C. S. Nayudu (Born 18.4.1914) came to Indore along with his elder brother "CK" who was invited by Tukoji Rao Holkar as his son Yeshwant Rao Holkar was

fond of playing cricket. They resided at Chhawani, right behind the house of Mushtaq Ali. The open ground of the locality became playing field and the flower pots of adjacent house became the wicket. "CS" developed an unorthodox style of bowling the "Leg spin & Googly" which is said to have been invented by an English player by name J. T. Bosanquet, who played for England during 1903 to 1905. CS used to bend his hand right backward and then delivering the ball giving a full circle, almost touching his head to the ground after delivering the ball. He used to grip the ball so tight as if squeezing the lemon thereby giving vicious spin to the ball. Those who faced him recall that there used to be whispering sound of ball spinning when he used to release the ball from his grip. It was difficult for batsman to find out which way the ball will spin. His leg spin used to be as vicious as his googly. One could imagine the plight of the wicket keeper.

Cricket was confined to towns dominated by Britishers. Thus Madras, Calcutta and Bombay were the main centers where matches were played among the different Presidencies from 1892 to 1907. In 1907 Bombay Presidency started Triangular tournament with teams consisting of Europeans, Parsis and Hindus. In 1912 Muslims joined and the tournament was known as Quadrangular. In 1937 it became Pentangular after a team of "Rest XI" was added by Anthony De Mellow, the first Secretary of BCCI.

The Maharajas, who were fond of the game, wanted to please their English masters by sponsoring a team to

BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION

play matches against the Britishers. "CS" and Mushtaq Ali were picked by the Maharajkumar of Vijayanagaram (Vizzy) when they were in teens, to play Gold Cup Tournament at Hyderabad. Vizzy had invited Sir Jack Hobbs and Hubert Sutcliffe to play for his team. It is said that Sutcliffe could not play a single ball of CS at the nets and he made the coir matting removed to see why the ball is turning so much. Vizzy's team won the Gold Cup and thus began the cricketing career of both "CS" and Mushtaq Ali.

There was no cricket tournament in Bombay during 1930 to 1933 due to Civil Disobedience movement. CS was picked to play in the Quadrangular tournament for Hindus in 1935 and took 8 for 97 in the finals against Muslims. The following year the

tournament was named as Pentangular and CS, playing his first match against the Rest XI at the newly constructed Brabourne Stadium (CCI), took 5 for 31 and 7 for 33 to give an innings win to Hindus. In the next match against Parsis he took 3 for 60 and 5 for 127, besides scoring hard hitting 126. In the final against the Muslims he took 7 for 78 and 4 for 64 and helped his team win the tournament. In all he played 10 Pentangular matches and took 79 wickets, twice taking 10 or more wickets and 9 times 5 or more wickets in a match. He was also involved in a record partnership of 152 runs for 8th wicket with Shute Banerjee in 1939-40. During that year CS took 31 wickets in 3 matches to become the highest wicket taker in a year.



Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, the then Home Minister of India, at Indore with Maharaja Yeshwantrao Holkar (to his left) some of the players standing behind are C.K. Nayudu, C.S. Nayudu, S. Mushtaq Ali, Chandu Sarwate, Hiralal Gaekwad

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In 1934-35 Ranji Trophy was instituted and CS, like all other Indore players, turned up to represent Central India and then for Baroda as he was in the service of Baroda Maharaj. His journey for Holkar began in Dec. 1944 and he played for them on 20 occasions and was part of all the finals the team played during its 14 years of participation. Later he switched over to UP and then for MP and Andhra in later years.

He was in the reserve for the first Test match played at Bombay in 1933 but was selected for the second Test at Calcutta. He was not initially chosen for the England tour of 1936 but was summoned when the team lost the first Test match thanks to intervention of Bhopal Nawab who was one of the selectors and also footed his travel expense to UK. Though "CS" did not do well in the Test matches, he impressed the various counties and ultimately was hired by Durham Club to play in the Lancashire league. He had a record haul of 9 for 18 runs and had taken over 100 wickets in a season on 4 occasions during his 9 years of stay. He also had a good season in the South Shield matches taking over 100 wickets for 5 consecutive years. His stay in UK was cut short due to illness of his wife and he had to return to India. He also toured Australia in 1946 under Nawab of Pataudi Sr.

