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Group of Co) Advisor: Pradeep K. Vijayakar, Shiv Malhotra

PRO-S

ISP adopts Abhishek Pradhan

A champion is always born, seldom made. This proved true in the case of **Abhishek Pradhan**, who drew praise from one and all the moment he stepped on to the squash courts, even for the first time, when he was a total novice at the game. The attributes that were noticed were the tremendous power the ten-year-old Abhishek packed into his shots, the manner in which his game improved every time he stepped on to the court and his never-say-die temperament.

Within no time, Abhishek was challenging the best in his age group and very soon he had overtaken them to make the under-11 age group his personal domain. His never-say-die attitude was much evident in two tournaments the youngster featured in recently, where, in spite of suffering considerable pain from being hit by his rival's racquets, he went on to win the title.

Abhishek's conquests on the squash court did not go unnoticed and his talent was spotted by renowned coach **Chandrakant Pawar** in the Mid-Day Squash League's 1st Leg in June 2003, after which Abhishek was adopted by the Indian Squash Professionals. Abhishek has been given free membership of **The Leela** for one whole year and the Indian Squash Professionals will provide him with free coaching at the hands of nine times national champion Chandrakant Pawar.

Besides the free training, ISP will also provide him with racquets, shoes and financial assistance while traveling for tournaments in the country. Abhishek is the fourth player who has been adopted by the Indian Squash Professionals and The Leela, the previous three being **Anil Paul**, **Deepali Arnekar** and **Priyanka Yadav**.

Anil was given financial sponsorship for training and playing tournaments abroad in 1997 and this was followed up by assistance to Deepali, who was given a three-year membership at The Leela, courtesy **Vivek Nair** (MD and Vice-Chairman, The Leela) and free coaching by Chandrakant Pawar. Deepali was among the top eight when the ISP took her under their wing and she went on to become the junior National champion (under-19) category.

Priyanka was also among the top eight when she was adopted by the ISP in 1999. She was in the women's team which represented India in **Kuala Lumpur** in May 2002 and at present she is amongst the top four in the women's category.

Abhishek recently won the **Khar Gym Inter-School Tournament** when he beat the No 1 seed **Tarun Nambiar** and followed it up with the title in the **All-India Little Masters Squash Championship**.



Coach Chandrakant Pawar with two of his latest wards, Aditya Jagtap (left) and Abhishek Pradhan

Aditya Jagtap set to dominate under-11 group in state

Aditya Jagtap is set to dominate the under-13 age group squash in India this year. He gave notice when winning the **Little Masters** title at Willingdon Sports Club.

Just 11, Aditya is a 6th Standard **Bombay Scottish School, Powai**. He plays squash as well as cricket and chess.

He won the u-13 event in the **West Zone Inter-school**. In under-11, he had won the **CCI Western India** title, the **Poona Open**, **Wilson Singapore Open** Juniors Squash Tournament 2002, **Penang** International Junior Squash Championship 2002, **Air India Grand Finals** (2002), the **Junior Open Tournament** (2002) UAE, the **All Star Junior Open Squash Tournament** in Malaysia as well as **Wilson Junior Open Squash Tournament** in Singapore. He also won the **Air-India grand Finals Squash Tournament** organized by **Squash Racquets Association of Maharashtra (SRAM)**.

By a coincidence the under-11 group has become stronger after he left it. The under-13 is not so strong. Aditya's basics are okay and he is consistent. But he will have to play out of his skin to beat the likes of **Ramit Tandon** and others at national level. This is where inputs come in.

Aditya is lucky that **Mr Vivek Nair, MD**, The Leela group of Hotels encouraged him and gave him the opportunity to play at The Leela and his talents are being honed by Chandrakant Pawar. Pawar himself was 9 times National Champion.

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Indian girls make history by reaching last four



Vaidehi Reddy....made the fourth round of the singles event.

India justified their fourth seeding by reaching as fast as the last four in the Women's World Junior Team Squash Championships. It was the first time they made this grade. It was unfortunate that after beating several European teams the Indian team had to run into world champs Egypt. They were blanked 3-0.

