

Sagar & Rewa share the title...
News & Events
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A Leaf from the past
Unsung Heroes of Indore Cricket
Down Memory Lane
Rewanchal Express



Bhopal Gwalior Ujjain Jabalpur
Big RUN'S
Indore Rewa N'puram Sagar

Year 2 | Issue 2

The MPCA Newsletter

July 2013

J N Bhaya Trophy

Sagar & Rewa share the title

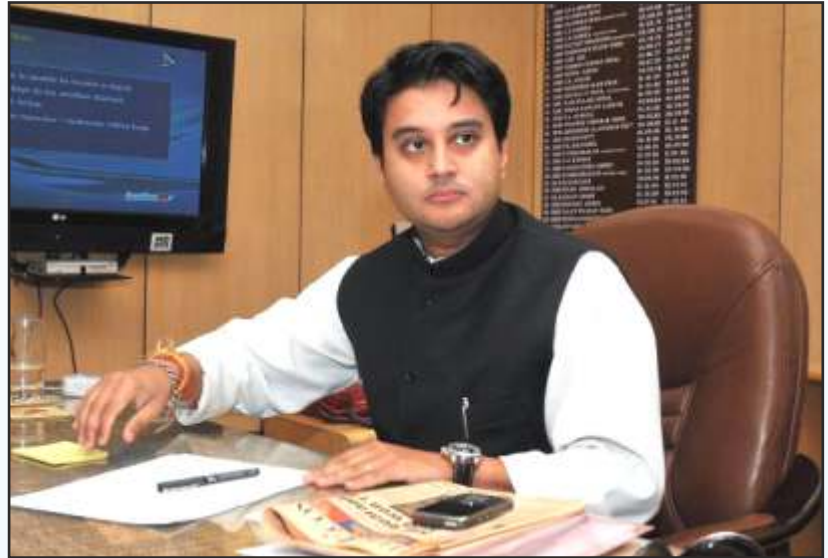
MPCA successfully conducted the Men's T/20 Tournament for the 'J N Bhaya Trophy' at the Holkar Stadium. Played over a period of 8 days, from 1st to 8th June 2013, the tournament provided excellent exposure to the upcoming players with best of facilities being offered to them. The matches from the league phase were telecasted live on DD sports. MPCA received financial patronage from various National grade organisations for this tournament. The day-night matches got a good response from the spectators. In the rain-affected final, Sagar and Rewa were adjudged as 'Joint Winners'.



President's Message...

It is always a pleasure for me to express my views through the newsletter of MPCA – BIGHUNJS

The summer saw successful staging of IPL alibi with some hard questions for all cricket administrators and lovers of the game. There is no doubt that IPL has produced a new brand of local players besides providing financial benefit to State Cricket Associations. Unfortunately, it has also attracted unwanted elements to the game there by defeating the very purpose of staging such event for the betterment of Indian cricket. We need to introspect and find solution to overcome various problems or difficulties in staging such events in the future.



However, the Indian team which won the ICC Champions Trophy held recently in England has brought cheers to the nation amidst gloomy atmosphere. Our army of youngsters like Virat Kohli, Shikhar Dhawan, Umesh Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja and Bhuvnesh Kumar, ably led by MS Dhoni, have shown their abilities and perseverance at the highest levels. It is surely a motivating performance for many such players who are on the verge of making entry into the Indian team. It is a sign of a great future for Indian cricket.

The onset of monsoon has provided relief from the grueling summer. This is the time to look back and draw lessons from our experience of the year gone by and prepare ourselves for the next season. The wickets needs to be relaid and new wickets to be prepared. Our grounds staff have always rose to the occasion in providing sporting wickets. It is proud moment for all of us when MPCA is adjudged as the Best Association in the Central Zone for providing sporting pitches and excellent playfields for the BCCI matches hosted by us during the season 2012-13. BCCI has also awarded MPCA with a cash reward of Rs. 10 lacs. My congratulations to the entire ground staff and to all those officials who are responsible for making this happen.

