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ourav Ghosal winning the country's highest sporting honour, the Ariuna Award, was the best thing that happened to squash. He got it for winning a bronze medal for India for the first time ever at the 2006 Asian Games. It was a no mean achievement. given that Asia boasts of some of the top players in the game. It was his medal that got squash promotion into the priority list of the government. About the award Saurav said: "I knew I had been nominated by the federation but I was not expecting to win it. It has come as a welcome surprise for me and I am obviously thrilled to have been given the honour. Hopefully it would inspire me for greater things". He became the first Indian to make the main draw of the British Open, 2007. About his Asian medal he says: "I am proud of the fact that I could win the country the first medal in squash". Sauray lost to Malaysia's Ong Ben Hee in the semifinal.

The last time a squash player was awarded the Arjuna was Misha Grewal who was the national champion from 1993 to 1996.

Sourav's skills and maturity is remarkable for a 20-year old. He began playing at the age of nine thanks to the encouragement of father Prakash, who was a regular at the Calcutta Racquets Club. He made the ultimate sacrifice of moving from the comfort zone of Kolkata to Chennai where the ICL Squash Academy honed his talents. His grandparents moved in with him to Chennai to ensure some comfort which Indian kids need because of their emotional family attachments.

Saurav's first major title was the German Open (U-17) in

May 2002 and he won the Dutch Open two months later. However, the crowning glory came at the British Open (U-19) title in 2004, he was the first Indian boy to claim the title ever since its inception in 1980.

In 2007 he won his third National title in four years. He says about the title win; "I was under a little pressure, considering the fact that I was defending my title. But I relish such challenges. After all, there is no fun without pressure".

Coached by Malaysian ex-player Major Maniam and Cyrus Poncha in Chennai, Saurav is now training with Malcolm Willstrop in Leeds. Ghosal says he has improved his angular returns and forehands and is hitting the ball harder. He is pursuing his graduation his Economics and Management.

Ghosal has numerous firsts to his credit the first Indian to be ranked Junior World No. 1, the first to bag the Junior National championship three years in a row and in December 2006, he won the country the first medal in squash in the

Chief Co-ordinator Riaz Mohammed

Contd...2

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RESULTS

### Doha Asian Games.

Abour Ritwik he says: "I watched him play at Kolkata. I was just a kid. When I went on to beat him in the final of the National championship three years ago, it was a dream come true for me. Our rivalry is good for the game. You need someone to keep yourself on the toes aiways". Siddarth Suchde who he beat in the National final, is also proving to be a tough competing.

A major disappointment was a premature exit from the World junior championship in 2004. He recently beat Hong Kong's Wai Hang Wong 11-3,11-2,11-3 for his second PSA victory, and more such title beckon.

By Pradeep Vijayakar

# PRATIK GEMS-NMSA SQUASH TEAM SQUASH

## lindal come of age

(9/9/2007)



fter doing well at the junior level Jindal's players proved they have come of age when claiming the Pratik Gems-NMSA Squash Team Championship, played at the Navi Mumbai Sports Association Courts.

Their 'S' team packed enough guns to get the better of fancied Khar symkahana 'A' despite dropping the opening rubber to emerge 2-1 winners. After seasoned campaigners Lawman Joshi and Sunil Verma lost the opening doubles encounter 8-11, 8-11 to Rajesh Rajani and Vijay Waghela of Khar Gym 'A', Laxman took the courts again for the singles match and this time proved triumphant over his better ranked opponent Dheera) Nagpal, winning 11-6, 11-13, 11-9 to bring Jindal 'B' on level terms.

In the deciding doubles match, Kunwarpal Singh and Javed Mohd did the star turn for Jindal 18' defeating Dheeraj Nagopal and Ritesh Bajig 11-9, 12-10. Jindal 18' took home Rs 20,000 as prize money and handsome trophy for their efforts, while Khar Gym 'A won Rs 12,000 and a trophy. The Chief guest of the evening Vasant Bhadra (Pratik Gems) and Mahendra Agarwal (Founder Director, ISP) gave away the prizes to all the winners.

## October 2007

## FINALS:

## Jindal 'B' bt Khar Gymkhana (2-1)

Doubles: Sunil Verma / Laxman Joshi Lost To Vijay Waghela / Rajesh Rajani 8-11, 8-11

Singles: Laxman Joshi bt Dheeraj Nagpal 11-6, 11-13, 11-9 Doubles: Kunwarpal Singh / Javed Mohd bt Dheeraj Nagpal / Ritesh Bajaj 11-9, 12-10

### SEMI FINALS:

## Jindal 'B' bt Jindal 'A' (2-0)

Doubles: Laxman Joshi / Sunil Verma bt Arun Sharma / Nitin Chauhan 11-9, 11-8

Singles: Laxman Joshi bt Shailesh Mishra 11-9, 11-6

## Khar Gymkhana bt NMSA 'A' (2-0)

Doubles: Vijay Waghela / Rajesh Rajani bt Sonu Merani / Shashi Gupta 11-7, 4-11, 11-3 Singles: Dheeraj Nagpal bt Hari Shenava 13-11, 11-5

## QUARTER FINALS:

## Jindal 'B' bt NMSA 'A' (2-1)

Doubles: Laxman Joshi / Sunil Verma Lost To Sonu Merani /

Shashi Gupta 9-11, 11-8, 6-11

Singles: Laxman Joshi bt Hari Shenava 11-9, 12-10 Doubles: Kunwarpal Singh / Javed Mohd bt Vasant Bhadra /

# Leon Emanuel 11-7, 2-11, 13-11

Khar Gymkhana 'A' bt Hyatt Regency 'B' (3-0) Doubles: Rajesh Rajani / Vijay Waghela bt Waqar Pathan /

Shyam Wadkar 11-7, 12-10
Singles: Vijay Waghela bt Ankita Sharma 6-11, 11-6, 11-8
Doubles: Dheeraj Nagpal / Ritesh Bajaj bt Ankita Sharma /

# Imroze Pathan 11-9, 8-11, 11-8 SP'B' w/o Club Millennium

## Jindal 'A' bt Six Senses (2-1)

**Doubles:** Shailesh Mishra / Anup Sharma bt Mishaal Nathani / Shane Dhondy 2-11.11-5.11-6

Shane Dhondy 2-11,11-5,11-6
Singles: Arun Sharma bt Shane Dhondy 11-9,6-11,11-9

Doubles: Arun Sharma / Nitin Chauhan Lost To Armaan Shaikh

/ Yohan Surti 8-11, 5-11



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# MATUNGA GYMKHANA JUNIOR SQUASH

ditya Jagtap showed hat his recent conquests on foreign fields were no flash in a pan when taking Vikram Malhotra the full distance before Vikram wrapped his hands round the boys pit title in the DHFL - Matunga Gymkhana Junior Squash Open Tournament 2007 at Matunga Gymkhana Junior Squash Open Tournament 2007 at Matunga Gymkhana held under the auspices of SRAM and assisted by Indians Gyaush Professionals.

