

PROSQUASH

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SALAAM, VIKRAM

By Pradeep Vijayakar



Vikram Malhotra showing off his trophy

As one looks back on 2008 it is with pride about one person more than anyone else. It is Vikram Malhotra. This lad did a unique thing: win all the age group titles that were there for the taking. It shows the consistency and dominance of this fabulous player and arguably the best shot maker in the country over the last decade as a junior.

Asked what struck him most as he looked back on his junior career, Vikram, who leaves for the US for higher studies in January, said: 'All my National and International titles and of course India finishing fourth in the Junior World Championship. No other Indian junior team had achieved that'. Speaking on the team's brilliant performance at the World Juniors Vikram was very complimentary of his team mates, 'It was a superb team effort and each one of us was highly motivated and performed when it mattered'.

When quizzed if the National U-19 final was the best and most memorable match of 2008 Vikram replied 'no way the best, but yes, certainly the most memorable'. 'My wins against Harinderpal Sandhu after being two games down at the Ottens open, against Pakistan's Farhan Zaman for the Asian bronze and against Joe Lee of England at the World Juniors stand out as my best this year. On the flip side Vikram also chooses a match with eventual world junior champ Mohamed Shorbagy of Egypt. 'It was neck-and-neck in most of the games. His greater exposure puts him in his favour'.

Taking us through the Junior National Championship Vikram said 'I was in very good shape having trained with my coach Amir Wagih in Egypt for a month before the event. None of my competitors had beaten me before and there was no way they would do it this time. But I must confess I had butterflies in my stomach as for one, I wanted to win this one very badly and two,

I was expected to win and this put additional pressure on me'.

'I took it easy up to the semis when I turned it on against Laxman and was at my attacking best. I gave him no chance whatsoever and finished off in quick time. In the finals against Aditya I had the game plan and strategy worked out. I knew he would play the waiting game, waiting for my mistakes. He expected me to play my natural attacking game. I did just the opposite. I played a rather defensive but fast paced game using the cross to keep the ball deep and moving him from side to side and knew I had pinned down on both the back corners of the court. Less than ten minutes into the match I was in control and knew I would win the match. Though the first two games were neck to neck in the initial stages, I just needed to press a little bit more to finish off both in a similar fashion. The third game was a mere formality after I took a 10-5 lead.

Fondly called 'Viku' by his Egyptian coach Amir Wagih, Vikram gives full credit to him for his success. 'Coach Amir really motivated me and was in touch every single day of the Nationals. In fact he was the first person I called to thank after my win. My fitness coach Ahmed Youssif, who I first met while training in Egypt was also equally responsible for my success. He worked really hard on my fitness and made me so much stronger and faster and gave me that extra confidence. I share a

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SQUASH LEGENDS GET THEIR DUE

(22/10/2008)



Great Players: Left to Right: Peter Nicol, Jahangir Khan, Lee Beachill, Hashim Khan, Nick Matthew, Azam Khan, Anthony Ricketts, Geoff Hunt

Squash legends Hashim Khan, Geoff Hunt and Azam Khan have been honoured with Lifetime Achievement Awards at the World Squash Awards in Manchester, UK

The presentations took place in the Manchester Town Hall before a packed gathering of VIPs, players and officials from the squash during the city's hosting of the Hi-Tec World Squash Championships – the first joint staging of the Men's and Women's World Opens in the UK.

It was the fourth staging of the World Squash Awards by Eventis Sports Marketing, a company run by former players Peter Nicol.

Ninety-two-year old Hashim Khan of Pakistan won the British Open seven times between 1951 and 1958. He came all the way from USA (where he resides) to receive his award.

His younger brother Azam Khan, based in the UK has been runner-up to Hashim in three British Open finals before going on to claim the title four times, from 1959 to 1962.

Geoff Hunt from Australia took up the gauntlet thrown down, by British hero Jonah Barrington -

winning his first British Open crown in 1969 before picking up a total of eight titles by 1981.

The presentations were made by Jahangir Khan, the six times World Open champion and record ten-time British Open champion. Jahangir received a Special Award from the WSF Emeritus President Susie Simcock.

Nicol David, the world number one from Malaysia won the WISPA Player of the Year Award for the fourth year in a row and England's James Willstrop beat Egyptians Amr Shabana and Ramy Ashour to win the PSA Player of the Year Award.

Hong Kong's Annie Au won the WISPA Young Player of the Year Award. Omar Mosaad, a 20-year-old from Cairo, picked up the PSA Young Player of the Year Award. England international Laura Lenthorn-Massaro won the WISPA Most Improved Player of the Year Award.

Awards host Peter Nicol was delighted with the success of the event: "On behalf of Eventis, we would like to thank Geoff Hunt, Azam Khan and Hashim Khan for making the journey to Manchester to be at the 2008 World Squash Awards and for making the evening so memorable. Jahangir Khan's final evening as the WSF President was also observed and a tribute to all his hard work over the years was greeted with a standing ovation. This truly was a unique occasion for all squash fans as we had several generations of World Champions present and few future ones sitting at the tables watching on.



Nicol David receives WISPA Player of the Year Award from HRH Prince Tunku Imran, Patron of the WSF



Laura Lenthorn-Massaro receives WISPA Most Improved Player of the Year Award from Susie Simcock, Emeritus President WSF

FROM THE COLLECTION OF ARTICLES WRITTEN BY LATE RAJU CHAINANI FROM 1971-2001

Indians set to thrive

Mid-day 5/7/2000

HONG KONG, July 4 EIGHT Indian players and three officials make up the contingent for the 10th Asian Senior Squash Championships which begin at the Hong Kong SRA Courts.

India's third string, Navneet Narain has the honour of playing on centre court and his opponent is top seed Ong Beng Hee (Malaysia). National champion Manish Chothrani and Ritwik Bhattacharya also have their first round matches slated for today whilst Dhira Singh is on later. The girls are luckier as they have afternoon matches.



Raju Chainani

The squad had just about checked into the hotel at 5 pm last evening. They did get to the courts, a ten minute taxi ride away, around 6 p.m. Considering the door to door time was twelve hours or more, depending on whether they travelled from Chennai, Delhi or Mumbai, the Indians have little time to settle in.