My heartiest congratulations to the Sagar and Rewa Divisional teams for making to the finals and their being declared the 'Joint Winners' of the J N Bhaya Trophy 2013. It is a time to make this tournament more competitive and also to be taken to other venues to attract local talents. I thank the sponsors for their support in staging this event.

Our U -19 team is touring Sri Lanka as a part of our policy to provide International exposure to young talented players. This is the third consecutive tour of our team to play competitive cricket against the National teams of Sri Lanka. The excellent performance of our players during the earlier tours has helped create better players besides enhancing image of MPCA.

My heartfelt sympathy to all those who have lost their near and dear one in Uttarakhand. May the Almighty give them enough strength to withstand the loss. May their soul Rest In Peace.

I always strive for continuous betterment of Cricket in the State and I welcome your contribution in achieving this common objective for MPCA. Please send your feedback.

Jyotiraditya M. Scindia

President

Congratulations



Pranjul Puri (17), a trainee with our Residential Academy for last 2 years, is selected among the 3 best players in India based upon performance in the All India Inter School Coca Cola Cup 2013.

Pranjul is now covered under a 3-year sponsorship from Coca Cola



U/16 players – Arjun Patel (L) and Siddharth Patidar (R) are selected for the All India Camp by BCCI, held at NCA in June 2013.



Neha Badwaik was selected for the India Women's camp held in May 2013.



Harsh Pandey (L) and Sandeep Thacker (R) have qualified the level B exam for coaches, held at Nagpur in March 2013. Now we have 10 level B coaches in our panel.

Chandan Singh Choudhary, physical trainer at MPCA's Gym for members, is an amateur power lifter and he recently lifted a total weight of 555 kg (squat + dead lift + bench press) to earn II place in the MP State Power Lifting Championship held at Bhopal (June 2013).



Ashish Upadhyay (L) and Sanjeev Khetwas (R) qualify the NCA Level 'O' exam for the physical trainers held at Dharamshala in Feb. 2013.



Kshitij Somkunwar (L) and Krishna Soni (R) were selected for U/16 camp at BCCI Specialised Academy (Ahmedabad) during June 2013.

OBITUARY



Tejsingh Surana

MPCA lost one of our senior Life Member, Mr. Tejsingh Surana, on 9 April 2013.

Shri Tejsingh Surana was an active member of MPCA and had served MPCA for a long period.

MPCA offers heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family and pray to the Almighty that his departed soul may rest in peace.

NEWS & EVENTS...

MPCA is adjudged as the 'Best Association' in the Central Zone for providing excellent pitches and playfields in the BCCI domestic season 2012/13. BCCI has rewarded us with a prize of Rs. 10 lacs. The efforts taken by our curators, groundstaff and all others in achieving this feat is highly appreciated by the teams and the match officials who were involved in the matches hosted by MPCA.



Mr. Bhatia, Senior Member of Sagar Division, inaugurated the Regional Academy at Sagar in presence of Mr. Alpesh Shah and other members of SDCA



First batch of U/14 trainees with Mr. Ashok Jagdale during the inauguration of the Regional Academy at Jabalpur

MPCA extended its coaching scheme by launching the Regional Academies at Sagar and Jabalpur. This endeavour focuses on providing methodical cricket coaching, physical training and quality match exposure to the players coming from various districts under MPCA. Approximately 200 upcoming players will be accommodated under this scheme. MPCA has engaged coaches and other support staff to handle the requirements of the regional Academies. 2 batches of 15-day duration were held at each centre before the monsoon. MPCA is providing accommodation, boarding, travelling and all other facilities to these players.



Continuing with our annual activity of playing abroad against competitive teams, the U/19 team of MPCA will be playing against the Sri Lankan National squad during a 26 day tour during June / July 2013. The team is led by Mukul Raghav. Such tours have been exceptionally fruitful in the development process of our upcoming players.

NEWS & EVENTS...