It was a Maharashtra State Ranking Event with total prize money of Rs.1 lakh. More than 275 players participated in seven different categories. Mahesh Mangaonkar won the U-15 till be beating Akash Borwankar. The highlight of the event was semi final match between Jindal's Laxman Joshi and Vikram Malhotra. Laxman has progressed tremendously and ran Vikram loose.



## FINALS:

Boys U-19: Vikram Malhotra bt Aditya Jagtap 9-11,12-10,11-6,4-11,11-

Boys U-15: Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Aakash Borwankar 11-5, 11-5, 11-7 Boys U-13: Rahil Fazelbhoy bt Raghav Mehrotra 11-8, 9-11, 12-10, 11-8 Boys U-11: Kunj Rawani bt Yohan Pandole 5-11, 11-6, 11-8, 6-11, 11-6

Girls U-19: Shivangi Paranjape bt Ankita Sharma 11-5, 11-3, 5-11, 11-3
Girls U-13: Soumya Karki bt Urvashi Joshi 11-2, 11-2, 11-2

Mix U-9 : Yohan Surti bt Param Maru 11-4, 11-3, 11-7

### ALL 3RD-4TH PLAY-OFFS:

Boys U-19: Laxman Joshi bt Cyrus Vakil 9-3, 9-4, 9-3

Boys U-15: Vrishab Kotian bt Caran Arora 8-11, 11-9, 11-6, 5-11, 11-9 Boys U-13: Arjun Kochhar bt Ishaan Advani 11-5, 10-12 6-11, 11-9, 11-6 Boys U-11: Sandeep Paswan bt Aditya Singhi 11-7, 7-11, 11-13, 11-7.

Girls U-19: Shaheen Madraswala bt Shaheeda Madraswala 11-6, 6-11, 11-5, 11-6

Glirls U-13: Shweta Yadav bt Varsha Pandye 11-7, 11-2, 11-0
Mix U-9: Ankit Javant bt Jeshad Dumasia 11-3, 11-3, 11-9

### SEMIFINALS:

Boys U-19: Vikram Malhotra bt Laxman Joshi 11-13, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9 Aditya Jagtap bt Cyrus Vaki 5-11, 11-9, 11-4, 11-5
Boys U-15: Nahasin Mangaonkar bt Virishab Kotian 11-3, 11-4, 11-6
Boys U-15: Nahasin Mangaonkar bt Virishab Kotian 11-3, 11-4, 11-6
Boys U-13: Rahil Fazeibhoy bt Arjun Kochar 11-1, 11-6, 11-7
Raghar Mehrotra bt Eshsana Arkoun 11-3, 12-10, 18-11, 11-2
Boys U-11: Vibnan Pandole Bt. Aditya Singhi 11-4, 12-10, 11-6
Girls U-19: Shivangi Paranjape bt Shaheen Madrasvala 11-2, 11-2, 11-1
Birls U-13: Soumya Karki bt Shiveta Yadav 11-3, 11-5, 11-2
Unsahi Joshi bt Varsha Pandey 11-12, 11-2, 11-7
Mix U-9: Yohan Sutri bi Leshad Dumasia 11-2, 11-0, 11-3
Param Manu Ix Arkit Zavart 10-12, 11-9, 11-1

# BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOUASH

SP organized a Free Coaching Camp at Hiranandani Meadows, Thane in the month of July 2007.

Senior players as well as juniors actively participated in the camp. They enjoyed the coaching sessions of coach Ravi Pandey. A number of participants showed interest in continuing to play squash even after the camps.

It is with the support of Mr. P. Premchandran that the camp had been organized. It was because of his initiative that the coaching camp was organised.

"The Junior Development Program" has been prepared for the junior players who enthusiastically participate in the squash coaching session held at the clubs courts. There are over 35 children in this program. There are also intermediate and advanced sessions at the Hiranandani Squash Courts.

Hiranandani, has been successfully able to create better opportunities for it budding talents under the able leadership of Ravi Pandey, Salim and Premchand Rai who are currently grooming the skills of these budding stars.



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## INDIAN BOYS A CLASS APART: ASSAINTE

Paul Assainte is the longserving squash coach of Tinity College, home to many Indian squash lads when they go to the Ivy League. India may see Paul come here if plans of World Squash Academy succeed. Pradeep Vijayakar had an email interview with him.

Tell us about your background.
I have been coaching for 35 years, started out at West Point, and then at a couple of country clubs. Coached at Williams College and now have been at Trinity for 15 years. I also was the USA men's team coach for seven years.



### What's your approach to coaching?

All types of coaching are fun. Kids require one level of attention but the college level requires more mental work. We have boys here from 11 different countries, and we need to get them to put their egos away and focus on team, team and team.

# Tell us about the impact of Indian players on US Collegiate squash.

The Indian squash community has had a huge impact on college squash. The boys from your country are talented, focussed, polite, respectful, and have soild academic bases. This is not new! From Anii Nayar to now, Indian squash has impacted college squash wonderfully. Anii, of course was the path-backer, winning the National title in the 60s.

Anil is a dear friend of mine and he and I have played together. He is a class act and played and still plays a very crafty game.

## What of the other Indians?

There have been many wonderful players come through from India, but here we have had the Juneja Twins, Rohan Bhappu, Akhil Behl, Junaid Nathani, Vishal Kapoor, Supreet Singh, Manek Mathur, Cyrus Appoo and the list goes on and on.