Fortunately, Chothrani and Bhattacharya appear to have easy matches. Nevertheless, when close to \$ 10,000 is being spent on sending a team to a major event like the Asian Championship, there is a definite requirement for the players to have sufficient time to get used to the conditions. Meanwhile, Malaysia's Ong Beng Hee and Nicol David, the reigning world junior boy's and girl's champions respectively, are aiming for the golden double. The task for Beng Hee is much tougher than that for Nicol David.

Although the Pakistanis are not the same force, Mansoor Zaman, Shamsul Islam Khan, Ajaz Ahmet, Zubair Jahan Khan and Hong Kong's Abdul Faheem Khan could make life interesting for the top seed. Of the eight men who are seeded, only Faheem Khan is a previous winner.

He represented Pakistan in the 1990 Asian championships at Calcutta, migrated to Hong Kong soon thereafter and won the Asian title at Peshawar in 1992 defeating Zubair Jahan Khan. The women's event looks to be a straight fight between Nicol David and local lass Rebecca Chiu.

They are currently ranked at 37 and 38 on the WISPA world list but the 16 year old Malaysian has had the better of the exchanges, particularly during the last year. International referees have been flown down by the organizers for the event. Peter Highstead (New Zealand), Munir Shah (Singapore) and Yogendra Singh (India) have the colourful but controversial Australian lady Chris Sinclair as the fourth. She made world news at the 1991 Australian Open. Sinclair was in the hot seat in the final between Jahangir and Chris Dittmar.

The six times world champion was most upset with her officiating and suggested, "A woman's place is at home". Undeterred, Sinclair responded that she would love to have breakfast with Jahangir.

Saurav, Ritwik, Siddharta, Joshna & Dipika lose in Hi-Tec World Open Squash Championship (Manchester, UK) (16/10/2008)

Round 1: Shahier Razik (Can) bt Saurav Ghosal (Ind) 12/10, 12/10, 11/4
Qualifying finals: Jorge Ferreira (Mex) bt Siddharth Suchde (Ind) 11/7, 11/5, 11/4
Mathieu Castagnet (Fra) bt Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) 11/5, 11/6, 9/11, 3/11, 11/5

Qualifying 1st round:

Siddharth Suchde bt Martin Knight 11/7, 11/7, 11/2

Women Qualifying 1st round finals:

Camille Serme (Fra) bt Dipika Pallikal (Ind) 7/11, 11/6, 9/11, 11/9, 11/5
Joshna Chinappa (Ind) bt Georgina Stoker (Eng) 11/6, 11/5, 8/11, 10/12, 11/3

Saurav & Dipika bows out in HK Main draw (19/11/2008)

Saurav Ghosal lost in the 1st Round to Thierry Lincou of France seeded no 8 & France 2004 winner in the \$145,000 PSA Super Series Platinum Event, Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Open held on all glass court at Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza in Hongkong. In the Qualifying Rounds he had beaten Campbell Grayson of New Zealand and also Anson Kwong of Hongkong.

Dipika Pallikal also lost Emma Beddoes of England in the Final Qualifying Round after she had won her First Round Qualifier where she had defeated Victoria Lust of England 3-1.

Round 1: Saurav Ghosal lost to Thierry Lincou (FRA) 7-11, 8-11, 3-11.

Qualifying Final Round: Saurav Ghosal beat Campbell Grayson (NZL) 10-12, 11-2, 11-7, 11-3

Saurav Ghosal beat Anson Kwong (HK) 11-8, 11-7, 11-8.

Women Qualifying Finals:

Dipika Pallikal lost to Emma Beddoes 8-11, 11-13, 11-9, 9-11

Dipika Pallikal beat Victoria Lust 11-13, 11-8, 11-8, 11-7

Siddharta loses in Kenya Open, Nairobi (22/11/2008)

Siddharth Suchde loses in Quarter finals of Zain Kenya Open at Parklands Sports Club, Nairobi to Number 1 seeded Stephen Coppinger of Russia in the \$ 7000 PSA Tour Squash tournament.

It was a 5 setter as Siddharta after winning the first game was 1-1. He again won the 3rd game after fighting it 9-9 but lost the last 2 games easily in the 75 minutes match against the top seed.

Quarter finals: Steve Coppinger (Rus) beat Siddharth Suchde 9-11, 11-8, 9-11, 11-6, 11-2

Round 1: Siddharth Suchde beat Joan Lezaud (Fra) 11-9, 11-5, 11-8

Macau Open 2008 (30/11/2008)

Men's Round one Result:

Karim Darwish (Egy) beat Saurav Ghosal 11/3, 11/8, 11/5

Women Quarter Finals:

Rebecca Chiu beat Dipika Pallikal 11/9, 14/12, 11/2

Round one:

Dipika Pallikal beat Song Sun-Mi (Kor) 12/10, 11/8, 8/11, 4/11, 11/5

Kush Kumar wins Scottish Junior title (31/12/2008)

Delhi boy Kush Kumar won his maiden European title when he won the Scottish Junior Open squash tournament in the boys' under-13 category. Dominating his category, Kush won all his matches without dropping a game in Edinburgh.

Kush thus capped an excellent year in which he won the Malaysian Junior Open, Penang Junior Open and the Junior National titles.

In the Edinburgh event, Yohan Pandole came third while Sandeep Ramachandran finished fifth in the under-13 category. Among others, Deepak Mishra finished runner-up in the under-15 category, where Rahil Fazalbhoy came eighth.

In the girls' under-13 section, Pankhuri Malhotra came third.

ISP TO STAGE TOURNAMENT IN KAMTE'S MEMORY

Ashok Kamte, the Super Cop who died in the terror blasts was one of a growing band of police personnel who used to play squash. Mahendra Agarwal, Founder Director of ISP recalls how Kamte used to play the sport and how he had met him along with the late Raju Chainani at the CCI.

When he was transferred to Thane as Rural DIG, he continued his play at the Jindal complex courts thanks to an introduction to Ashish Bhagra. Unfortunately a knee problem forced Kamte to give up playing but he was keen about helping the sport. To keep Kamte's memory alive, ISP plans to have a tournament in his memory for kids. The first such event will be held in Feb 2009. But the regular tournament will be held every year in November culminating on Nov 26 the anniversary of the blasts.