In his long career of 31 years, CS played 11 Test for India and 174 First Class matches scoring 5786 runs with the help of 4 centuries and 33 Fifties beside taking 647 wickets. He had taken 10 or more wickets on 13 occasions and 5 or more wickets on 50 occasions besides taking 144 catches. He was known to be an excellent fielder in cover position. He was the first to have taken 40 wickets in a Ranji season in barely 4 matches and created a world record of bowling 152.5 overs in a Ranji final against Bombay in 1944-45. C. Ramswamy, who was his room mate in 1936 tours, once said that batsman did not know when he would bowl unplayable ball.

He also served as coach of MPCA Ranji team and was known for his unorthodox but effective way of coaching. He became the first Indian to develop leg

spin bowling as an art and later we had V.V.Kumar, Shubhash and Baloo Gupte who took up the leg spin bowling.

"CS" passed away on 22.11.2002 at a ripe age of 88 at Indore. He lived his life on his own terms and played the game as it should be played, fighting to the last ball. He will be remembered so long the Leg Spin bowling remains an art in the game of the cricket.

Syed Mushtaq Ali (Born 17.12.1914) was a home grown hero, born and brought up in Indore. "CK" when came to Indore from Nagpur, he resided just behind Mushtaq's house in Chhwani. Soon Mushtaq befriended "CK"'s brothers and started playing cricket in the court yard. "CK" found a natural talent in this young boy and asked his father to take him to Hyderabad to play in the Beharamauddullah Gold Cup for Raja Dhanraj Giri XI's team. Thus began Mushtaq Ali's journey to the game when he was mere 15 years of age and rest, as they say, is history.



S. Mushtaq Ali with Commonwealth Cricketer Jack L.

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Those who have seen Mushtaq Ali play say that he was the most unpredictable but effective batsman, always moving around the crease to upset the length of the bowler. He treated the bowlers with utter contempt and often dictated their length. It was difficult to set fielding when he batted. It was not power but he used the pace of the ball to hit boundaries. He never played spinners from the crease and always used to step out few yards to play the shots. He had a nimble footwork and was always "balanced" to play any stroke.

Following is the gist of what former players have said about Syed Mushtaq Ali.

Polly Umrigar :

"Sam Loxton [the Australian fast bowler] was so impressed with Mushtaq that he said if he can bat like this consistently he must be the best opener in the world. He was a fearless hooker of the ball, one of the

finest to play the shot, and used to step out and play the shot against the fast bowlers. He was an attacking batsman right from the word go. He was also a thorough gentleman."

Chandu Borde :

"My first Ranji Trophy match was against Indore and on the very third ball I bowled, he jumped down the track and hit me off length. His footwork was fantastic and he could read length better than most. He even jumped down the track to Sam Loxton when he was bowling really quick. When I asked him for advice later in the evening he said, 'You are looking at the batsman and not at the pitch'. That proved to be a crucial lesson for me and I will always remain grateful to him."

Madhav Mantri :

"His entry on the ground used to be greeted with huge applause. Tall and upright, he was an unorthodox



A Ranji Trophy match in progress at Yeshwant Club Ground, Indore

BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION

opener who felt attack was the best form of defense. Mushtaq was a real crowd-puller whose double century partnership with Vijay Merchant for the first wicket in 1936 at Old Trafford is still remembered. During that century knock when he was in the 90s Walter Hammond walked up to him and told him to be a bit more cautious as centuries don't come that easily. He was that sort of a batsman. Though we were part of the Commonwealth squad we never played together in the playing eleven as when I was in the reserves he was in the eleven and vice-versa. He was a thorough gentleman and we had excellent rapport even after our playing days."