## Are you looking at any of the newer crop?

We are currently recruiting Vikram Malholtra.

## How do Indian boys compare to others?

The thing that makes the recruiting in India so attractive is the fact that the boys have such a solid academic background and so we know that they will be able to do the work here. This cannot be said of all of the junior squash communities around the world.

## Finally when will US squash reach the takeoff stage?

I think the American squash prospects are improving for two reasons. The first is that there are so many wonderful pros from foreign lands teaching here in the US and secondly because so many fine international players are studying here in the states, our young US players are getting the type of exposure to the game that was absent in the past.

# VRISHABH KOTIAN: ON A GIANT KILLING SPREE

Irishabh Kotian has made phenomenal strides in competitive squash in less than two years of taking up the sport. His recent up the sport. His recent up the proformances include linishing third at the Matunga Junior Open in August 2007, where he beat higher rated Caran Arora. He will represent Maharashra in the 'B' Team at the Inter State Under-15 Nationals.



## Prosquash: Tell us about how you took up squash?

Vrishabh: It all started with Abhishek Pradhan's father Mr. Dhruv Pradhan encouraging me to try my hand at squash. When he saw that I could become a good player he encouraged me stake up the game seriously. I was playing forobla flir My School Don Bosco Borivali I also represented Maharashtra State Under 13 team last year in football. I took up this game because I wanted to excel in Individual sports.

# Prosquash: How do you train? How do you balance training with studies?

Vrishabh: I train two hours in the morning i.e. 5.30 a.m. to 7.30 a.m. at Club Aquaria under Sandeep Jhangra. In the evening, I go for tuition after the school. Although my studies have been affected due to Squash & Football, I am trying to manage everything. This year also I played for my school in Under 16 MSSA Football Tournament.

## Prosquash: What is your ambition?

**Vrishabh:** My ambition is to become a good squash player without neglecting studies.

# Prosquash: What are your other interests apart from squash?

Vrishabh: Playing football and watching TV

# Prosquash: Anything else you would like to add? Vrishabh: I would like to thank My Principal Fr. Bosco for

Vrishabn: I would like to thank my Principal Pr. Bosco for encouraging me to take this sport and giving concession in school attendance whenever I have requested him. He never said no to me. I am grateful to him.

# YOHAN PANDOLE: SOUASH IN HIS DNA

## Prosquash: How dis you start playing squash?

Yohan: I played tennis before starting squash a few years ago. My dad (Darius) inspired me to start squash by telling me about his playing days. Since then, I have always enjoyed squash and continue playing regularly.

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Prosquash: Tell us about how you train and manage studies?

Yohan: I train twice a day- in the morning before school and then in the afternoon after school. I can balance both training and studies, as my school (Cathedral School) always encourages us to balance sports with our studies.



Prosquash: You have made a spectacular rise to reach

Runner-up position in U-11 in Matunga Open as well as Little Masters, establishing yourself as the No-2 player in the category. What is your secret of such great improvement? Yohan: The secret is hard work and continuing to learn from others.

Prosquash: You come from a family of Squash players. Tell us something about the players in your family.

Yohan: My father, Darius, was the Indian junior national champion three times. My grandfather Dinshaw, and uncles Farokh and Jehangir were also nationally ranked players. Grandpa played for India.

Prosquash: What is your ambition?

Yohan: My ambition for this year is to win the Under-11 Nationals.

Prosquash: What are your other interests apart from Squash?

Yohan: I like listening to music and watching TV.

# AMJAD KHAN- TRANSITING FROM CHAMPION PLAYER TO CHAMPION COACH



Anjad Khan started playing squash in 1998 at Dhampur Sugar Mills, UP. He was ordinally a Badminton player, when Mr. Shyam Lal Vema spotted him and recruited him into Squash after a trial. There was no looking back since then. Amigd proved his mettle by winning the Under-14 National Title in Gymthana Club, Delhi. He followed this up with

other titles such as DDA Open (Under-16), Asia Sugar Open (Under-19) and Eastern India Open Under-19 at Calcutta. He stood third in the first Herald Maritime

Open. He was Runner-up in DDA Open Men's section.

Amjad is presently coaching at Hamdard Public School, Delhi. Some of his promising players include Mohd. Sarwar, Sajid Hussain, Junaid and Hanifa. Some of his players have played against Pakistani seeded players in tournaments in Delhi and reached Semi-Finals in Under-9 cateoory.

Amjad plans to undergo courses in coaching and turn full time coach.

# ANUJ BAHL: PRODIGY FROM PUNE

pune is producing some promising players. While Rohan Vora has made it to the Under-15 team that will represent Maharashtra in the Inter State Nationals, Anuj Bahl is a promising player making great strides. Prosquash got a chance to interview him at the Little Masters Open 2007.



Prosquash- How did you take up Squash?

Anuj- my Father, an army officer, is a Squash player. He was in the Services team, and was a National Quarter Finalist. My Brother Sumaer Bahl was part of Delhi Under 15 team that won the National title in 2005. Since my Father was in field postings during my early childhood, 1 started relatively late- in 2004.

Prosquash- In addition to your Father and Brother, who else inspire you?

Anuj- my father and Brigadier Asthana were colleagues. The Asthana Brothers- Vinay and Vineet, were top national Juniors. I was motivated by their success to play squash seriously.

Prosquash-Tell us about your training.

Anuj- I train after school from 5 to 7PM. I do lots of drills, skipping and Gym work (for flexibility).

Prosquash- What are your best performances so far?

Anuj- I was Runner-up in Delhi State Open 2005 in Under-11. In this event (Little Masters), I have lost in the Semi-final of Under-13 to the top seed and eventual winner Rahil Fazalbhoy.

Prosquash-What are your other interest?

Anuj- Studies- I am good in academics with 90% marks, reading (Harry Potter), Swimming, Table Tennis and Badminton.