Late Mr. Ashok Kamte

Kamte, a 1989 batch IPS officer, and a third generation policeman — his great-grandfather was in the police force, his grandfather Ganpatrao Kamte was the first Indian to rise to the rank of the police chief (Inspector General in the Imperial Police of Bombay) and his father was a Colonel in the Army, was one of the brightest in the police force. Twice, he was sent on UN peace missions, in Bosnia for a year (1998-99) and later in Somalia for 2 years.

Ashok Kamte attended Kodaikanal International School for five years, graduating from 12th grade with the Class of 1982. He had been an international scholarship recipient at Camp Rising Sun in 1980. He completed his bachelor's degree from St. Xavier's College, Bombay graduating in 1985 and post graduate degree in Arts from St. Stephen's College, Delhi 1985-87. An accomplished athlete, he represented India at the junior power-lifting championship in Peru in 1978. Other sports which he keenly liked were Squash, Tennis, Shot Put, Javelin throw & Shooting.

His one repeated Motto which his good friend Ashish would never forget: **WORK HARD, PLAY HARD & DIE AS A GOOD LOOKING CORPSE.**

Ashok Kamte is survived by wife Vinita, two sons Rahul (15) and Arjun (8), his father Maruti Rao Kamte, mother Prem and sister Sharmila.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS ALL FINALS

08/10/2008 : NASH CUP, ONTARIO, CANADA
Farzan Rasheed Bt David Phillips 11/8, 9/11, 11/9, 11/5

27/10/2008 : TURIN OPEN, TURIN, ITALY
Stephane Galifi Bt Yann Perrin 11/1, 11/4, 11/7

27/10/2008 : NIAGRA OPEN, ONTARIO, CANADA
Miranda Ranieri Bt Leonie Holt 11/8, 14/12, 11/2

27/10/2008 : GOODLIFE OPEN, VANCOUVER, CANADA
Robin Clarke Bt Scott Arnold 12/10, 11/4, 11/7

03/11/2008 : EQUADOR OPEN, QUITO
Arturo Salazar Bt Jorge Ferreira 7/11, 4/11, 11/2, 8/1 (retired)

18/11/2008 : KENGEN PARKLANDS, NAIROBI, KENYA
Ali Anwar Reda Bt Steve Coppinger 4/11, 4/11, 11/7, 11/8, 11/2

18/11/2008 : BALTIMORE CUP, BALTIMORE, USA
Yasser El Halaby Bt Shawn Delierre 11/6, 11/7, 11/5

18/11/2008 : OHIO OPEN, DAYTON, OHIO
Dominique Lloyd/Walter Bt Alana Miller 11/4, 15/13, 11/9

23/11/2008 : HONG KONG OPEN,
Amr Shabana Bt Gregory Gaultier 11/7, 13/15, 8/11, 11/2, 11/3

24/11/2008 : KENYA OPEN, NAIROBI, KENYA
Clinton Leeuw Bt Steve Coppinger 11/9, 4/11, 5/11, 11/8, 11/6

20/12/2008 : SAUDI INTERNATIONAL, SAUDI
Karim Darwish Bt Gregory Gaultier 11/9, 11/5, 3/11, 11/8

28/12/2008 : IMET OPEN, BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA
Jan Koukal (Cze) Bt Martin Stepan (Cze) 11/7, 11/9, 11/9

MENS RANKING JANUARY 2009

RANK	PLAYER	COUNTRY
1	Karim Darwish	EGY
2	Amr Shabana	EGY
3	Ramy Ashour	EGY
4	Gregory Gaultier	FRA
5	James Willstrop	ENG
36	Saurav Ghosal	IND
57	Ritvik Bhattacharya	IND
97	Siddharth Suchde	IND
153	Nareesh Kumar	IND
157	Gaurav Nandrajog	IND
181	Harinder Pal Sandhu	IND
324	Parth Sharma	IND

WOMENS RANKING JANUARY 2009

RANK	PLAYER	COUNTRY
1	Nicol David	MAS
2	Natalie Grinham	NED
3	Rachael Grinham	AUS
4	Natalie Grainger	USA
5	Jenny Duncalf	ENG
37	Joshna Chinappa	IND
51	Dipika Pallikal	IND
173	Anwesha Reddy	IND
207	Surbhi Misra	IND

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great rapport with him and he is a wonderful person and friend'.

The H.R. commerce student is moving to the U.S. to pursue higher studies at Trinity college, the long standing men's collegiate champs and will be training there under ace coach Paul Assainte. When quizzed on this move Vikram says 'I am going to Trinity college to be a part of a great squash team and a greater squash legacy'.

Above all Vikram lauds the efforts of his family. "My father Shiv and mom Anita have been great. My grandparents believe I am the best player in the world. I try to live up to that tag."

The flair and flamboyance of this mercurial player will be sorely missed on the Indian Squash circuit.

SUB-JUNIOR / JUNIOR NATIONAL SQUASH

(04/11/2008)

Vikram, Dipika, Kush Kumar & Mahesh triumph



All winners showing off their trophies

Top seed Vikram Malhotra's last National tournament as a junior was a memorable one as it yielded him the under-19 title at the ICL Squash Academy in Chennai. Vikram is the only player who has won National titles as junior in all category Under-11, 13, 15, 17 and now Under-19. This is a unique record not even held by Ritwik and Ghosal.

Vikram, who turns 19 next week, beat second seed Aditya Jagtap in straight games in the final. Vikram had tough fight only in the first game as the score reached 8-8 in the first game, he used a deceptive mix of oblique drops to inch to 10-8 before Aditya banged one into the tin to give him the game.

Vikram gave up his aggression with good short balls placed deep in the corners. He ran up four consecutive points at 7-7 to take the second game, and then in the third game he confronted the joyous situation of five matchballs at 10-5. Aditya made a mini-recovery of sorts with three consecutive points before Vikram's angular offering to the right court induced another error to end the match.