India had a 2-1 victory over USA in the quarter-finals in Cairo, Egypt. Seeded four, India had only competed in the biennial event twice before, finishing in eighth place in their last appearance in 2001 in Malaysia. Fielding the same squad as in Penang, India took just 61 minutes to claim their semi-final place--after No 2 Vaidehi Reddy beat USA's Claire Rein-Weston 9-2 9-5 9-4. No. 1 Joshna Chinappa then overcame a first-game loss to Lily Lorentzen to win 6-9 9-2 9-1 9-4. Tenth seeds USA gained a consolation point in the third and 'dead' rubber when Audrey Duboc beat India No 3 Supriya Balsekar 9-3 9-3.

In the individual event to Egypt proved to be the hurdle for India as world No 1 Omneya Abdel Kawy ended the aspirations of Joshna Chinappa in the quarter-finals. India No 2 Vaidehi Reddy fell in the fourth round.

Results:

Team semi-finals:

Egypt bt India 3-0:

Omneya Abdel Kawy bt Vaidehi Reddy 9-7, 9-2, 9-0;

Sara Badr bt Supriya Balsekar 9-0, 9-0, 9-2;

Raneem El Welily bt Alisha Mashruwala 9-2, 9-1.

Australia bt England 3-0:

Kasey Brown bt Susie Pierrepont 9-7, 2-9, 8-10, 9-4, 9-7;

Donna Urquhart bt Emma Beddoes 10-8, 9-4, 5-9, 9-2;

Georgina David bt Lauren Siddall 9-2 rtd.

Quarter-finals:

India bt U.S. 2-1:

Vaidehi Reddy bt Claire Rein-Weston 9-2, 9-5, 9-4;

Joshna Chinappa bt Lily Lorentzen 6-9, 9-2, 9-1, 9-4;

Supriya Balsekar lost to Audrey Duboc 3-9, 3-9.

Pro Circuit beckons for Joshna



Joshna Chinappa....unlucky to run into world No.1 Omneya in the quarter-finals of the World Juniors

Though just 16 Joshna Chinappa is feeling 'old' already. This is when she is pitted against players of her age in juniors events. She says she is playing merely because she has one year to go to her school, Lady Andal in Chennai. Obviously the professional circuit beckons. She plans to make her pro debut in the Hong Kong Open.

Joshna did well to reach the last eight of the World Juniors. Her bad luck was to run into e top seeded Egyptian, Omneya Abdel Kaw, in the quarter-finals."I realised I have to improve a lot if I have to match her standards," says Chinappa. With Vaidehi Reddy having gone abroad Joshna has problems of practice but she trains with the boys at the India Cements Academy. They are the under-17 players Saurav Ghosal, Vinayak Shetty and M Parthibhan.

Her aim is to break into the top 50. Mekhla Subedar played the Satellite circuit and called it quits because of lack of corporate support. It remains to be seen how Josh copes.



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Kiwi hat-trick eludes Ritwik after two wins in a row

-By Pradeep Vijayakar

Ritwik Bhattacharya may not have done the hat-trick of PSA titles in **New Zealand** but at least he won two. And his ranking has come up from 91 to 76. And the good news is that he won't feel lonely in the circuit. Mumbai's **Supreet Singh** played in the two events in **New Zealand**. **Saurav Ghoshal** and **Gaurav Nandrajog** should be seen in the will play in the **Malaysian** and **Australian** events.

Ritwik will go back to the drawing board in London to analyse and improve.

At the last hurdle, Ritwik came up a cropper against **Kashif Shuja**, a Pakistani junior who has made **New Zealand** his home for the last two years. "It was pretty disappointing to lose after such a wonderful run," was the reaction of Ritwik, who lost 10-15 10-15 15-9 15-13 in the second round of the **South Island squash championships** in Christchurch.

Ritwik, who had won two successive PSA tournaments (Whakatane and Auckland) was not able to produce the goods this time around. He had beaten Shuja, in the Royal Oak final, the previous week in Auckland.

Talking about his opponent, Ritwik said: "Shuja was in round three of the world juniors in Cairo in 1997. He has beaten me a few times in the juniors events. He was as high as 46 in the world. Canada's **Sabir Butt** and Egyptian **Amr Mansi** have also been ranked quite high."

Ritwik won 11 matches in a row before the defeat. "I may have risen to 75." How was the experience overall? "It was good for my confidence. I am playing great squash and am hungry to play more events and bigger events and do the same." Ritwik came back and won the big prize money event in Jaipur. He will be playing in higher status events in **Spain** and **Qatar** by September end in a bid to break into the top 50.