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# **CHENNAI OPEN SOUASH CIRCUIT II**

## Anwar Reda wins the ICL-Chennai Open

(19/8/2007)

t was a moment of delight for 18-year old Mohd. Ali Anwar Reda of Egypt after he downed the top seed and former Indian national champion Ritwik Bhattacharya 2-11, 11-6, 11-5, 7-11, 11-6 to wins the ICL-Chennai Open circuit II.

On the eve of the final, Reda had confessed, "I had played him in Cairo last when he came for training and he beat me 3-2 then". To that extent, it was a win that was doubly sweet for the Egyptian. This was the fifth PSA title win for this collegian, who like most other top Egyptian players, aims high - a top 30 finish by the year-end.

Yet, it was a case of Bhattacharva flattering to deceive. Playing after a long lay off can be taxing but he had begun well, looked the player that he is with his customary style of power and precision play to start with in the

"I myself was surprised at the way I was playing," the Indian said of his start. But before long Reda had tightened his game and used his racket for the kind of magic that Bhattacharya found hard to handle.

An indication of his growing stature was the way the Egyptian took in his stride not only the reverse in the first game but more importantly the referee's calls on 'lets', some of which left him screaming in disbelief. Egged on by his countrymates, Reda concentrated, took control and made a wise choice of strokes. Confidence growing, Reda stepped up pace in the third, displayed anticipation that nullified Bhattacharya's crosscourt strokes. In short, the contest became more about consistent strokeplay. The Indian slipped here, at times failing to even reach the ball on the backcourt. Still, he came back strongly in the fourth game putting Reda on the defensive.

There was an attempt by SRFI to promote Ramit Tandon, SRFI's blue eyed boy, by giving him a wild card, but he lost in the first round and instead another lesser player- Akshay Deepak got into the main draw as a result!

The Indian could not sustain that as the Egyptian raced away in the decider to complete the 56-minute tussle in his way, M.K. Jha, IG of Police, gave away the prizes.

RESILITS

## FINALS:

Mohd. Ali Anwar Reda (Egy) bt Ritwik Bhattacharva (Ind) 2-11, 11-6, 11-5, 7-11, 11-6

## SEMIFINALS:

Ritwik Bhattacharva ( Ind ) bt Omar Tarek Mahm Alv (Egv) 12-10.4-2 Mohd. Ali Anwar Reda (Egy) bt Harinder Pal Singh (Ind) 11-9,11-4,11-7

### **OUARTERFINALS:**

Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) bt Mohd. Sayed Mahmoud Aly (Egy) 12-10,

11-7, 7-11, 12-10 Omar Tarek Mahm Aly (Egy) bt Dick Lau (HK) 9-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-4 Harinder Pal Singh (Ind) bt Naresh Kumar (Ind) 12-10, 7-11, 11-6, 11-1 Mohd, Ali anwar Reda (Egy) bt A. Parthiban (Ind) 11-6, 11-5, 11-5

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# NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP 2007

# Tamil Nadu's clean sweep at Nationals

amil Nadu extended their sweep at the National Doubles Squash Championship when Parth Sharma and Naresh Kumar beat Sauray Ghoshal and Harinder Pal Singh in the final, These palvers are originally from Rajasthan, U.P., West Bengal

RESULTS

(22/7/2007)

## FINALS:

Parth Sharma & Naresh Kumar (TN) bt Saurav Ghosal & Harinder Pal Singh (TN) 10-12, 6-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-9,

## THIRD PLACE:

and Chandigarh respectively.

Vikram Malhotra & Niraj Shirgaokar (Mah) b t Vikas Jangra & Shakti Singh (Ser) 7-11, 11-9, 11-10 (2-0), 1-11, 11-9

# **NATIONAL & NATIONAL MASTERS SOUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2007**

Ioshna, Saurav supreme

(21/7/2007)



her seventh National title.

oshna Chinappa and Sauray Ghoshal who hunted together in the junior ranks are now doing it at the senior ranks also. They claimed the National squash titles in th 55th Nationals at Chennai

Joshna bagged her seventh title, while Saurav Ghosal helped himself to his third, beating Siddharth Suchde 9-2, 9-3, 9-0. Maharashtra 's lone title came in the over-35 won by Otters veteran Nirai Shirqaonkar.

At 14 Joshna had won her first National title and seven years since Joshna continues to be at the top in the women's section. Not since her loss to Mekhala Subedar in the 2002 final has Joshna been beaten by an Indian, a clear indication of this Chennai player's supremacy at the National level.

"A national title is a national title", that was the motivation for Joshna as she went about her task of fashioning another triumph, a 9-2, 4-9, 9-5, 9-1 win over the yet-to-turn 16 Dipika Pallikal.

The 34-minute contest had its good phases, particularly the down-the-line drives and the drops that both players employed. Where Joshna had the edge was in the way she masked her returns. Twice in the process she had Dipika, trying in vain to get to the ball, sprawled on the wooden floor like a gymnast during a floor exercise routine.

Barring the second game loss, at no point did Joshna feel threatened and sure enough emerged victor in style.

In the men's event Siddharth Suchde, after his fine exhibition in the semifinals was expected to stretch, if not totally surprise, Sauray, The lanky player began well, matching Saurav stroke for stroke. The forehand down-the-line and cross-court shots checked the defending champion and prolonged the rallies.

But Saurav's ability is not just consistency and swift court movement but also the quick, angular returns that he employs as a surprise weapon. The well-directed forehands to the corner and the soft spun shots to catch the nick proved productive even as it triggered cheers from the gathering.

If steadiness marked Suchde's display then variations was Sauray's strategy. As the contest wore on, Sauray began to find the area above the tin unfailingly for winners, while Suchde's slide was apparent.

Yet another moment of glory came in the professional category where 30-year-old Bala Murugan, won his 10th National title in a row.

## RESULTS

## FINALS:

Men: Saurav Ghosal (TN) bt Siddharath Suchde (Mah) 9-2, 9-3, 9-0. Women: Joshna Chinappa (TN) bt Dipika Pallikal (TN) 9-2, 4-9, 9-5.

### THIRD PLACE:

Mens: Gaurav Nandrajog (Del ) bt Harinder Pal Singh (TN) 8-10, 9-1, 9-7, 5-9, 9-4. Womens: Anwesha Reddy (TN) bt Surbhi Mishra (Raj) 7-9, 9-4, 9-1,

# 9-0.

Professional: Balamurugan(TN) bt Dalip Tripathi (WB) 9-0.9-2.9-5.