MPCA conducted a series of State wide talent scouting trails during April 2013 to select players for the Regional Academies and the Residential Academy (Indore). The trails were held under the experienced talent scouts of MPCA comprising of senior cricketers and coaches. Out of the 1400 players who attended the nets at various divisions, 180 players were invited for final selection held at Holkar Stadium in May 2013.



Gwalior team receiving the 'S M Khan' trophy at the hands of Dr. M K Bhargava, Amay Khurasiya, Arif Aquil and A S Singh Deo



Bhagwandas Suthar, S N Pehelwan, Junaid Kidwai and Iftequar Ahmed presenting the 'J S Anand' trophy to Indore team

The U/18 Inter Divisional One Day Tournament for the 'Shafquat Mohd. Khan Trophy' was held at Bhopal. Gwalior defeated Indore in the Finals to earn the title.

The Inter Divisional Women's tournament for the 'J S Anand Trophy' was also held at Bhopal Division. Indore defeated Jabalpur in the finals.

MPCA has always taken initiative in organising various education courses for development of our resource personnel. Acting swiftly on the BCCI's advice, MPCA conducted a 2-day workshop for curators and groundsman working at the grounds under the aegis of MPCA and Railways. The trainees learned the practical aspects of relaying a new pitch as well as the methods of routine pitch and ground maintenance.



Taposh Chatterjee and Samunder Singh Chouhan with the groundsman during the 2-day education course held at Holkar Stadium and Emerald Heights School ground.

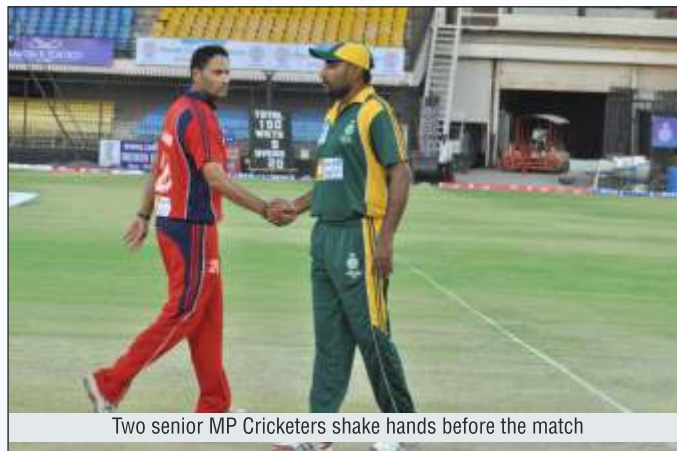
NEWS & EVENTS...

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Coloured apparels added to the glamour



Two senior MP Cricketers shake hands before the match



Seasoned bowlers can handle the pressure of a grueling T/20 match



MPCA promoted the 'MCC Spirit of Cricket' through out the tournament.



Camaraderie at its peak



On field branding enhanced the beauty of the Holkar Stadium

NEWS & EVENTS...



Shivraj Khenwar - Player of the Tournament



Zafar Ali - Best Batsman of the Tournament



Yogesh Rawat - Best Bowler of the Tournament



Deepak Sharma - Most Sixes in the Tournament

OTHER TEAM AWARDS

Loosing Semi Finalists

INDORE & GWALIOR
Award : Rs. 2 Lacs Each

Loosing Quarter Finalists

UJJAIN & NARMADAPURAM
Award : Rs. 1 Lac Each

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Player of the Tournament

SHIVRAJ KHENWAR (Gwalior) / 183 runs
Award : Oakley SUNGLASSES + Rs. 30,000/-

**Best Batting Performance
in the Tournament**

ZAFAR ALI (Rewa) / 177 runs
Award : Oakley SUNGLASSES + Rs. 10,000/-

**Best Bowling Performance
in the Tournament**

YOGESH RAWAT (Rewa) / 8 wickets
Award : Oakley SUNGLASSES + Rs. 10,000/-

Most sixes in the tournament

DEEPAK SHARMA (Gwalior) / (10 Sixes)
Award : Oakley + Puma Coupon

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A LEAF FROM THE PAST

S. Bhagwandas, the original "Murli".

Bhagwandas Suthar (72), fondly known as 'Godji' came to the cricketing scene of Indore in the mid 50s when the legacy of the great Holkar team was gradually being passed on to MPCA. Damjibhai, who used to work for Bank of India at Indore, introduced 'Godji' to the game with Tennis Balls on the small grounds in the vicinity of his house.