Saurav reaches final on debut in PSA circuit



Saurav Ghoshal is following in the footsteps of **Ritwik Bhattacharya**. He reached the final of the **Country View Squash Open** in Kuala Lumpur. Aussie Mike Corren beat him in the final. Ghoshal, 17, was making his professional debut on the PSA Tour. After qualifying, the youngster swept past 4th seed **Marcus Yearp**, 5th seed **Timothy Arnold** and then No2 seed **Kenneth Low** to take his unexpected place in the final.

Corren, ranked 49 in the world - more than 200 places above his opponent who is listed at the very bottom of the Dunlop PSA World Rankings - overcame a nervous start, in which he squeezed the opening game by a single point, before ultimately securing his 15-14 15-6 15-10 victory in 42 minutes. Originally from Adelaide, 29-year-old Corren is now based in the Malaysian capital and celebrating his 7th PSA Tour title in 11 final appearances. Another Indian, **Gaurav Nandrajog** reached the semis. So Ritwik won't be alone on the circuit.

Final:

Mike Corren (AUS) bt Saurav Ghoshal (IND) 15-14, 15-6, 15-10

Semi-finals:

Mike Corren (AUS) bt Gaurav Nandrajog (IND) 15-8, 15-4, 15-9

Saurav Ghoshal (IND) bt Kenneth Low (MAS) 15-11, 6-15, 15-14, 17-16

Quarter-finals:

Mike Corren (AUS) bt Ahmed Hamza (EGY) 15-10, 15-10, 15-5

Gaurav Nandrajog (IND) bt Kelvin Ho (MAS) 17-16, 17-14, 15-13

Saurav Ghoshal (IND) bt Timothy Arnold (MAS) 15-4, 15-9, 15-6

Kenneth Low (MAS) bt Sherif Kamel (EGY) 16-17, 15-13, 5-15, 15-10, 15-13

Rajasthan Open 2003 (06/09/2003)



Indian squash queen Mekhala Subedar with the booty she claimed at the Golcha Open in Jaipur

Final Results:

Mens: Ritwik Bhattacharya(Delhi) bt Gaurav Nandrajog(Delhi) 3-0

Boys U-19: Gaurav Nandrajog (Delhi) bt Vikas Janghra (Jindal Steel) -9-4, 9-6, 9-4;

Boys U-15: Parth Sharma (Jaipur) bt Laxman Joshi (Jindal Steel) -9-4, 9-3, 9-7; Boys U-

13: Ravi Dixit (Dhampur) bt Karma Kumar (Delhi)-9-3, 9-5, 9-;

Womens: Mekhala Subedar(Nasik) bt Sohini Kumari(Delhi)-9-2, 9-1, 9-3; Girls U-19: Surabhi

Mishra (Jaipur) bt Aakruti Saigal (Mayo)-9-7, 9-0, 9-5; Girls U-15: Surabhi Mishra (Jaipur)

bt Aakruti Saigal (Mayo)-9-0, 9-1, 9-4; Girls U-13: Aakruti Saigal (Mayo) bt Mehak

Bahamvar (Ajmer)-9-0, 9-0, 9-0

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Inter-School Squash a big success.



The prestigious **West Zone Interschool/College Squash Championship** was held for the 4th year in a row at Khar Gymkhana and has easily become the most popular and eagerly awaited tournament for Junior's in the city of Mumbai. The title Sponsors for this years championship were **Airtel (Bharti Cellular Ltd.)**. The Budget for this championship was **Rs. 3 lacs** and it was easily the **richest interschool event in the country**.

The response was tremendous with over **230 entries** from across the state the highest ever in an Interschool Championship. The Khar Gymkhana Squash courts were bustling with nervous excitement among the players who were vying for top honor's as well as the fabulous prizes on display.

Some of the countries top players were seen in action and the pace of the games were fast and furious due to the 15 point a scoring format. For the first time a 'Plate Event' was introduced to encourage the first round losers and freshers in Squash. Being a **State Ranking Tournament** players were seen pushing hard to make the final grades. There were a number of upsets too the most prominent being the defeat of the Boys and Girls under 19 top seeds.

The Prize Distributions functions saw a packed house with all players excited with the fabulous prizes that were given away which included Sony Stereo systems, DVD players, Digital Cameras, Play Stations, Watches and many other gifts. Speaking on the occasion the Chief Operating Officer of Airtel **Atul Jhamb** said he was very happy to be associated with the championship and seeing the kind of response, confirmed the participation of Airtel as title sponsors for another 2 years.