Following is the gist of News Report on his 85th Birthday:

"Syed Mushtaq Ali, that exhilarating Indore opener of the 30's and 40's, and one of India's most legendary opening pair turn 85 today. He was the original dasher and the biggest draw of his day. A crowd once gheraoed Duleepsinhji, the chairman of the selection

committee, with the refrain of 'No Mushtaq, No Test' and forced his recall for an unofficial Test at Calcutta with the Australian Services side."

"Mushtaq began his Test career as a left arm spinner against Jardine's team at the Eden Gardens in 1933-34. Although he batted at No.7 in his first Test innings he quickly graduated up the order to open in the second innings with Naoomal Jeoomal. But it was his association upfront with Vijay Merchant on the 1936 tour of England that was justly famous.

At Old Trafford, Mushtaq was run out in bizarre circumstances in the first innings when Merchant's drive rebounded off his bat at the non striker's end to Arthur Fagg at short mid on who threw down the stumps to catch Mushtaq out of his ground. England declared at tea on the second day at 571-8 having made 398 in the day and Mushtaq and Merchant returned fire with fire as they raced to 190 without loss in the last session off an attack that comprised Allen, Gover, Hammond, Robins and Verity.



Holkar team led by Col. C.K. Nayudu on the tour to Ceylon (Sri Lanka)

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Mushtaq, ever the dasher, drove and pulled with lightning reflexes, taking 15 runs off one over by Allen. In an unorthodox display of hitting he stepped down the track to upset the rhythm of the quick bowlers. He got to his century by the end of the day (106 not out) and was gifted with a gold wrist watch by his captain Vizzy in the pavilion. It was too good to last and Mushtaq was out for 112 the next morning with the partnership worth 203.

Indeed ten years later on the '46 tour of England they were still worthy competitors as a more mellowed Mushtaq and the still compact Merchant put on 124 at Old Trafford and 94 at the Oval. In an association that lasted just 4 Tests and 7 innings they averaged a stupendous 83.4 as an opening pair.

It was thus quite tragic that India was deprived of their services for the subsequent Australian tour with Mushtaq's non-selection leaving a sour taste in the mouth. He was appointed vice captain for the tour but his brother's demise forced him to withdraw. He made himself available again just before the tour party left only to find himself ignored by the then Board President Anthony de Mello.

Mushtaq had one last hurrah making 54 and 106 against the West Indies at the Eden Gardens in 1948-49 but he was never in the good books of the selectors and they brought him back as an afterthought for the last test of the 1951-52 series against England merely in order to give him a bad name and hang him. Sure enough, he was omitted



Holkar team at Yeshwant Club Ground, Indore

BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION



Members of the Holkar team during an event in 1983-84

(L to R) : C.N. 'Bobjee' Nayudu, Ramesh Pratap Singh, K.S. Bhatnagar, Hiralal Gaekwad, C.T. Sawarate, S. Mushtaq Ali, C.S. Nayudu and J.N. Bhaya

from the 1952 tour of England and that was the end of an all too brief Test career which comprised of 11 Tests.

A feline grace and sheer flamboyance were the hallmark of every stroke he played. The Errol Flynn of cricket, as Keith Miller (who was second to none in the flamboyancy stakes) famously referred to him, was one of those rare players capable of changing the complexion of a match in the twinkling of an eye. "

Mushtaq Ali was the first ever batsman to have scored over 5000 runs in the Ranji Trophy when the tournaments used to be played on knock out basis. He was the only player to have played all the 49 matches in 14 years in which Holkar took part. It speaks for his fitness and commitment. In his 34 years of cricketing career Mushtaq Ali played 11 Test hitting 2 centuries and 3 score of over 50. He played 226 First Class matches scoring 13,213 runs with help of 30 centuries and 63 Fifties besides taking 160

catches and 162 wickets with his left arm spin. Mushtaq Ali passed away on 18.6.2005 at the age of 91.