Bhagwandas Suthar

Soon 'Godji' started playing for his School team and was spotted by Bala Saheb Jagdale who made him play for his team, Jagdale XI, in the local tournaments. Within a short period, he made life miserable for the local batsmen with his vicious Off Spin bowling.

During those days, all the tournaments were being played on matting wicket at Central Gymkhana and Daly College. 'Godji' had a typical action for an Off- Spinner and used to turn the ball almost at right angle which made it difficult for any batsman to play the ball either at "half volley" or at "good length". He became nightmare for all batsmen and single handedly won matches for his team. Once Col. C.K.Nayudu came to witness the match at Gymkhana ground in his black Dodge car and was surprised to find the match was over well before the schedule closing time. He was informed that 'Godji' was responsible for early finish of the game. He asked for the Bat and summoned 'Godji' to bowl to him as he wanted to know how difficult he was to play. Raghu Matkar was behind the wickets and all the SBI players assembled near the wicket. 'Godji' reluctantly tossed the ball as Col. Saheb was not wearing pads nor had batting gloves. Col. Saheb asked 'Godji' to bowl at normal speed and stepped out to play few cover drives and said "he is not difficult bowler to play" and turned to 'Godji' "You bowl well". It was a rare compliment from Col. Saheb as he was known for not getting impressed easily.

There was no looking back for 'Godji'. He made his Ranji Trophy debut in 1958. Hemu Dalvi, a former Baroda, MP and Railway player, who played that match recollected Godji's debut. He says that 'Godji' was a very promising bowler and an excellent fielder. He was force to reckon with on any wicket. 'Godji' went on to play Ranji Trophy for 21 long years till 1979, captaining the team on 3 occasions namely 1967-68, 1973-76 & 1978-79. On some occasions he also acted as Manager cum Captain / Player of the team in the absence of a regular Manager. He scored over 2300 runs and took 51 wickets, taking 5 or more wickets on 4 occasions and once taking over 10 wickets in the match. He was an excellent fielder at any position and took 49

catches. He was selected for All India University XI to play against the touring Pakistan team in 1961 and for Central Zone against the touring MCC team in 1972, taking 3 wickets each against them.

His promising career as an Off-Spinner came to an abrupt end as he turned down the lucrative offer to migrate and shift his loyalties to Rajasthan. No wonder the Rajasthan batsmen of the caliber of Vijay Manjrekar, Hanumant Singh, Vinoo Mankad, Salim Durrani and Kishore Rungtha started objecting to his "bowling action" as they found him difficult to play. There was no one to support him or advise him to correct his bowling action, if need be, or measure 12 degree variation as was done in the case of Murlidharan of Sri Lanka. He was not allowed to bowl which suited the interest of Rajasthan team. This halted the progress of his promising career.

However, during one Ranji match against Rajasthan in 1969-70 at Ajmer, 'Godji' approached me and said "Babbu let me bowl, Salimbhai has come, I will get him out." I was in two mind as I knew 'Godji' was debarred from bowling but later I persuaded Vijay Nayudu, who was captaining the team to try 'Godji' from the other end as Salim Durrani was batting well. Vijay looked at me with a smile and reluctantly tossed the ball to 'Godji' to every ones surprise.