The prestigious **'Raju Chainani Award'** for the most outstanding performance in squash for the years 2002-2003 was won by **Superstar Vikram Malhotra** who is presently ranked as the No. 1 player in the Under 15 category in the country. The award is based on a points system and was given by the **Squash Rackets Association of Maharashtra**. Keep it up Vikram!

Results (All finals):

Boys U-19: Vikas Jangra (Jindal VM) bt Sahil Vora (H R College) 15-12, 12-15, 15-13, 15-13; **Boys U-17:** Sandeep Jangra (Jindal VM) bt Manek Mathur (Cathedral) 15-4, 15-6, 15-14; **Boys U-15:** Vikram Malhotra (Beacon High) bt Cyrus Vakil (Nalanda H S) 15-11, 15-10, 15-8; **Boys U-13:** Aditya Jagtap (Bombay Scottish) bt Rahul D'Cunha (Gyan Kendra) 14-17, 15-13, 15-12, 15-12; **Boys U-11:** Abhishek Pradhan (Don Bosco, Borivli) bt Tarun Nambiyar (Hiranandani Foundation) 15-12, 17-14, 15-17, 15-12; **Girls U-17:** Shahnaz Dastur (J B Petit) bt Madhura Paranjpe (St. Anne's) 9-15, 15-11, 17-15, 15-8; **Girls U-13:** Shivangi Paranjpe (St. Anne's) bt Nikita Emmanuel (Sacred Heart, Vashi) 15-13, 15-6, 15-9;

Results (All Semi-finals):

Boys U-19: Sahil Vora (H R College) bt Ritesh Sharma (St. Andrew's College) 15-10, 15-12, 15-9; Vikas Jangra (Jindal Vidya Mandir) bt 3-Anurag Gill (H R College) 17-15, 15-13, 15-7; **Boys U-17:** Sandeep Jangra (Jindal Vidya Mandir) bt Sarvesh Chauhan (Jindal Vidya Mandir) 15-11, 15-12, 17-14; Manek Mathur (Cathedral) bt Rushabh Vora (H R College) 15-7, 9-15, 15-9; **Boys U-15:** Vikram Malhotra (Beacon High School) bt Jay Bhagat (Cathedral) 15-6, 15-7, 15-7; Cyrus Vakil (Nalanda High School) bt Anup Sharma (Jindal Vidya Mandir) 15-13, 15-8, 15-5; **Boys U-13:** Aditya Jagtap (Bombay Scottish) bt Zahan Dastur 15-0, 15-9, 15-4; **Boys U-11:** Tarun Nambiyar (Hiranandani Foundation) bt Caran Arora (Cathedral) 17-14, 15-3, 15-3; Abhishek Pradhan (Don Bosco, Borivli) bt Mahesh Mangaonkar (Don Bosco, Borivli) 15-7, 15-6, 11-15, 8-15, 15-12; **Girls U-17:** Shivangi Paranjpe (St. Anne's) bt Shasha Sanhani (Dhirubhai Ambani) 15-2, 15-1, 15-4; Nikita Emanuel (Sacred Heart, Vashi) bt Sachika Balwani (Bombay Scottish) 15-8, 15-7, 15-2



The winners pose with the Khar Gymkhana president, Manu Dadiani

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Vikram, Sachika stay on top

While top-seeded **Vikas** and **Sandeep Jangra** defeated **Rushabh Vora** and **Manek Mathur** in the under-19 and under-17 **Mid-day Junior Squash Circuit** (2nd Leg - 18th to 20th July at Otters Club, Mumbai) the Jangra brothers, **Vikas** and **Sandeep**, **Vikram Malhotra** and **Sachika Balvani** extended their domination over the game of squash in their respective age groups, winning the singles titles in the Rs 80,000 prize money Mid-Day Squash League's second leg, organized by the **Squash Racquets Association of Maharashtra**, which concluded at the **Otters Club**.

Having already won titles in the first leg, the above-mentioned four players are in line for the various attractive prizes that await the overall winners at the end of the third leg. **Malhotra** put it across Pune's **Tanmay Govil**. **Sachika** outplayed **Somiya Karki**.