In the girls' under-19 category, Tamil Nadu's Dipika Pallikal showed among other qualities, a mastery of the dead ball and won her second successive National junior tournament. She had Rajasthan's Surbhi Misra in a trouble wrong-footed her several times during her brief 20 minute match.

Dipika raced to a 7-0, 3-0, and 5-0 lead in the first, second and third games respectively and gave little chance to her opponent to catch up.

Mahesh Mangaokar defeated the fast improving Dalip Tripathi coached lad Vivek Dinodia from Kolkata in four games to lift yet another U-15 National Title.

Mahesh who is coached by Amir Wagih and Vaman Apte is ready to take on the mantle of the best junior in the country after Vikram graduates into the senior ranks. At 14 he has impressive records which speak volumes of his abilities and it is only a matter of time before he is ready to take on the best among the under 17 and 19's.

RESULTS

FINAL GIRLS :

Under 11: Adya Advani (DEL) bt Aishwarya Bhattacharya (MAH) 11-4, 11-3, 8-11, 11-1

Third place: Rayna Kishanchandani (MAH) bt Jui Kalgutar (MAH) 21-19, 6-11, 11-8, 11-9.

Under 13: Pankhuri Malhotra (DEL) bt Lakshya Ragvendra (TN) 10-12, 11-6, 11-9, 11-3

Third place: Heba Johnson (RAJ) bt Likhita Dugar (TN) 11-13, 11-7, 11-8, 11-8.

Under 15: Anaka Alankamony (TN) bt Saumya Karki (MAH) 11-9, 11-6, 12-10

Third place: Aprajitha Balamurukan (TN) bt Shria Khatri (MAH) 11-6, 11-6, 7-11, 11-7.

Under 17: Harita Om Prakash (TN) bt Ankita Sharma (MAH) 11-6, 11-9, 11-3

Third place: Dheeya Somaia (MP) bt Tanvi Jain (MP) 11-7, 11-3, 9-11, 11-9.

Under 19: Dipika Pallikal (TN) bt Surbhi Misra (RAJ) 11-5, 11-5, 11-2

Third place: Anwesha Reddy (TN) bt Swati Muchhal (MP) 11-3, 11-2, 11-5.

FINAL BOYS:

Under 11: Roshan R.K. (TN) bt A. Rishidev (TN) 11-9, 11-2, 11-6

Third place: Ranjeet Singh (UP) bt Robin Mann (DEL) 11-6, 11-8, 11-6.

Under 13: Kush Kumar (DEL) bt Raghav Mehrotra (MAH) 11-5, 11-2, 11-8

Third place: Abhimanyu Shah (MAH) bt Sandeep Ramachandran (TN) 9-11, 11-4, 11-7, 11-6.

Under 15: Mahesh Mangaonkar (MAH) bt Vivek Dinodia (WB) 11-6, 9-11, 11-6, 11-2

Third place: Vrishab Kotian (TN) bt Deepak Mishra (DEL) 11-7, 11-9, 11-5.

Under 17: Karan Malik (TN) bt P. Abhishek (TN) 11-7, 8-11, 11-2, 11-8

Third place: Ravi Dixit (TN) bt Ramit Tandon (TN) 11-7, 11-1, 11-2.

Under 19: Vikram Malhotra (MAH) bt Aditya Jagtap (MAH) 11-8, 11-7, 11-8

Third place: Paramit Singh (TN) bt J. Laxman (MAH) 12-10, 11-8, 11-9

JUNIOR INTER STATE SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

Tamil Nadu holds sway (08/11/2008)

Tamil Nadu clinched three of the four titles on offer in the inter-state squash championship. Tamil Nadu upset Maharashtra to lift the Boys U-19 title and then put it across New Delhi in the Girls U-15 and U-19 finals.

In a thrilling Boys U-19 decider, Tamil Nadu's Karan Malik rallied from a two-game deficit to outlast Laxman Joshi in five games. Karan hung on in the face of some lusty hitting by Laxman to clinch the decider 11-6.

RESULTS

FINAL:

Boys Under-19: TN bt Maharashtra 2-1

Ravi Dixit lost to Vikram Malhotra 6-11, 4-11, 5-11
Rami Tandon bt Mahesh Mangaonkar 11-2, 11-3, 11-0
Karan Malik bt Laxman Joshi 11-7, 11-2, 4-11, 8-11, 11-6
3rd/4th place playoff: TN 'B' bt New Delhi 2-0
Abhishek Pradhan bt Gunraj Singh 11-8, 11-2, 11-8
Ashay Deepak bt Shakir Hussain 11-13, 11-6, 11-6, 11-9

Boys Under-15: New Delhi bt Maharashtra 2-0

Kush Kumar bt Mahesh Mangaonkar 11-9, 11-7, 11-8
Deepak Mishra bt Rahil Fazilbhai 10-12, 12-10, 11-7, 0-11, 11-2
3rd/4th place playoff: TN bt Maharashtra 'B' 2-1

Girls U-19: TN bt New Delhi 'B' 3-0.

Girls U-15: TN bt New Delhi 2-0

Anaka Alankamony bt Sachika Ingale 11-3, 11-9, 11-4
Aparajitha Balamurukan bt Pankhuri Malhotra 11-4, 11-4, 11-1

SEMIFINALS:

Boys U-19: Tamil Nadu bt Tamil Nadu 'B' 3-0 Maharashtra bt New Delhi 3-0

Boys Under-15: New Delhi bt Maharashtra 'B' 3-0 Maharashtra bt Tamil Nadu 2-1.

Girls U-19: Tamil Nadu bt Tamil Nadu 'B' 3-0

Girls U-15: New Delhi w/o Bihar Tamil Nadu bt Tamil Nadu 'B' 3-0.

QUARTERFINALS:

New Delhi bt Maharashtra 'B' 2-1
Tamil Nadu bt Uttar Pradesh 3-0
Maharashtra bt West Bengal 3-0
Tamil Nadu 'B' bt New Delhi 'B' 2-1

DOUBLE DELIGHT FROM JOSHNA CHINAPPA

(22/11/2008)

India's squash queen Joshna Chinappa won the first WISPA title of her career when she won the NSC Satellite No 3 event at National Squash Centre in Kuala Lumpur on November 14, 2008. It was first ever by an Indian and she repeated her feat by winning a second consecutive WISPA title at the NSC Super Satellite No. 4 squash tournament in Malaysia on November 21st, 2008.