The first 2 balls were called "no ball" by umpire, the third ball was a wide ball and then again a no balled. We thought at this rate 'Godji' may not be able to complete the over. However, to our surprise the next ball was a fair delivery and Salimbhai played forward and snicked the ball to give a catch to me in the slip. We all had a good laugh. 'Godji' some how managed to complete the over and did not bowl thereafter. However this speaks for his self belief & confidence in his ability; a trait every cricketer must possess.

Our encounter with Rajasthan always used to be tense and we used to put every thing in our capacity to beat them in each game. In one such match against them played at Jodhpur we were in a precarious position after having lost half the side and needed a good partnership in order to win the match outright. 'Godji' joined me. About 20, 000 spectators' were cheering the home team. At this stage, the Umpire by name Tuljaram from Delhi, who was involved in a dubious decision in favour of Rajasthan against us at Ajmer the previous year, said " Babbu there is lot of noise; I may not hear if there is snick." To our surprise in the very next over 'Godji' snicked a ball to the WK and was about to walk back but the Umpire gave him not out. 'Godji' reluctantly stood his ground ignoring the shout of opponent team members. We were involved in a good partnership and went on to win the match. After the match, Tuljaram was taken to task by Rajathan officials. However he

later told me that "These fellows kept quiet when the decision had gone in their favour last year. It is equal now" and gave a smile.

'Godji' has been an avid Yoga practitioner to stay fit which is a rare trait among most players of that era. It was a normal thing to expect every one to be naturally fit without undergoing regular fitness exercise. The only expectation was that one must last full day's play as there was no support staff. Once I was sharing a room with 'Godji' and just woke up to find that his bed was empty. I got worried and was wondering where he must have gone at 4.30 am in pre dawn darkness. I just shifted the curtain of the window to look out and noticed 'Godji' doing "Shirsasan" a Yoga exercise on the lawns. The entire team made fun of him at his obsession with Yoga. On another instance, on the morning of a Ranji match he went for early morning exercise and while returning to his room passed through the breakfast table having fresh Papita. He could not resist the temptation & had plenty of them and soon realized that he had an upset stomach. When the team was leaving for the match, 'Godji' was busy making rounds of the toilet. He had to be dropped for the

match on fitness ground. However, this did not deter him and he made the entire team perform Yoga when he was the Manager of MP Ranji Trophy team during the 80s.

'Godji's passion with the game and Yoga continues to this day. He has served the game in different capacities, such as Manager, Coach, Selector, Jt. Secretary, Treasurer and now as a Vice President of MPCA for the last 4 years. He has also been on the sub-committees of BCCI. He is perhaps one of the selected few who have given back to the game more than what he had received. There is no denying the fact that he would have created all time record as an Off Spinner like Murlidharan had he received timely support and the guidance from the then authorities. However, those who have played with or against him or seen him bowl in his prime, still remember him as a very promising Off Spinner, who, unfortunately, did not play for India. 'Godji' has recently undergone successful open heart surgery and thankfully there is no one objecting to his continued obsession with the game, may be wanting him to bowl "that one over", when needed.

(Ashok Jagdale)



18 November 1961



17 June 1964



18 December 1967



2 April 1962

UNSUNG HEROES OF INDORE CRICKET

MS. CHANDRA NAYUDU (79)

It is said that nothing grows under a Banyan tree. It is a fact that with Col. C K Nayudu as a father it requires tremendous self belief and confidence to venture into outside world to make a name for herself. Having been born into such an illustrious family, Chandra Nayudu inherited all the positive qualities of her legendary father which helped her develop in to a multifaceted personality.

Chandra was greatly influenced by the surrounding and atmosphere in the house in her early childhood, having used to seeing all the great Holkar players and dignitaries who used to call on her father, affectionately addressed as "CK" or "Colonel Sahab". She recollected the days when Holkar team used to play their Ranji Trophy matches at Yeshwant Club ground. "The Ladies tent used to be placed next to the players tent. All the ladies of Holkar players used to come to watch the matches. "CS" who was very handsome and bachelor used to frequent the tent, some time along with Mushtaq Ali and Khandu Rangnekar, without the knowledge of Nana. The Yeshwant Club used to serve a very delicious food. Since the players were not allowed to eat to their content by their Captain during the match, we children used to enjoy the food. It used to be festivals atmosphere. Today's generation will not be able to imagine or believe the hype and the atmosphere the 3 day Ranji Trophy matches used to create in Indore and at the Yeshwant Club. Holkar team had many colourful personalities and they used to thrill the crowd with their game."