In the only upset victory of the finals, **Mahesh Mangaonkar** continued his seed-bashing spree in the under-11 category, accounting for second seed **Abhishek Pradhan** 9-0, 3-9, 9-5, 8-10, 9-6, his second consecutive five-game victory in two days, having beaten top seed **Tarun Nambiar** in the semi-finals. Back from a training stint with the Indian junior girls team in Chennai, **Alisha Mashruwala** wasted no time in defeating **Madhura Paranjpe** 9-1, 9-1, 9-3 for the under-15 title.

Final results:

BOYS U-19: **Vikas Jangra** (Jindal) bt **Rushabh Vora** 9-3, 9-3, 9-4.

BOYS U-17: **Sandeep Jangra** (Jindal) bt **Manek Mathur** 3-9, 10-8, 9-5, 9-7.

BOYS U-15: **Vikram Malhotra** bt **Tanmay Govil** (Pune) 9-0, 9-3, 9-0.

BOYS U-13: **Aditya Gupta** bt **Rahul D'cunha** 4-9, 7-9, 9-2, 9-0, 9-3.

BOYS U-11: **Mangesh Mangaonkar** bt **Abhishek Pradhan** 9-0, 3-9, 9-5, 8-10, 9-6.

GIRLS U-15: **Alisha Mashruwala** bt **Madhura Paranjpe** 9-1, 9-1, 9-3.

GIRLS U-11: **Sachika Balvani** bt **Somiya Karki** 9-0, 9-3, 9-3.



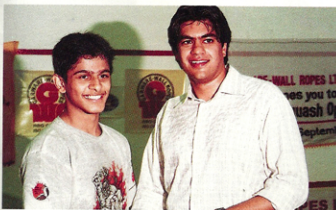
The joyful winners pose with the Otters Club president Dilip Dandekar (standing third from left)

Garware -Wall Ropes Indian Junior Squash Open 2003 -Poona (28/9/2003)

Saurav Claims Indian Junior Squash Open Title

Saurav Ghosal showed what it takes to play on the international squash circuit. He moved **Gaurav Nandrajog** around the court till the pace forced Gaurav to knock off a series of unforced errors. With a deficit Gaurav was under tremendous pressure and repeatedly created openings for Saurav to blast his way through. He finally succumbed in 3 sets.

The thriller of the day was the Girls U-11 final in which **Sachika Balvani** beat **Dheeya Somaiya** in an emotional 5 setter, which threatened to swing either way. The Girls U-17 final was another thriller where **Alisha Mashruwala** (Maharashtra) had to fight tooth and nail against her gritty Sri Lankan opponent **Nirasha Guruge**. She finally won in 5 sets.



Men's winner Saurav Ghosal receives his prize at the Garware Wall Ropes Open

In the Boys U-11 Maharashtra reigned supreme as **Tarun Nambiar** beat **Abhishek Pradhan** in straight sets.

In the Boys U-13 **Rahul D'cunha** of Maharashtra beat **Karm Kumar** of Delhi in a hard fought 4 sets.

Saurav and all the other participating players thanked the tournament organizers and announced their intent to visit the squash circuit in Pune again.

All Finals:

Boys Under 11 : **Tarun Nambiar** (Mah) beat **Abhishek Pradhan** (Mah) 9-2, 9-2, 9-3

Boys Under 13 : **Rahul D'cunha** (Mah) beat **Karm Kumar** (ND) 6-9, 9-5, 9-7, 9-3

Boys Under 15 : **Harinderpal** (TN) beat **Parth Sharma** (Raj) 7-9, 9-3, 9-3, 9-1

Boys Under 17 : **Lee Ho Hin** (HKG) beat **M Prathibha** (TN) 9-6, 3-9, 8-10, 9-3

Boys Under 19 : **Saurav Ghosal** (TN) beat **Gaurav Nandrajog** (ND) 9-2, 9-2, 9-1

Girls Under 11 : **Sachika** (Mah) beat **Dheeya Somaiya** 9-4, 8-10, 9-7, 4-9, 9-6

Girls Under 13 : **Deepika Palikal** (TN) beat **Sharya Guruge** (Sri) 9-0, 9-2, 9-0

Girls Under 17 : **Alisha** (Mah) beat **Nirasha Guruge** (Sri) 3-9, 3-9, 9-6, 10-8, 9-0

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Jindal lads to the fore

Joshna Chinappa has not been playing the under-19 events at the Nationals as she competes for the women's crown. It was bad luck for Alisha Mashruwala that Josh competed in the under-19 at the **Little Masters** at **Willingdown Sports Club**. She was routed 9-0, 9-7, 9-2 in the final.