Over 40: Rohit Thawani (Mah) bt Deepak Moolani (Mah) 6-9, 10-8, 10-9, 9-3 Over 35: Niraj Shirgaonkar (Mah) bt Raja Parthasarathy (Mah) 9-5, 7-

9, 7-9, 9-7, 9-2

Over 50: B.I. Singh (Del) bt Vaman Apte (Mah) 9-3, 9-7, 10-9.

# **INTERSTATE SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP**

# Tamil Nadu supreme

(26/7/2007)

amil Nadu's recruitment and development programme reaped dividends when they claimed the Inter State men's team title at the Nationals at Chennai. In the final they beat their second string 2-0. TN's women's team were also crowned champs beating their second string. It was dark history with all men's and women's semi-finals being Tamil Nadu affairs. This is a sad reflection of how squash in other states has been discouraged. RESULTS

### FINALS .

Men: Tamil Nadu 'A' bt Tamil Nadu 'B' 2-0: Parth Sharma bt Ravi Dixit 9-7, 9-4, 9-5; Saurav Ghosal bt A. Parthiban 9-1, 9-1, 9-2

## THIRD PLACE:

New Delhi (A) bt Services 2-1 Gaurav Nandrajog bt Vikas Jhangra 3-1 Shakti Singh bt Sohal Kapoor ( Del ) 3-0; Karam Kumar bt Maj A. Choudhary 3-0) October 2007

# **NOT TOO OLD FOR SOUASH**

PRADEEP VIJAYAKAR talks to one of Mumbai's oldest squash players

uess who is among the oldest men squash players in Mumbai city? It is 83-year-old Irani, Baager Shirazi of Bombay Gymkhana.

The young-at-heart old man played with the gymkhana's president Ashok Kapoor to inaugurate their renovated squash courts some time ago.

He can be seen playing squash four times a week.



Sirazi says he coldn't play much in his youth because his time was spent ferrying his kids from home to the Otters Club and back. The kids were swimmers of international class in age group events. Reza was national champion and Moeen was not far behind, "I would drive them from Breach Candy to Otters in Bandra twice a day." Reza is now in Chicago while Moeen runs the family Cole Paint business.

Baager's brother, Sadeg says "Shirazi, was a top- class boxer in the 1940s, a contemporary of Indian greats like Terry Adams, Ron Milne, Gene Raymond".

Baager has been an allrounder playing badminton, tennis and swimming. He won the pentathlon tournament of Bombay Gymkhana in the over-70- group.

Baager's biggest squash connection is being the cousin of Ali Ispahani, former national champion of the 60s. Pro-Squash had featured Ispahani a few months ago recalling how he had been told to play in the Nationals when he was in Mumbai on way to his home Madras and won the title.

Well, the author of that act was Baager Shirazi. He said: "I had seen the notice of the Nationals at the club. Ali, my mother's sister's son, was playing in England with the greats of the game. I told him to give it a try". He said "I will if you give me a proper diet for playing. My wife cooked as he wanted, Ali stayed in my house played, beat Fali Madon and won the title."

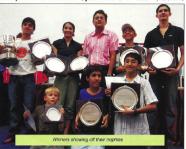
An important thing Baager remembers about Ali is how he insisted that the markers at the club sit with him and the other players to take snacks and tea. "They are the ones who look after your kids when young, why should they sit separately?" Forty vears on, Indian Squash Professionals reflected this dignity thinking making the markers into professionals who are living the best life among markers of all sports in India.



Cheers to Ispahani and ISP.

# LITTLE MASTERS JUNIOR SOUASH 2007

Saumya wins double crown, Joshi wins U-19 title (22/9/2007)



aumya Karki of Jindal Squash Academy bagged the girls under-19 and girls under-15 titles at the Forbes Group of Companies & Yes Bank sponsored Little Masters All India Junior Squash Tournament. 2007 organized by the Willingdon sports Club, Laxman Joshi finished the boys under-19 champion beating Cyrus Vakil comprehensively 9-4, 9-0, 9-

Saumya Karki, who was the top seed in the girls under-15 age group, was made to work hard by second seeded Sachika Balwani, after winning the first game with ease 9-3, Saumya was put to the test by Sachika. Some

# RESULTS

## FINALS:

Boys& Girls U-9: Ben Kennedy bt Aman Rawal 6-9, 9-5, 9-5, 9-0. Boys U-11: Kuni Ravani bt Yohaan Pandole 9-5, 9-1, 9-2, Boys U-13: Rahil Fazelbhoy bt Arjun Kocchar 9-2, 3-9, 4-9, 9-7, 9-1. Boys U-15: Abhishek Pradhan bt Mahesh Mangaonkar 1-9, 10-9, 7-9, 9-2, 9-4.

Girls U-15: Saumya Karki (JSW) bt Sachika Balwani 9-3, 6-9, 10-9.

Boys U-17: Karan Malik (TN) bt Mahesh Mangaonkar 9-5, 6-9, 9-5,

7-9, 9-1. Girls U-19: Saumya Karki bt Shiyangi Paranipe 9-6, retd. Boys U-19: Laxman Joshi bt Cyrus Vakil 9-4, 9-0, 9-0.

## SEMIFINAL:

Boys U-19: Laxman Joshi (JSW) bt Abhinay Sinha (Poona) 6-9, 9-0. 9-0, 9-1.

Boys U-17: Mahesh Magaonkar bt Abhinav Sinha (Poona) 8-9, 9-0, 9-5, 9-1:

Karan Malik (TN) bt Abhishek Pradhan 9-2, 9-4, 3-9, 9-1. Boys U-13: Rahil Fazelbhoy bt Anuj Bahl 9-1, 9-0, 9-1; Arjun Kochhar bt Raghav Mehrotra 9-3, 9-4, 9-7.

Boys U-11: Kuni Rawani bt Aditva Sanghi 9-1, 9-3, 9-1; Boys & Girls U-9: Ben Kennedy bt Ivan Philip 9-2, 9-5, 9-6;

Aman Rawal bt Param Maru 5-9, 5-9, 9-6, 9-7, 9-4.