In the first final of NSC Satellite no 3 event Joshna beat Low Lee Wern 11-8, 11-5, 11-3. Joshna had reached two finals in 2008 year, losing Satellite events in Viet Nam and Guangzhou.

January 2009

In the semi-finals, Joshna beat top seed Malaysian Sharon Wee, who is ranked No 3 in Asia behind world champ Nicol David and Rebecca Chiu. Wee had won the bronze at the Doha Asiad.

In the second final of NSC Satellite no 4 event Joshna again overcame Malaysian third seed Low Wee Wern 11-8, 11-7, 11-6 in the final at the National Squash Centre in Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur, to repeat her performance of the previous week, when she had created history by becoming the first Indian to win a WISPA title.

Joshna said she was grateful for the sparring she did with Saurav Ghoshal and Harinder Singh at the ICL Academy in Chennai. Unlike other Indian aspirants she doesn't believe in training in Egypt. Joshna has been sponsored by the Mittal Champions Trust. "I've had two wonderful weeks," an elated Joshna said. "It was all work but I'm happy that I was able to maintain my intensity during both the tournaments thanks to my improved fitness levels."

A proud father, Anjan, said from Chennai: "Joshna has been extremely sharp and focused, and was in devastating form in the final. She had made it to finals before but couldn't close it out, which is some thing she has worked on. This win should help her significantly move up the rankings".

RESULTS

NSC Satellite no 3 event (14/11/2008)

Finals : Joshna beat Low Lee Wern 11-8, 11-5, 11-3

Semifinals : Joshna beat Sharon Wee (Mal) 11-9, 11-9, 12-14, 11-2.

Quarterfinals: Joshna beat Chinatsu Matsui (Jap) 11-8, 11-7, 11-7.

Men's 1st round: Cheng Yao Huang (Taipei) beat Naresh Kumar (Ind) 7-11, 11-5, 8-11, 11-5, 11-9

NSC Satellite no 4 tournament (21/11/2008)

Finals: Joshna Chinappa beat Low Wee Wern (Mal) 11-8, 11-7, 11-6

Semifinals: Joshna Chinappa beat Siti Munirah Jusoh (Mal) 9-11, 11-3, 11-2, 11-7

Quarter Final: Joshna Chinappa beat Low Wee Nee 11/6, 13/11, 11/5

Round one: [1] Joshna Chinappa (Ind) beat Rachel Goh (Mas) 11/6, 11/4, 11/2



Joshna Chinappa in action

MSSA-NIKE 4TH INTER SCHOOL SQUASH

(26/11/2008)

Vir Chotrani's maiden title



All winners along with the officials of MSSA and Indian Squash Professionals

Organised by Mumbai School Sports Association and conducted by Indian Squash Professionals at Bombay Gymkhana, this year's event attracted a record number of 225 entries. However, there were a few problems that emerged due to receiving the entries just two days before the start date of the event, additional entries being sent to ISP from MSSA after making of draws, but accommodated as the draw had not been displayed.

In fact, one school with the largest number of entries-- Cathedral & John Connon , had its sports day clashing with the MSSA event, upsetting the schedule and resulting in players waiting several hours for rescheduled matches.

Some promising players emerged in the event. Abhimanyu Shah continued his excellent form, winning the boys under-13 title. Veer Chotrani won his first title, taking the under-9 crown. Aryan Hemdev announced his arrival at the top level with a bang, taking the boys under-11 title. Namrata Purohit and Jui Kalgutkar won titles in their respective age groups.

RESULTS

FINAL:

Boys U-13 : Abhimanyu Shah (Cathedral) bt Yohan Pandole (Cathedral) 8-11, 11-6, 11-4, 11-8

Boys U-16 : Mahesh Mangaonkar (Don Bosco) bt Caran Arora (Cathedral)

Girls U-13 : Jui Kalgutkar bt Aishwarya Nambiar 11-2, 11-3, 11-5

Girls U-16 : Namrata Purohit bt Maanvi Chopra 11-5, 11-7, 11-7

Boys/Girls U-9 : Veer Chotrani bt Advait Adik 11-3, 11-5, 11-2

Boys U-11 : Aryan Hemdev bt Rajat Agarwal 2-11, 11-13, 11-5, 11-8, 12-10

SEMI FINALS:

Boys U-13 : Yohan Pandole (Cathedral) bt Kunj Rawani (Don Bosco, Borivli) 11-8, 11-4, 11-7

Abhimanyu Shah (Cathedral) bt Karan Kochhar (Cathedral) 11-6, 11-8, 9-11, 11-3

Boys U-16 : Mahesh Mangaonkar (Don Bosco) bt Rahil Fazalbhoy

(Rizvi Springfield) 11-6, 11-8, 11-7

Caran Arora (Cathedral) bt Rohan Paranjpe (Cathedral) 13-11, 11-7, 11-9

Girls U-13 : Jui K. bt Rayna Kishanchandani 11-5, 11-9, 11-8
Aishwarya Nambiar bt Gayatri Raheja 11-8, 11-11, 11-4, 11-8

Girls U-16 : Maanvi Chopra bt Rhea Advani
Namrata Purohit bt Shehnaz Modi 11-2, 11-13, 11-3

B/G U-9 : Advait Adik bt Jash Chheda 10-12, 11-3, 11-3, 11-5
Veer Chotrani bt Jai Lekhray 11-2, 11-3, 11-5

Boys U-11 : Aryan Hemdev bt Yohann Surti 12-10, 11-8, 11-9
Rajat Agarwal bt Dev Vazirani 10-12, 11-8, 11-6, 11-6

C.C.I. WESTERN INDIA OPEN SQUASH 2008

Gaurav, Karm, Mangaonkar & Surbhi clinch titles

Top seeds Gaurav Nandrajog of Delhi and Surbhi Misra of Rajasthan lived up to their reputations and fashioned contrasting victories to clinch the men's and women's titles, respectively, in the 65th CCI Indiabulls Western India Open Squash Tournament at the CCI.