Chandra studied at St. Raffle and later Holkar College where she first played the game. In those days it was unthinkable for girls to pick up any field game normally reserved for "Boys". She was an exception to the rule. She soon completed her Post Graduation in English literature, narrowly missing distinction. She took up a job with Govt. Girls Degree College, Indore as a Lecturer where she worked for almost 38 years. This helped her to take up administration of sports not only in her college but also at the Vikram, Ujjain and Indore University. She was instrumental in girls picking up cricket as a game in Indore, otherwise was then known for Kho-Kho players. She donated Silver Coated Trophy In the memory of her mother for All India University

Cricket tournament in the line of Rohinton Baria Trophy.

Not content with her involvement with the game she tried her hand as a commentator and became the first ever women commentator on DD in a match played between MCC and Bombay at Gwalior. This exposure opened other avenue to her and she was invited to attend Golden Jubilee of Test function at Lords and thus became the first ever lady to address the gathering at the famous Long Room which was the prerogative of males only. Her interest in the game drawn her to MPCA. She headed the committee to promote the game among women for the last many years.

She also became an active member of Rotary Club of Indore as well as Giants International and contributed in many social causes on behalf of these organizations and travelled to Europe and USA.

Recalling her childhood amidst 9 siblings, most of whom were female, it was an arduous task to make one's presence felt without

being bold and outspoken. Grit and determination became her second nature and she followed her instinct to do what she felt right for her and without bothering of what others think about her action or choice. She assumed the role of trouble shooter for the family and played a lead role in the absence of her brothers at home.

She used to religiously perform puja of family deity every morning and help Nana perform the same in the evening on returning from Yeshwant Club. This ritual continued till her father

expired. She has a strong religious belief and continued the family tradition even today. She is an ardent devotee of Satya Sai Baba, personally meeting him on quite a few occasions at Puttapathy.

Though advance age has curtailed her activities, it has not diminished her spirit and enthusiasm. She regularly takes interest in what is going around in the game and in MPCA. She has been guiding the Women's cricket in MPCA for the last many years and in some manner instrumental in putting MP in the world of Women cricket in India. She is a very active member of MPCA and inspite of her advance age makes it a point to attend every functions.

(Vijay Nayudu)



"Ms. Chandra Nayudu is seen presenting the Bat with which Col. C K Nayudu scored 118 runs against MCC at Lords during the first ever match played between India and & MCC in 1932 to Mr. H Doggart, President MCC in the presence of Sunil Gavaskar, G Vishwanath & Raj Singh Dungarpur at Long Room, Lords during the Golden Jubilee of Test between India & England in 1982."

DOWN MEMORY LANE

ALL INDIA NAWAB OF PATAUDI (SR.) MEMORIAL CRICKET TOURNAMENT, BHOPAL

Indore has always been the hub of cricketing activities in Madhya Pradesh, even after the 'Holkar' era. It was in the late sixties that Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, former Indian cricket captain, provided quality cricket to the people of Bhopal by conducting an All India Cricket Tournament in memory of his illustrious father, Late Iftekar Ali Pataudi, who played Test Cricket for England.