Otherwise it was the **Jindal** kids who dominated. In the under-19 final it was an all-Jindal affair. **Vikas Jangra** beat Sandeep. Sandeep had put out second seed **Anurag Gill** in the semis. Sandeep however had something to show for coming down all the way every day from Vashind. He pocketed the under-17 title beating **Maneck Mathur** in the most hotly-contested final. Maneck had a gruelling semi against second seed **Rushab Vora** who he toppled.

Vikram Malhotra kept his form in the under-15 beating **Cyrus Vakil** in the final. The title was on a platter for him his arch rivals **Harinder Singh** and **Naishad Lalwani** were not there. **Pawar** trained **Aditya Jagtap** showed his improvement with a good win over **Rahul D'Cunha** for the under-13 crown. **Abhishek Pradhan** and **Tarun Nambiar** slugged it out for the under-11 title. In the end Pradhan won the five setter.



The Little Masters winners show off their silvers at the Willingdon Sports Club

All Final Results:

Boys U-19: Vikas Jangra (Jindal) bt Sandeep Jangra (Jindal) 9-2, 9-4, 9-5;

Boys U-17: Sandeep Jangra (Jindal) bt Maneck Mathur 0-9, 10-8, 1-9, 9-4, 9-6;

Boys U-15: Vikram Malhotra bt Cyrus Vakil 9-6, 9-5, 9-4;

Boys U-13: Aditya Jagtap bt Rahul D'Cunha 9-4, 9-4, 9-3;

Boys U-11: Abhishek Pradhan bt Tarun Nambiar 2-9, 9-3, 9-3, 4-9, 9-7;

Girls U-19: Joshna Chinappa (Chennai) bt Alisha Mashruwala 9-0, 9-7, 9-2;

Girls U-15: Alisha Mashruwala bt Madhura Paranjpe 9-2, 9-4, 9-3.

East India Jr. Squash Championship (31/8/2003)

Final Results :

Boys U-19: Saurav Ghosal bt Gaurav Nandrajog 6-9, 9-6, 3-9, 9-0; 9-0;

Boys U-17 : Sandeep Jhangra bt Fateh Singh 9-4, 4-9, 9-0, 9-2;

Boys U-15 : Ramit Tandon bt Anush Uberoi 9-3, 9-2, 5-9, 9-1;

Boys U-13 : Ramit Tandon bt Rahul D'Cunha 9-1, 9-0, 9-1;

Boys U-11 : Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Abhishek Pradhan 7-9, 7-9, 9-7, 9-4, 9-3;

Girls U-19 : Shibani Philip bt Sonali Philip 9-6, 10-8, 6-9, 9-3;

Girls U-15 : Deepika Pallikal bt Shibani Philip 9-10, 6-9, 9-3, 9-1, 9-5

Squash Boaster is here



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THE BEST OF RAJU

From a collection of articles
written by Raju Chainani

A Squashing day for India

Mid-day 17-7-2001

PENANG: **Joshna Chinappa** and **Vaidehi Reddy** provided the upsets in round two of the **ninth world junior women's squash championships**. Both had wins over players who were seeded in the 9-16 bracket.

Chinappa started the ball rolling when she beat **Dagnar Feddem** (Denmark) 6-9, 9-3, 9-0, 9-4 in 27 minutes. Reddy had a much rougher time and needed to keep her cool under pressure in beat **Mija Dorenbos** (Netherlands) 10-8, 9-6, 8-10, 9-4 in a 39-minute encounter.

However, there was no such luck for **Supriya Balsekar** as she went out 10-9, 4-9, 5-5 to **Frances Ho** (Hong Kong) in 28 minutes.

In the third round, both have unseeded Australians as opponents. Chinappa runs into **Kasey Brown** while Reddy takes on **Felicity Goodall**. The Indian national champion had no business to lose the first game against **Feddem**. She looked strong at 6-3 but there began a spell of nine points in which she did little right. The pendulum had swung and Chinappa was soon a game and 0-3 down. She was good enough to rise to the occasion. A relentless attack followed, **Feddem** wilted and the next 18 points went to the Indian. Chinappa soon put the issue beyond doubt as she led 7-1 in the fourth and though **Feddem** put together a couple of winners, it was too late for any comebacks. "I lost my concentration in the first game. There are no excuses. I knew I had to set things in order. I started playing to length and was able to cut down on the errors," Chinappa said. This was a good result for the Indian number one. Her 18-year-old opponent was a quarter-finalist in the **European Junior Open** and is ranked at number two in Denmark. **Feddem** played the 1999 world junior girls championships at Antwerp.