Rameshwar Pratap Singh, (89) a former Holkar player who played with all the three icons in the same team for almost 10 years recalls "batting was a natural act to Mushtaq and he used to middle the ball at will. He often used to get himself out after scoring 100 and we used to wonder why "CK" never used to say anything to him for throwing his wicket. Once some body asked "CK" to tell Mushtaq to stay at the wicket after settling down. "CK" said to have replied "Leave him alone. Let him bat as he wants other wise he will not get runs." He had tremendous backing of "CK". About "CS" he recalled that he used to viciously spin the ball in such a way that often it was difficult to make out the degree of turn and the bounce. Since fielding was never a strong point of Holkar team, CS lost many wickets due to drop of catches in the deep. Only

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J.N.Bhaya was able to cover almost half the out field. MM Jagdale, he recalls "was a Kapil dev of Holkar team". Always ready to bat or bowl at any time. CK used to often rely on "Bala" as he was called by him during crucial stage of the game. In the very Ranji match the Holkar played in 1941-42 against UP, Balasaheb took 6 wickets for 56 runs but we lost on the first inning. In the following year he again performed well by taking 10 wickets in the match for 134 runs helping us win the match and the Trophy. He could clear any ground with ease with his well timed pull shots. His 142 against Berar in 1944-45 was the best I had seen in the backdrop of failure of all other batsmen."

Waman Jagtap (83) who had spent his entire youth fielding and bowling at the Holkar nets recalls that "watching Mushtaq sahib bat was very enjoyable as he used to step out to medium pacer to deflect the ball to leg or in the slip direction with ease. It appeared so simple. Balasaheb had very simple round arm bowling action and used to bowl swing with the new ball and then off-spin with the old ball. He was one person who was always approachable and helpful to

all youngsters. CS was a natural fielder apart from great leg spin bowler. He had a very good throw from any angle and one of the best fielders in any position. He was a very good coach."

S.R. Jadhav (78), a former Holkar player whose promising cricketing career was short lived due to his pursuing Engineering degree, recalls "I played under the Captainship of Mushtaq Ali and I still remember the manner in which he used to bat. There was no set pattern. He was capable of hitting any ball in whatever direction he wanted to with his fantastic footwork. In those days the outfield never used to be good as we find today as a result fielding used to be ordinary from today's standard. However, the quality of batting was of very high standard. Balasaheb was known for hitting big sixes. Once they lift the ball then it would land 15 -20 yards beyond the boundary line. I have never seen any Holkar batsman getting out caught at the boundary line.

Sometime I used to wonder why Holkar players were often successful with so many senior players in the team which affected their fielding. The answer I got from one incident. In those days Daly Cup tournament was very popular among local teams. In one match where I was playing the opposing team needed 5 runs to win the match with few minutes to go for the closure of the days play. Col. Nayudu was watching the match. It was certain that the batting side will win the match but to every one's surprise our Captain C.T. Sarwate decided to call off the day and the match was taken to the next day where batting side needed to score only 3 runs to win the match with 2 wickets in hand. Few people turned up next day to watch the match as



Frank Worrell and S. Mushtaq Ali (West Indies team at Indore in 1948)

BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION

only 3 runs were needed.

The next morning in the very first over the batsman was going for an easy single but I happen to stop the ball and threw at the wicket keeper and the batsman was short of crease and was declared run out. Now the last man was in and they desperately went for run and managed to equal the score. Only one run was required to win. The batsman in his anxiety hit the ball in my direction and the ball got stuck in my palm and the match ended in a tie, a first incident of this kind. My uncle who was watching the match and knew Col. Saheb well went to his house to inform him about the match. On reaching his house he asked "Col. Saheb, tell me what must have happened in the match?" "CK" looked at him for a while and said "it must have been a tie." My uncle was surprised and said "how do you know as you did not watch the match today. "CK"

replied "it is simple. You are not looking very elated that means you have not won the match and neither you are looking grim that means you have not lost the match either; that leaves with one possibility of the match ending in a tie."

When my uncle told me about this incident then I realized what an astute cricketing mind "CK" possessed and no wonder under his captainship the Holkar players always came with flying colours."