The leading teams from different parts of the country used to participate in the tournament as it was an all India tournament. However, the main attraction used to be the star studded 'Tigers Eleven'. If you look at the composition of the Tigers Eleven it could be compared with the national team. The team used to have Nawab of Pataudi himself, as the captain, Sunil Gavaskar, Bishan Bedi, Mohinder Amarnath, ML Jaisimha, Karsan Ghavri, Kunwar Inderjeet Singh, Ramnath Parker, Sad Bin Jung and many more stars of the yester years. However, even with all these luminaries of Indian Cricket, Tigers Eleven could not lift the coveted trophy even once while The Hyderabad Blues won the trophy thrice. Despite this, the cricketing atmosphere created by Tiger Pataudi in Bhopal was memorable and unmatched. At one time the people of Bhopal had forgotten about Hockey, which was their main sport, and kept talking about cricket and the cricketers in every nook and corner of Bhopal. Glamour was added to this annual event by visits of film/TV stars, Governors, Chief Ministers and other dignitaries. It needs no mention that Sharmila Tagore, the most popular Film Star of the yester years and Rita Bhaduri were the main attractions to this annual feature.

The facilities, comforts, hospitality and personal attention from Nawab Saab and his support staff cannot be explained in words. Special arrangements for all kinds of entertainment in the Palace and in & around Bhopal were taken care of.

Presence of a galaxy of cricket stars at one centre was a big attraction especially for young and upcoming cricketers. The cricket loving people of this area appreciated the efforts put in by Tiger Pataudi. It was a festive mood for all; big crowd, complete entertainment and a matter of pride for all people of Bhopal. A tournament of such magnitude was never expected by this center.

In the heart of the capital of Madhya Pradesh, the famous BABE-ALI Ground used to be the venue for this tournament. Colorful SHAMYANAS (Tents), loud music and spectators' shouts used to make the event more glamorous and entertaining. The matches used to be on matting wickets. No turf wickets existed at that time barring a few metros in the entire country.

Apart from good and entertaining cricket there were a few memorable incidents off the field which are known to none other than the cricketers themselves.

In one such match between Hyderabad Blues Cricket Club and Bhilai Steel Plant XI, we had to face real quick bowlers, with a suspect action. They demonstrated their skills by sending six of the star studded Hyderabad Blues batsman including P Krishnamurthy, K Jayantilal, India's opening batsman, D Govind Raj, Abdul Hai, Mumtaz Hussain to the pavilion for a paltry total on the board. At

this stage young Sultan Saleem and the author managed to go all out and score a match winning ninety runs in eight over. It may not look impressive in today's IPL context but during the late sixties it was an outstanding performance which became the talk of the town.

Habeeb Khan, the tall and lanky fast bowler of Hyderabad Blues Cricket Club, was known for his rifle shooting skills and Tiger Pataudi was known for his JINDA JOKES. A few senior cricketers were taken for SHIKAR in the forests of Bhopal. A big paraphernalia was organized with guns, jeeps, search lights etc. On reaching the thick forest in the midnight, we all spotted a wild goat. Tiger Pataudi told Khan Saheb to engage it. Khan Saheb was happy that an animal was available at a short range. He took aim and in all good faith fired hoping to achieve success. To his surprise the goat gave a dirty look to all of us moved her tail and disappeared in the forest. The bullet hit the ground around four to six inches away from the target. After a while a deer was seen. The same thing happened again. This process continued throughout the night. In the end a few rabbits were seen very close to our vehicle and once again Tiger Pataudi asked Khan Saheb to get one of them at least. Khan Saheb tried with all concentration without any luck. On returning from the jungle when we retired for a cup of tea, Khan Saheb was very upset and mentioned that such a misfortune had never happened to him in past as he has been going for shikar regularly and achieving a high rate of success. We saw a knotty smile on the face of Tiger Pataudi. Few of us could make out that there is some trick played by the Nawab Saheb. Ultimately it was revealed by the Nawab Saheb that the fore sight tip of the gun given to Khan Saheb was bent a wee bit thereby ensuring the firer misses the target despite aiming correctly. This got a frown on Habeeb Khan's face while the others erupted in a loud roar of laughter. With these lighter moments we all had an excellent time on and off the field.