India No. 4 Nandrajog overcame Navy's Vikas Jangra 11-4, 11-5, 11-9 in the Men's Open final to earn a winner's purse of Rs. 1,10,000. A focussed and confident Nandrajog capitalised on Jangra's unforced errors in the first two games where the sailor hit the tin too often, to allow the Delhi lad a good advantage. No pushover, Jangra initiated a determined bid to come back into the match in the crucial third game that went neck-and-neck with Jangra coming up with brilliant backhand drops to even enjoy a 9-8 lead. But his challenge ended there as he hit the tin again in an error-prone game to allow Nandrajog a chance to take control and seal the match.

"Vikas is playing a lot better than before. But he tired and hit the tin too often. That made it easy for me," said a delighted Nandrajog after the match. "I am happy with my game and will try to improve while working on my volleys and shots."

Said Jangra: "I tried to play my shots, but didn't succeed. Yes, I should have been fitter because Gaurav was faster." In contrast, women's No. 1 Surbhi Misra rallied from a 1-2 deficit to overcome second seed Mandy Kennedy of England 11-3, 5-11, 7-11, 11-4, 11-7 in an exciting championship round.

In another thrilling final, boys under-19 third seed Karan Kumar of Delhi shocked top seed Mahesh Mangaonkar of Maharashtra 5-11, 11-9, 11-13, 11-9, 14-12 in a tight contest that went down to the wire and included the third and fifth games stretching into extra points.

But Mangaonkar made amends and avenged the defeat against Kumar as he bagged the under-17 crown as the top seed with an exciting 11-9, 8-11, 11-13, 11-3, 11-6 triumph in another encounter that stretched into the decider.

Among the girls, Saumya Karki helped herself to a double by winning the under-19 and under-15 titles, with wins over second seed Shria Khatri in both finals.

Matunga Gymkhana lad Aryan Parekh landed his first major



Gaurav Nandrajog-Mens Winner (A.A. Jasdenvaia Challenge Trophy) and Surbhi Mishra-Womens Winner (Sir Kikabhai Premchand Challenge Cup)



Aryan Hemdev - promising junior and Shriya Khatri (Player of the Tournament Larsen & Toubro Trophy)

crown since he started playing squash four years back, as he won the under-9 title following a 11-7, 11-7, 12-10 win over second seed Veer Chotrani.

The MOST PROMISING JUNIOR award went to Aryan Hemdev for his gutsy performance all through the tournament, beating higher-ranked Kshitij Prasad in the boys under-11 quarters.

The PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT award went to Saumya Karki for winning both the girls under 15 and 19 titles.

RESULTS

FINAL:

Men's Open: Gaurav Nandrajog (Del) bt Vikas Jangra (Services) 11-4, 11-5, 11-9
Women: Surbhi Mishra (Raj) bt Mandy Kennedy (Mah) 11-3, 5-11, 7-11, 11-4, 11-7
Boys U-19: Karm Kumar (Del) bt Mahesh Mangaonkar (Mah) 5-11, 11-9, 11-13, 11-9, 14-12
Boys U-17: Mahesh Mangaonkar (Mah) bt Karm Kumar (Del) 11-9, 8-11, 11-13, 11-3, 11-6
Boys U-15: Deepak Mishra (Del) bt Kush Kumar (Del) 11-8, 8-11, 11-4, 11-5
Boys U-13: Kush Kumar (Del) bt Abhimanyu Shah (Mah) 11-9, 11-6, 8-11, 11-8
Boys U-11: Ranjeet Singh (UP) bt Rajat A (Mah) 11-7, 11-7, 11-3
Girls U-19: Saumya Karki (Mah) bt Shria Khatri (Mah) 13-11, 11-4, 9-11, 11-1
Girls U-15: Saumya Karki (Mah) bt Shria Khatri (Mah) 11-7, 11-1, 11-7
Under-9: Aryan Parekh (Mah) bt Veer Chotrani (Mah) 11-7, 11-7, 12-10
Professionals: Amjad Khan (Del) bt Sanjay Pawar (Mah) 11-3, 11-6, 11-5
Veterans: Vaman Apte (Mah) bt Gopichand Mohite (Mah) 11-7, 15-13, 11-3
Vintage: Ravi Puri (Mah) bt Mohan Nathani (Mah) 11-9, 11-5, 11-8

SEMI-FINALS:

Open: Gaurav Nandrajog (Del) beat Sandeep Jangra (Mah) 6-11 11-3 11-8 11-4
 Vikas Jangra (Mah) beat Vikram Malhotra (Mah) 9-11 11-2 11-4 14-16 11-5
Women: Surbhi Mishra (Mah) beat Deepali Parikh (Mah) 11-9 11-5 11-5
 Mandy Kennedy (Mah) beat Rachita Vora (Mah) 11-4 11-4 11-6
Boys U-9: Aryan Parekh (Mah) beat Nikita Joshi (Mah) 11-3 11-3 11-4
 Veer Chotrani (Mah) beat Daksha Pathak (Mah) 9-11 11-5 13-11 11-5
Boys U-13: Kush Kumar (Del) beat Yohan Pandole (Mah) 7-11 11-2 11-2 11-1
 Abhimanyu Shah (Mah) beat Ranjeet Singh (UP) 11-8 11-7 11-5
Boys U-15: Kush Kumar (Del) beat Rahil Fazelbhoj (Mah) 9-11 11-8 11-7 11-3
 Deepak Mishra (Del) beat Abhimanyu Shah (Mah) 11-6 11-7 11-5
Boys U-17: Mahesh D Mangaonkar (Mah) beat Samir Mistry (Mah) 11-5 11-3 11-6
 Karm Kumar beat Deepak Mishra (Del) 11-4 10-12 11-4 11-6
Boys U-19: Karm Kumar beat Laxman Joshi (Mah) 11-6 9-11 11-9 11-9
Girls U-15: Saumya Karki (Mah) beat Aishwarya Kulkarni (Mah) 11-2 11-4 11-0
 Shria Khatri (Mah) beat Khushi Aggarwal (Mah) 11-2 11-5 11-1
Girls U-19: Saumya Karki (Mah) beat Shaheen Madraswala (Mah) 11-3 11-9 11-2
 Shria Khatri (Mah) beat Shaheda Madraswala (Mah) 11-5 11-7 13-11
Masters: Temo Gomez (Mah) beat Darius Surti (Mah) 11-2 11-9 11-4
Veterans: Vaman Apte (Mah) beat Anant More (Mah) 11-2 11-1 11-8
 Gopi Mohite (Mah) beat Chetan Ladiwala (Mah) 11-7 10-12 11-4 11-6
Vintage: Mohan Nathani (Mah) beat Shyam Wadkar (Mah) 11-4 11-9 11-8
 Ravi Puri (Mah) beat Sudhir Sood (Mah) 11-6 11-2 11-9.