Girls U-15: Sachika Balwani bt Urvashi Joshi (JSW) 9-3, 9-1, 9-0; 1- Saumya Karki (JSW) bt Anju Sharma (JSW) 9-3, 9-4, 9-4. Girls U-19: 1-Shivangi Paranjape bt 4-Sachika Balwani 9-4, 9-1, 9-0;

9, 9-4 Saumya Karki bt Shaheen Madraswala 9-2, 9-5, 9-3.

precise shots allowed Sachika to steal the second game away from Saumya 9-6. Sachika was determined to give the game her best and this made for a close and tense third game. Saumya held her nerve to take the game 10-9. The loss in the third game was a huge setback for Sachika and Saumva took advantage of her disappointment to seal the title with a 9-3, 6-9, 10-9, 9-6 win.

In the girls under-17 finals Saumva was playing top seeded Shivangi Paranjpe. After losing the first game to Saumya, Shivangi was forced to concede the game due to pain in her back. Saumya pocketed Rs 8500 for her win in the girls under-15 category and . Rs 18,000 for winning the girls under-17 category.

The boys under-19 final was a straight forward affair with Laxman Joshi outclassing Cyrus Vakil. Joshi, seeded one, was head and shoulders above his opponent Vakil, seeded two, Vakil managed to sneak in four points in the first game but after that Joshi took control to romp home 9-4, 9-0, 9-0. Joshi emerged richer by Rs 30,000 while Vakil was handed Rs 15,000.

# RAJASTHAN OPEN NATIONAL SOUASH



Dharmendra Kamthan

## RESULTS

## FINALS:

Womens Open: Surbhi Misra (Jaipur) beat Mandy Kennedy (Mumbai) 8-10, 9-1, 9-2, 7-9, 9-5

Girls U-19: Surbhi Misra (Jaipur) beat Shiyangi Paranjape (Mumbai) 9-5, 9-5, 9-2

Girls U-15: Saumya Karki (Mumbai) beat Dheeya Somaiya

(Indore) 9-1, 9-6, 9-0 Girls U-13: Saumya Karki (Mumbai) beat Sachika Ingle (Delhi) 9-0, 9-4, 9-1

Men's Open: Harinder Pal Singh beat Gauray Nandrajog 9-2.

5-9, 9-6, 9-4 Boys U-19: Harinder Pal Singh beat Parth Sharma 9-0, 9-2,

9-1 Boys U-17: Ravi Dixit beat Paramit Singh 9-1, 9-7, 9-2

Boys U-15: Mahesh Mangaonkar beat Karan Tharyamal 9-3, 9-1. 9-0 Boys U-13: Kush Kumar beat Deepak Mishra 9-0, 2-9, 9-2, 6-

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## MAHARASHTRA STATE OPEN 2007

## Joshna wins back her State Open crown (28/9/2007)

wo years ago Prosquash highlighted the feats of Englishwoman Mandy Kennedy who came to Numbai, awa and conquered squash tournaments. Wife of Simon, here on assignment for Reliance Retail, this time met Joshna Chinappa and found the lass almost half her age, valloping her in the final. Handy did make her gaps white taking a few drops. But a Kennedy still made the podium, it was Mandy's kid, Ben who won the under-9 title. He is a bundle of energy this bad nah das a great backhand though not a good forehand. Ben won a thrilling 8-10, 9-11.0-9, 8-9, 9-3 encounter against Aman Grish Rau of Maharsahtra.

It was a veritable squash mela at the 32nd Bombay Gymkhana Maharashtra State Open Squash Championship, co-sponsored by HSSC and Sapat, at the Bombay Gymkhana. The event drew a record 800 entries and there were a few who wanted to enter but did not because of a Satellite revent in Chennai.

In the absence of top India players, second seed Sandeep Jangra became the new Men's Open champion. Sandeep, of Maharashtra, endured a late challenge from cousin and top seed Vikas Jangra of the Services to coast to an impressive 9-5, 9-2, 10-9 victory in a final that lasted 50 minutes.

Both entered the final with much in common. Apart from being related, they started their careers from the Jindal stable at the same time and as such, were familiar with each other's games.

But Sandeep surged to a surprise 2-0 lead in quick time as Vikas hit the tin and committed unforced errors at regular intervals. Vikas also squandered an 8-3 advantage, twice on game-ball, in the crucial third game after an exhibition of brilliant stroke play and entertaining rallies.

Sandeep clawed his way back to make it 9-all and sealed his maiden Men's Open triumph with a forehand smash that left Vikas bewildered.

Sandeep Jangra earned Rs. 1 lakh for his effort, as the Men's and Women's prize has been doubled this year.

Chinappa needed just 30 minutes to demolish defending champion Mandy 9-3, 9-5, 9-5 in the women's final. Joshna's only blemish was a 2-5 deficit in the second game before she recovered to snatch a 2-0 lead. Chinappa received Rs. 30,000 for her victory, Said Mandy: `She's is good -makes one play at one's best.'

The other significant winner was Saumya Karki of Maharashtra who helped herself to another double with the girls' under-15 and under-13 titles. It was all in the family as top seed Shivangi Paranipe overcame sister Madhura for the girls' under-19 crown following a fluent 9-4, 9-5, 9- 2 victory in an II-Bombay Gwmhana contest.

The event was well conducted by Deepak Malhotra and his team. Deepak when hands the Bombay Gymkhana squash baton to another Deepak, Advani.

By Pradeep Vijayakar



RESULTS

## FINALS:

Men's Open: Sandeep Jangra (Mah) bt Vikas Jangra (Services) 9-5, 9-2, 10-9.

Women: Joshna Chinappa (TN) bt Mandy Kennedy (Mah) 9-3, 9-5, 9-

Boys U-19: Laxman Joshi (Mah) bt Cyrus Vakil (Mah) 9-6, 9-0, 9-3. Boys U-17: Karm Kumar (Del) bt Abhishek Pradhan (Mah) 9-3, 9-2, 10-8.

10-8.
Boys U-15: Abhishek Pradhan (Mah) bt Aakash Borwankar (Mah) 9-5, 9-5, 9-1.