World referee **Chris Sinclair** was in the hot seat. She had officiated **Vaidehi Reddy's** match in the first round and had ended up with a patch of wet paint on her trousers. Nothing so dramatic happened this afternoon and the lady who had once been told by Jahangir that "A woman's place should be at home" had a relatively peaceful time. The Chennai lass led 4-2 and 7-5 in the opener, saw her opponent fight back and reach game ball with a superb forehand crosscourt and then came up with two superb winners to close the game. Reddy was put to the test and showed plenty of character in coining through. The Indians have their best two in the round of 32 and there is more than a ray of hope for them.

The Raju Chainai Award



The Raju Chainai award for the best performance during the past year was awarded to **Vikram Malhotra** during the presentation ceremony of the **Khar Gymkhana-Airtel Inter School Championships** on 17 August 2003.

With several youngsters from Maharashtra performing well in **Indian and International tournaments**, it was imperative that a transparent and objective method be devised for deciding who deserved the prestigious award. The system works as follows:

Firstly, weightage for several tournament has been allocated as per their importance. For instance, **British Junior Open** has three times as much weightage as much as the Junior Nationals, while major National-Level tournaments like **CCI Western India, Maharashtra Open** etc carry three-fourths of the weightage as the Junior Nationals.

Secondly, each position from winner down to Quarter-final, carry points. Each contender for the award fills a form provided by the SRAM and lists his position attained in tournaments he participated in during the period being considered, which will henceforth be 1 August to 31 July. The **SRAM** officials then simply multiply the points and weightage of each tournament and add the total for all tournaments for each player. The player with the highest total is naturally the most deserving candidate!

This time, **Vikram** was way ahead owing to his hat-trick in **Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong** and superb results in domestic events.

"A player can receive this award only once in his career."

-By Amilaj Singh

QUIZ

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Squash is big in the U.S. Universities by Anshul Manchanda (Yale)

How competitive is collegiate squash in the US? Presently, the number 1 in the circuit is the Egyptian **Yasser El-Halaby** who was ranked as high as 68 in the world and won the **British Junior Open** a few years ago. The college circuit is quite challenging and the standard is extremely high considering that all the players are amateurs. I have been spending three hours a day, six days a week from September to February during the squash season for the last three years training as a part of the Yale squash team. Squash leaves me with less time for anything besides attending classes in the morning, completing weekly assignments in the evening after practice, and the on-campus job that I have to cover my expenses.

One of the main differences between squash as a junior and as a college player has been the team aspect that is associated with college squash. In the **intercollegiate league matches**, 9 players from each team compete to decide the winner. The No.9 player is as important as the No.1 player because the result depends on the performance of the team as a group, and not just great individual performances.

In addition, squash has been extremely helpful for me in adjusting to the much-tarnished American culture. Not only have I played competitive squash at Yale, but I have also developed a great bond with my coach and teammates.

Playing squash for an Ivy like Yale, Harvard, and Princeton is an invaluable experience. After Trinity, these three teams have been a strong force in college squash taking the next three spots in the rankings for the past four-five years. This year Yale won 5-4 against Harvard and lost 4-5 to Princeton during the college season. The Yale-Princeton and Yale-Harvard matches at Yale have a huge crowd gathering every year. The number of spectators is more than I have witnessed for any competitive squash game. The ambience is electrifying in one of the best squash facilities in the world.

A facility that boasts of **15 glass-back** courts including two three-wall glass courts, and one all-glass court. Against Princeton, the score was tied at 4-4 and the Yale number one player Julian Illingworth, the American Junior national champion, was up 2-0 and 8-2 on Princeton's El-Halaby, before losing to him in a five-game duel.

My father, **Brig. Manchanda**, took time from his busy coaching schedule in **Mumbai** and visited **Yale** during this intense match up to help the team and our Coach Dave Talbot, but unfortunately Yale lost in a well-contested 5-4 result.