Professionals: Sanjay Pawar (Mah) beat Temo Gomez (Mah) 12-10 9-11 11-9 11-2
 Amjad Khan (Del) beat Farman Khan (Del) 11-8 13-11 11-9.

INDIAN CHALLENGER-PSA TOURNAMENT

(09/11/2008)

Ritwik Bhattacharya beats Saurav Ghosal



Ritwik Bhattacharya, India No. 2 won his maiden \$15,000 Indian Challenger – PSA final beating his old rival Saurav in a cliff hanger five-setter. It was a sweet revenge for Ritwik who had lost to Saurav in the final of ICL-Chennai Open in July 2008.

From the very beginning it looked to be a tough final for both. The first game continued on an even keel and Ritwik, showing no signs of the shoulder injury that has hampered his progress of late, skimmed the surface of the sidewalls with his backhands and deprived Saurav of the space required to play his shots. A couple of loose forehand flicks by Saurav that clattered into the tin at 9-9 handed the first game to

Ritwik 11-9.

Not quite used to losing games, especially on home turf, Saurav had a rethink of strategy in the second. He harnessed the three D's (delay, deception and doggedness) and was helped by no less than five strokes that were awarded to him to square the match 11.

The third game, too, went to Saurav very easily. Facilitated by conservative, corrosive stroke play that ate into and snuffed out the power in Ritwik's cross-court bombshells. In the fourth game Ritwik was down 4-7, but Saurav ran out of steam after long rallies at the fag end. Ritwik surprised him with two drop shots that were conjured out of nowhere and all eyes turned towards the decisive fifth game.

In the decider the lead changed hands several times, Ritwik was leading 5-1 but Saurav fought back and the score settled on 9-9. A point each for either player made it 10-10, before Ritwik pieced together two point and won the final. With this win Ritwik gained 225 points and was richer by \$2850 while Saurav won \$1950.

RESULTS

FINAL:

Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) bt Saurav Ghosal (Ind) 11-9, 5-11, 4-11, 11-8, 12-10.

SEMIFINALS:

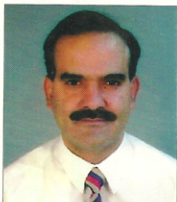
Saurav Ghosal (Ind) bt Chris Simpson (Eng) 11-9, 11-6, 11-6
Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) bt Harinder Sandhu (Ind) 11-8, 11-5, 11-7

QUARTER FINALS:

Saurav Ghosal (Ind) bt Max Lee (HK) 11-9, 11-6, 11-7
Chris Simpson (Eng) bt Siddharth Suchde (Ind) 11-9, 11-3, 6-11, 11-2
Harinder Sandhu bt Dick Lau (HK) 11-5, 11-6, 11-2
Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) bt Aqeel Rehman (Aut) 11-8, 11-7, 11-4.

SQUASHED BETWEEN PLEASURE AND EXERCISE

By Parimbir Singh



Parimbir Singh Additional Comm. of Police, Anti Terrorism Squad, Mumbai

Mumbai has a tradition of excellence in playing squash. But while it may be the ideal half-hour workout for some, you need to be careful about certain things if you want to play this all-weather sport.

After I moved to Mumbai, I became a member of the Cricket Club of India (CCI) and that was when I took to squash. A racket sport, squash is a high-impact and swift game played with a small, hollow and squashable rubber ball. It is

played by two (or four in the case of doubles) players in a walled-in court.

I have got better at it, I won the Mumbai Open Squash Doubles Title in 2005 at Khar Gymkhana and represented the CCI in a inter-club tournament last year.

What struck me and got me hooked to it was the fact that this sport, which allows for high-impact exercise, lets me get in an good workout even if I don't spend much time on it. Even half an hour gives me a solid cardio workout.

So even if I had no more than 30 minutes for it on a given day (and three were so many of them when I used to be with the Crime Branch), I could actually get in enough exercise. In one hour of squash, a player may burn approximately 700 to 1,000 calories, much more than most sports. Realizing why it could do a world of good, many of my colleagues took to the game.

Squash is an all-weather sport. You can play it ensconced in the safety of the walled-in court. You can play it at any time of the day. All you need is access to a court.

It is said that squash was developed at a boarding school in England in the early 19th century when boys discovered that puncturing a ball caused it to squash when hitting the wall, and allowed for a greater variety of shots.

The sport is simple. Players tend to warm up balls by bouncing them on the ground prior to play. As a rally progresses, play is complicated as the ball usually becomes hotter and faster.

Coloured dots on the ball indicate its bounciness level and the standard of play for which it is suited. So a double yellow ball is extra super slow and of very low bounce; a yellow ball is super slow and of low bounce; and a blue ball will be fast, meaning very high bounce.