Boys U-13: Kush Kumar (Del) bt Deepak Mishra (Del) 9-3, 2-9, 9-2, 9-2.

Boys U-11: Yohan Pandole (Mah) bt Rajat Agarwal (Mah) 9-1, 9-4, 9-1.

Girls U-19: Shiyangi Paranipe (Mah) bt Madhura Paranipe (Mah) 9-4.

9-5, 9-2.

Girls U-17: Sachika Balvani (Mah) bt Urvashi Mishra (Mah) 9-2, 9-5,

9-0.

Girls U-15: Saumya Karki (Mah) bt Sachika Balvani (Mah) 6-9, 10-8,

9-4, 9-4. Girls U-13: Saumya Karki (Mah) bt Urvashi Joshi (Mah) 9-4, 9-2, 9-4. Girls U-11: Pankhuri Malhotra (Del) bt Akshwarya Bhattacharya (Mah)

9-1, 9-0, 9-0. Under-9: Ben Kennedy (Mah) bt Aman Girish Rau (Mah) 8-10, 9-1,

10-9, 8-9, 9-3.

Over-55: Dr. B.I. Singh (Del) bt Raj Manchanda (Mah) 9-2, 9-0, 9-3.

Over-45: Dr. B.I. Singh (Del) bt Vaman Apte (Mah) 9-2,9-7, 9-4.

Over-35: Raja Parthasarathy (Mah) bt Jehangir Surti (Mah) 9-7, 9-8, 9-0.

Professionals: Rohit More (Mah) bt Sanjay Pawar (Mah) 9-5, 9-3,

Professionals: Rohit More (Mah) bt Sanjay Pawar (Mah) 9-5, 9-3 10-9.

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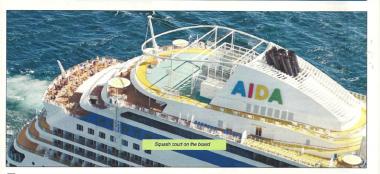
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# **SOUASH AHOY!**



a groundbreaking innovation made possible by ASB, the world leader in glass squash courts and AIDA, the German cruise company, squash is reaching new frontiers by taking to the high seas.

In future squash enthusiasts will be able to pursue their favourite hobby while crossing the ocean on a modern cruise liner.

Currently undertaking her maiden voyage after a spectacular launch ceremony in Hamburg, the AIDAdiva set sail with a permanent all-glass, open-air court installed on her top deck, just behind the funnels.

With all parts specially designed for sea-worthiness, the court, which features ASB's groundbreaking glass floor, offers spectacular views of the other sports facilities of the liner, as well as ocean, the sky, and any passing landmarks.

The anti-skid floor, mounted on a sprung aluminum base, is just one aspect of the newly developed court. The large wall panels are made of safety glass and are elastically fixed to a newly-developed supporting frame, designed to cope with the extra demands places on the court by life on the high seas.

Voyagers will be able to enjoy their favourite pastime in virtually all conditions, even, imagine it, by moonlight floating on the ocean.....

The new court was tested by two of Germany's top players Moritz Dahmen and Dennis Drenjovski, who both play for European Champions Sport-Insel Stuttgart.

Squash already has some spectacular settings, but it could be that the world's top players will soon meet in even more exotic locations.

Gregory Gaultier playing World Champion David Palmer in front of the palm-lined Scilly Islands, Thierry Lincou against Amr Shabana just next to Norway's breathtaking west coast, Ramy Ashour playing James Willstrop with the Statue of Liberty looking on...

The sea-going court is just one of many innovations that have originated

from ASB, who even now have projects under way in Philadelphia (USA), Cape Town (South Africa), Warsaw (Poland), Six Fours (South of France), Otrokovice (Czech Republic), Cyprus and a major project in Kuwait.

# KHAN THE UNSQUASHABLE



condition

he tag Unsquashable was fit on Jahangir Khan when he had that amazing unbeaten streak of over 500 matches.

Now this tag can be fit on the greatest squash player the world has seen, Hashim Khan who celebrates another birthday well past the nineties in July.

a hip fracture resulting from a severe fall onto his right side while playing his weekly doubles game at the Denver Athletic Club. He drove himself to the hospital in that

Khan's longevity, both in his squash career and in his life as a whole. has been a source of marvel and inspiration to everyone in the sport.

His six British Open titles (a record at the time) occurred between the ages of 35 and 42, and he is one of only four players to have won both this crown and the North American Open, hardball squash's most prestigious title. Sharif Khan, the eldest of Hashim's seven sons (and 12 children) won a record 12 North American Opens, and Hashim's nephew Mohibullah was also a British Open/North American Open champion.

Hashim's remarkable fitness was said to be a major advantage for his recovery.

October 2007 .. 10.. Issue No. 44 Hashim had such blinding speed that no ball was truly out of reach. He was unconscionably fit, after his years of "Hashim v. Hashim" matches.

Despite the handicaps of culture, language and location, Hashim instantly transformed the American scene. He forced restrictive clubs to reexamine their practices, with one flash of his impish smile.

Although he retired in the late 1980s, Hashim is still the majordomo in benver. "Hashim is amazing," says DAC pro John Lesko. "I get three or four phone calls a week from people wanting to talk to him, get an autograph. I get mail for him all the time. This is his home away from home and the one place everybody knows they can find him.

Now a nonagenarian, Hashim's life is pretty simple. He keeps in close touch with his family (he has no idea exactly how many great grandfolidren he has, but guesses it is more than a hundred). He is meant to be the great pathiarch. His first name comes from the great grandfather of the Prophet (his last name is, as Wind says, "more an ethnic identification than a family name.") He goes home to Palsistan usually every year or two, but is an American citizen and plans to be buried in a cemetery in Denver.

# MINISTER PROMISES MORE PUBLIC SQUASH COURTS IN MAHARASHTRA



aharashtra may soon become the first state in the country to have public squash courts in each of its 33 districts.

Maharashtra Minister for marketing (Women and Child Development and Parliamentary affairs) Harshvardhan Patil conveyed his intention to Lyfuffill this ain, after becoming the chief patron of the Mumbai-based sports NGO Indian Squash Professionals (ISP).