The tournament used to give a fillip to commercial activities in and around the stadium. Many people used to establish stalls to put up their advertisements as well as to sell the products. As Captain of the Hyderabad Blues Team I was invited to a stall of four square cigarettes for promoting their product. In return the promoters presented us with a small hamper containing an ordinary ball point pen, a pen stand and a few packets of Cigarettes, which had no value for me as I don't smoke. I recollect when Kapil Dev featured in the advertisement and said the famous lines 'Palmolive da Jawab Nahi', he was given a thousand rupees for featuring in the advertisement. Well those were the days when cricket was a passion for cricketers and not just another profession.

To conclude I would like to mention that whatever is written above is to pay a tribute to a world class fielder, a great batsman, an outstanding captain and above all a great human being: the great Tiger Pataudi. What Tiger Pataudi did for Indian cricket and cricket in Bhopal, in particular, has been briefly touched upon in the article. Even a book would not be able to glorify his contribution to the game. That was the enigma of this great personality who touched the lives of so many of us and left pleasant memories to cherish for a life time.

by Capt. Manohar Sharma



Capt. Manohar Sharma and "Tiger Pataudi"



REWANCHAL EXPRESS Ishwar Chand Pandey

Stepping into cricketing shoes for the first time just a few years ago, Ishwar has become one of the most valuable assets for team Madhya Pradesh. Born and brought-up in Rewa, a small town of Madhya Pradesh, Ishwar has worked his way through diligently to become Madhya Pradesh's promising pace bowler.

The six feet two inches bowler started playing professional cricket only five years ago. With purpose, support and direction provided by his coach, Mr. Aril Anthony, Pandey started competing at a district level. Spotting his talent, officials gave Pandey an opportunity to represent the State in U-19 and U-22.

"I wanted to become a batsman," says Ishwar when asked about selecting his area of expertise. Then what changed his mind?... He says, "When I started playing with the leather ball I faced a lot of difficulty in batting and bowling came easier to me so I started focusing on my bowling."

Aspiring to being a pacer means stamina and speed. Hence, Pandey would run about 15 rounds of the cricket ground six-days a week on his home-ground in Rewa. However, what he did not realize initially was that to increase his speed he needed to hit the gym. "Once I realized that strength training is equally important for my speed, I started doing a lot of weights along with my daily running," he says. Now, under the supervision of Rajnikanth Sivagnanam, Pandey has trained himself to bowl 25 to 30 overs in a four days match with an average speed of 135 kmph.

Although he has not faced too many dark times in his career so far, during his U-19 days, Pandey underwent an appendix operation which turned out to be very serious. "I thought I will not be able to play because I could not think about running then. It was a bad time. But, gradually I started strengthening my body and I recovered," Pandey recalls.

Being the leading-wicket taker in the Ranji Trophy 2012-13 has earned him spots in teams of India A, Duleep Trophy and Deodhar Trophy and Irani trophy. Pandey's excellent performance in the last Ranji season has also bought him a contract with the Pune Warriors India in IPL-VI.

Another feather in this 24-year old pacer's hat is his selection by the MRF pace foundation in the year 2010-11. The MRF Pace Foundation invites top bowlers for the country to train at their centre and at the age of 21 years, Pandey was sent for trials by Mr. Amay Khusaria. At this venue, he received an opportunity to interact with his favourite bowler, Australia's Glenn McGrath.

Ishwar Pandey's dedication and determination has earned him a lot of credit and support. Not only does he receive encouragement and guidance from his coaches, but also from his mentors - Mr. Kamal Shrivastava and Mr. Alok Birla. Whether in good times or bad ones, Ishwar trusts their advice and suggestions.

Although it is just the beginning of his ladder to success, Ishwar Pandey has the ideal mantra for the master stroke: have the determination and dedication, and destiny will welcome you with open arms.



with Glen McGrath

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

Editorial Board : Prof. S.P. Chaturvedi, Vijay Nayudu, Dr. Ashok Kumat, Capt. Manohar Sharma, Rohit Pandit, Rajiv Risodkar & Mahaveer Singh Arya.

The views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association.

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