The players take turns hitting the ball against the front wall (called "rallying"). The ball may be volleyed (hit while in the air)

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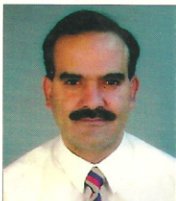
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The players take turns hitting the ball against the front wall (called "rallying"). The ball may be volleyed (hit while in the air)

DDA OPEN SQUASH TOURNAMENT (12/10/2008)**Men's Open:** Mohd. Asyraf bt Gaurav N.10-9-9-7,0-9-8,10-9-1**Women's Open:** Surbhi Misra bt. Sachika Ingale 9-1,9-1,9-0**Boys U-11:** Ranjit Singh bt. Robin Mann 9-5,9-0,2-9-9-5**Boys U-13:** Vijay Kumar bt. Ranvijay Singh 9-3,9-3,9-4**Boys U-15:** Karan Taharyamal bt. Kush Kumar 9-6,9-3,9-6**Boys U-17:** Ashray Ohri bt. Deepak Misra 9-1,9-6,6-9,9-2**Boys U-19:** Karan Kumar bt. Parmit Singh 9-3,9-1,6-9,9-5**Girls U-13:** Pankhuri Malhotra bt. Adya Advani 9-2,9-3,9-5**Girls U-15:** Sai Meera bt. Pankhuri Malhotra 8-10,5-9,9-5,10-9,9-3**Girls U-17:** Sachika Ingale bt. Sai Meera 9-0,9-1,9-0**Men's above 35:** Mukhtiar Ali bt. Dushyant Jamwal w/o to Ali**Veterans above 45:** Dr. B.I. Singh bt. Swagat Bam 9-0,9-4,9-5**Professionals:** A. Parthiban bt. Amjad Khan 9-7,9-4,4-9,9-3

Indians and those of Indian origin will be following closely.

The Delhi player - who was born and has grown up here - is a British citizen who has never ever visited UK and got a passport because his other holds a British passport. His mother is an Indian citizen and both parents are of Indian origin.

In April 2007, he obtained the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card, the status of which is higher than a PIO (Person of Indian Origin). He represented India in the u-15 Asian Junior Individual Squash Championship and recently won the SRFI-recognized DDA U-19 open and the CCI Western Open in Mumbai.

But the SRFI has taken him off the list of the 2010 Commonwealth Games probable submitted to the Sports Ministry because of his British passport. What makes this fascinating is that tennis players like Prakash Amritraj, Shikha Uberoi and Sunitha Rao (all PIOs and US passport holders) have represented India in events like the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, the Olympics and the Asian Games.

In a direct reference to the All India Tennis Association (AITA), the SRFI contended that if some federations were willing to accommodate such players it was their problem. It also contended that Karan cannot represent India in the Commonwealth Games (CWG) as he is not a citizen or subject of India, adding that the Games constitution was very clear on the subject.

In that case, it doesn't make sense that Amritraj, Uberoi et al are in the list of CWG probables.

AITA executive director Ranbir Chauhan told HT that there were no set guidelines from the Ministry. "We only require a clearance from the International Tennis Federation (ITF) clearing the player to play for the country."

Source: Hindustantimes

(26/11/2008)

KARM KUMAR turned 17 on Tuesday it wasn't a happy birthday. The teenager is in the middle of an intense battle, victory in which would give him the right to play for India.

Squash player Karan's fight for what is as yet denied to him by the Squash Racquets Federation of India (SRFI) could turn out to be one of the most high profile cases the Delhi High Court has seen, with implications far beyond him. It's a story that will be one that a lot of



Karan Kumar

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MISTRY AIMS FOR TOP FOUR SPOT

Samir Mistry an upcoming player who had a good squash calendar in 2008 is 11th standard student of R.I.M.S International college. He got motivated seeing his father Salim play at Juhu Centaur who won the Doubles Handicap in 2002. His mother Zakia has been helping him keep his fitness level by having a coach for his fitness regime.



Sameer Mistry

Prosqash : Where do you learn squash?

Sameer : I started playing at Tulip Star with Coach Riaz Mohd and now I am playing at Otters Club.

Prosqash : With whom you are training?

Sameer : I am training with Sanjay Pawar at Otters Club.

Prosqash : How much time you spend for squash?

Sameer : I play 1 1/2 hours a day and 5

times a week.

Prosqash : Any physical exercise you do?

Sameer : No.

Prosqash : What is your aim?

Sameer : I want to be in a top 4 in India whenever I play.

Prosqash : Tell me about yourself?

Sameer : I am 15 years old I have represented Maharashtra team two times in u-15 category and u-19 category. My recent performance is that I came third in the tournament held in CCI western Indian open squash tournament I want to continue good form in upcoming tournament.

DEV VAZIRANI AIMS HIGH

Dev Vazirani is an up-and-coming player from Otters Club. A nine-year-old with immense potential, he has started making a mark in local tournaments. Prosqash interviewed him at the recently-concluded MSSA tournament where he reached the semis of the Boys U-11 category. Excerpts from the interview:

Prosqash : You play like an expert! When did you start playing squash?

Dev : I started about one and a half years ago. I saw the game being played at the Otters Open, liked it and took it up.

Prosqash : You have done quite



Dev Vazirani

well here. What about past results?

Dev : I won the U-9 title at the Otters Open this year. I did well at last year's MSSA tournament too. In the Jindal Open, I was third.

Prosqash : Where do you train?

Dev : I play at Otters club, and sometimes in JVP. I'm also a playing member at Khar Gymkhana.

Prosqash : Who do you train with? How much time do you spend on training?

Dev : I'm training under Sanjay Pawar, Adesh Gamre and Santosh More. I train for fitness with Ahmed. At JVP, A. I. Singh coaches me. I train for two hours a day.

Prosqash : What are our future plans?

Dev : I want to turn pro. I want to win a National title to begin with, and a major title at Otters Open.

Prosqash : And a World title?

Dev : Well, why not?

Prosqash : Besides squash, what are your other interests?

Dev : Swimming, cricket and football.

FOR ARYAN SQUASH IS FUN

Aryan Hemdev from Cathedral and John Connon School won the Boys Under-11 title, beating the top seeded Rajat Agarwal at the MSSA schools tourney. He says he likes squash because it is fun. Excerpts from the interview:



Aryan Hemdev

Prosqash : Aryan, when and how did you start playing Squash?

Aryan : My father plays at the Cricket Club of India. I started playing with him two years ago.

Prosqash : What were your best results before this win?

Aryan : Reaching the semis of the Little Masters and the CCI's Western India this year in boys u-11.

Prosqash : Who are your favourite players?

Aryan : Rami Ashour and Amr Shabana.

Prosqash : How much time do you devote to training and what other interests do you have?

Aryan : I train for one and a half hours. I like squash because it is fun. I play cricket and tennis as well.

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