"I will do everything possible to see that the game is promoted widely in the state of Maharashtra. The need of the hour is to take the game of squash to the common public and hence my priority will be the construction of more public squash courts," he said at a media conference.

At present there are three courts built by the state government in their district sports stadiums at Jalgaon, Nashik and Dhule.

"We would strive to have at least one court for the public in every other district of Maharashtra", Patil said.

"There are also plans to start an academy for squash with six courts; in Mumbai Unviersity's Kalina campus, which has been allotted six acres

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of land to build 12 tennis courts or in MMRDA complex in Bandra or the Sports Authority of India complex in Kandiwall," the minister said. "I will try and allot land for Squash Rackets Association of Maharashtra and ISP for this purpose," Patil said.

The minister also promised to talk to the School Games Federation of India to urge them to introduce squash in schools in a big way.

# JSW KARNATAKA STATE OPEN SOUASH

(E in inners)



JW Steel Ltd. & JSW Foundation have jointly organized: the "JSW Karnataka State Open Squash Championship, 2007" from Java August 2007 et Vijaynagar Sports Club, Vidyanagar. This was the second time JSW were organizing the Karnataka State Open Squash Championship. The main aim behind this tournament is to provide a forum where talented players hailing from all over country can test their skills.

The championships comprised of singles events. A prize money of Rs. 1 lakh was awarded to the victors in various categories. The number of participants were 125 nos. The main participating contigents were from the ICL Academy, Tamil Nadu, Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbal, Jindal Steel Power Ltd, Raigarth & Jindal Squash Academy, Vasind.

The JSW Karnataka State Open Squash is a serious attempt by JSW Steel
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and the JSW Foundation to invest in building future champions, both the foundation and JSW steel have always explored ways of popularizing sports at the grassroots level. The championship provides an opportunity to youngsters to participate in National Championships and hopefully it would also be a stepping stone to be international arena of sports for some of these youngsters.

The JSW Group has given a lot of support to the game of squash. This is evident in the Jindal Squash Academy at Vasind which has been set up to promote and give exposure to rural youth in the game of squash. The Academy has nurtured many young talents.

## FINALS:

Boys U-19: Laxman Joshi (Mah) bt Jay Dalai (Mah) 9-4, 9-6, 9-0. Boys U-17: Prithvi Aditya (TN) bt Anuj Chauhan (Mah) 9-0, 9-8, 9-7. Boys U-15: Prithvi Aditya (TN) bt Nitin Singh (Mah) 9-0, 9-0, 9-0. Boys U-13: Tushar Kothari (Mah) bt Akhilesh Yadav (Mah) 9-4, 9-5, 9-7. Boys U-11: Roshan Kannan (TN) bt Aditya Khatri (Mah) 9-6, 9-1, 9-2. Girls U-17: Shriya Khatri (Mah) bt Anju Sharma (Mah) 9-1, 9-2, 9-6. Girls U-15: Soumya Karki (Mah) bt Shriya Khatri (Mah) 9-5, 9-2, 9-2.

## ISP WELCOMES THE BIG THREE

Girls U-13: Soumya Karki (Mah) bt Sachika Ingale (Del) 9-4, 9-7, 9-0. Girls U-11: Pankhuri Malhotra (Del) bt Neharika B (TN) 9-1, 9-0, 9-0.







ndian Squash Professionals welcomes on board three luminaries from bureaucracy. They are Mr. Anil Diggikar, Mr. Bipin Bihari and Mr. Bharat Bhushan. They join a group of like-minded people all devoted to making squash the sport of the future in India.

Already it is said to be the world's fastest-growing sport. In India there are the numbers, but in cities. ISP hopes these worthies will take the sport to the interiors of the state, in their own ways.

Mr Anii Diggikar (IAS), once a commissioner of the prosperous Chinchwadregion, is at present Commissioner for Co-operation and Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Government of Maharashtra. He is a keen squash player and has been instrumental in building squash courts in many districts in Maharashtra like Nanded, Satara & Pimpri-Chinchwad.

Mr Binin Bihari (IPS) is from the of 1987 batch. He has been twice the DCP, of Mumbai, Director of IB (intellingence bureau) and additional commisioner of police. Now he is now vigilance director of MSEB. He is also a keen squash player who learn't squash in the LBS Academy, Mussorie. At present a regular player at Police Gymkhana he plays under the coach Bhandari. He has also played badminton.

Mr Bharat Bhushan is a batchmate of Mr Bihari . He is IRS officer of the 1987 batch. A keen sportsman, he also plays cricket, loves mountaineering, beside playing squash. He has been in with the ISP since its formation and was recently promoted as executive He is at present commisioner Income Tax, Mumbai.

# ENG BANKING OCT 2007

MENS BANKING UG 1 ZUU!			
POS	PLAYER	FROM	
1	Amr Shabana	EGY	
2	Ramy Ashour	EGY	
3	Gregory Gaultier	FRA	
4	David Palmer	AUS	
5	James Willstrop	ENG	
6	Anthony Ricketts	AUS	
7	Thierry Lincou	FRA	
8	John White	sco	
9	Karim Darwish	EGY	
10	Nick Matthew	ENG	
48	Saurav Ghosal	IND	
70	Ritwik Bhattacharya	IND	
140	Harinder Pal Sandhu	IND	
145	Naresh Kumar	IND	
162	Parth Sharma	IND	
194	Parthiban Ayappan	IND	
200	Gaurav Nandrajog	IND	
246	Siddharth Suchde	IND	

WOMENS RANKING OCT 2007			
POS	PLAYER	FROM	
1	Nicol David	MAS	
2	Natalie Grinham	AUS	
3	Rachael Grinham	AUS	
4	Tania Bailey	ENG	
5	Natalie Grainger	USA	
6	Vicky Botwright	ENG	
7	Omneya Abdel Kawy	EGY	
В	Madeline Perry	IRL	
9	Vanessa Atkinson	NED	
10	Laura Lengthorn	ENG	
42	Joshna Chinappa	IND	
88	Dipika Pallikal	IND	
123	Anwesha Reddy	IND	
152	Surbhi Misra	IND	



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