Ashok Jagdale (68) the eldest son of Balasaheb and himself a highly talented player, recollected his early days when he used to accompany his father to witness the matches played by the Holkar team at Indore. He recalled "Having seen them play in the Ranji Trophy as well as against the visiting teams and later being one of the few to have played with or



(L to R) : Chandu Borde, Dilip Vengsarkar, Kapil Dev, S. Mushtaq Ali and Sunil Gavaskar

BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION

against them in the local tournament, I can firmly say that these 3 would have played for Indian side in all forms of the game. I cannot forget the supple footwork and excellent hand eye coordination of Mushtaq sahib, outstanding alround ability of C. S. Sir and my father. All these players were immensely gifted with natural ability to play an attacking cricket with ease not found in modern day players. I used to enjoy the crowd shouting "sixer wanted" and my father and "C.K." used to walk to take the crease and almost invariably they used to oblige the crowd with few big hits over the boundary." He further added that "my father used to take me to meet all the visiting players and once during the visit of the West Indies team led by the great Frank Worrell literally lifted me into his arm and perhaps this gesture must have rubbed me in positive way in my batting and bowling."

Sanjay Jagdale, who was part of the Indore XI that played a match at MHOW in 1979-80, narrated the following incident involving Balasaheb and Mushtaq

sahib. Brigadier Kale had organised one friendly match for the benefit of his unit at MHOW where he invited some current Services players and players from Indore along with Mushtaq Saheb and Balasaheb, both in their late 50s. The match was played on a make shift wicket covered with matting. The services XI put up a reasonable total. Soon Indore XI having quite a few MP Ranji Trophy players found themselves in trouble with top 6 batsmen out for paltry 25 or so runs as they were not able to face the fierce pace bowling of opposing teams as balls were flying all over their heads. Now it was turn of both the veterans Mushtaq Sahib and Balasageb to save the team from humiliating defeat. Both these veteran players batted as if there is nothing in the bowling or in the wickets diverting the bouncer to either square leg with ease or hitting on the rise for fours or placing for easy singles. It was a display of vintage batting. Both got their 50s and won the match for Indore team putting all the youngsters to shame. One can easily

imagine how good they must be in their playing days.

The present generation may not be able to comprehend the quality of batting of Mushtaq Ali or the alround ability of C.S.Nayudu and Balasaheb Jagdale. Their records do not reflect their ability or do justice for their the greatness as those who had seen them in action believe that they entertained the crowd with their game and have left everlasting impression about their greatness.



6 Holkar Batsmen created a World Record when each of them scored a century in the first inning of the Ranji Trophy Match against Mysore (March 1946)
(L to R) : Ramesh Pratap Singh (100), M.M. Jagdale (164), C.K. Nayudu (101), B.B. Nimbalkar (172)
(Sitting) : Kamal Bhandarkar (142) and C.T. Sarwate (101)

CURRENT NEWS IN BRIEF....



The U/14 team of MPCA reached the final of the Central Zone U/14 tournament for the 'Rajsingh Dungarpur Trophy 2014'. We lost to Vidarbha in the final played at Nagpur.



Likewise every year, MPCA conducted the talent scouting trials at all Divisional head-quarters. Players upto the age of 17 were given a open forum to participate and display their skill. Experienced talent scouts short-listed promising youngsters for their further grooming under the academy schemes of MPCA.



This season, MPCA conducted a tournament for the winners of the Inter District Tournaments conducted by various Divisional Associations. In the tournament for Men's Sr., District teams like Balaghat, Dhar, Mandasaur participated zealously. Bhopal won the tournament.



Women's Team of Indore Division performed fantastically to win the 'J S Anand Trophy 2014'

The tournament was played on a new format with league and super league stages

You can send your feedback to BIGRUNJS C/o Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association, Holkar Stadium, Race Course Road Indore or e-mail : cricket.operations@mpcaonline.com

Editorial Board : Prof. S.P. Chaturvedi, Vijay Nayudu, Dr. Ashok Kumat, Capt. Manohar Sharma, Rohit Pandit.

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