Mumbai has been the **Mecca of squash in India**. The city has produced many national champions and players who have made use of squash to complete an undergraduate degree in the US. There have been high quality coaches here like **Rahmat Khan**, **Satinder Bajwa**, and presently **Raj Manchanda** to name a few.

Looking around the campuses I find that **Mihir Sheh**, the tall head boy of Cathedral has gained admission to Harvard, and **Auloke Mathur**, has gained admission to **Amherst**, a top liberal arts college, continuing from a trend that must carry on. Indeed, playing squash for an American University is an incredible experience.

News! News!! News!!!

Mayo college best

The **Inter-School Squash Championship** held at **Bishop Cotton School**, Shimla attracted **R.I.M.C**, **Bishop Cotton**, **Doon school**, **Welham Boys**, **Y.P.S**, **Srinam school**, **Lawrence School** Sanawar. In the under-15 category, **Mayo College** beat **Doon school** 2-1. The team comprised of **Ishaan Balwani**, **Bhuvanesh Kumar** and **Sadiq Ahmed**. The scores were tied at 1-1 but **Ishaan Balwani** once again played a key role and won the decider. Under pressure, he beat **Rajnish Agarwal** 9-7, 9-7, 9-5. **Mayo College** beat **R.I.M.C** and also emerged winners in the Under-17 category. Third seed **Gurraj Singh** beat **Nayan Kumar** 9-0, 9-6, 9-7. The Squash captain **Dhananjai Singh** beat **Pratik Tomar** 9-1, 9-7, 9-0. It was a clean sweep. Second seed **Harshvardhan Singh** also won his match.

INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS OCT 2003

MENS			WOMENS		
1.	Peter Nicol	ENG	1.	Carol Owens	NZL
2.	John White	SCO	2.	Natalie Grainger	USA
3.	David Palmer	AUS	3.	Linda Charman	ENG
4.	Thierry Linnet	FRA	4.	Rachael Grinham	AUS
5.	Jonathon Pwter	CAN	5.	Vanessa Atkinson	NED
6.	Anthony Rickets	AUS	6.	Cassie Jackson	ENG
7.	Ong Bee Hee	MAS	7.	Tanya Bailey	ENG
8.	Karim Darwish	EGY	8.	Natalie Grinham	AUS
9.	Stewart Boswell	AUS	9.	Rebecca Macree	ENG
10.	Lee Beachill	ENG	10.	Jenny Tranfield	ENG

International Results

US Open, Boston, USA, 13-16 Sept. 2003
 Peter Nicol (ENG) bt David Palmer (AUS) 15-10, 14-15, 15-14, 171-5

South Island Championship, New Zealand, 22-25 Aug. 2003
 Kashif Shuja (PAK) bt Dylan Bennett (NED) 17-15 15-11 15-7

Mulpha-Jack Women's Malaysian Open 20-24 Aug. 2003
 Cassie Jackson (ENG) bt Nicol David (MAS) 9-5, 1-9, 9-4, 9-7

CAS International Championship, Pakistan, 18-23 Aug. 2003
 Gregory G. (FRA) bt Mansoor Z. (PAK) 9-15, 14-15, 15-9, 15-12, 15-14

Prince English Open, England, 12-17 Aug. 2003
 John White (SCO) bt Jonathon Power (CAN) 15-11, 7-15, 15-12, 15-11

World Masters Squash Championships, Finland, 4-9 Aug. 2003
 Craig Van der Wath (RSA) bt Michael Tootil RSA 9-0, 9-5, 9-6, 9-9, 9-1

James Baker Oklahoma Open, USA, July 24-27 2003
 Laurence A. (NED) bt Joey Barrington (IRE) 15-9, 15-9, 8-15, 15-12

Australian Open, South Australia, 23-27 July 2003
 Women: Sarah Fitz-Gerald (AUS) bt Natalie G. (AUS) 9-0, 9-2, 9-2
 Men: Dan Jenson (AUS) bt Paul Price (AUS) 12-15, 15-12

Women's Egypt Squash Circuit Event No1, July 24-26 2003
 Engy Kheirallah (EGY) bt Salma Shabana (EGY) 4-9, 5-9, 10-9, 9-5, 9-2

Squashworks Open, Salt Lake City, USA, July 16-20 2003
 Shahier Razik (Can) bt Stefan Casteleyn (Bel) 15-8, 8-15, 15-4, 15-10

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