

PROSQUASH

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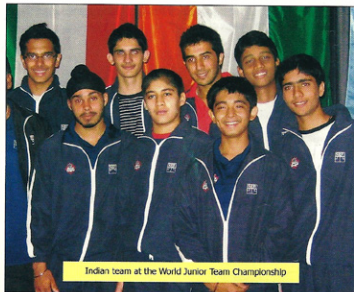


Executive Members

WORLD JUNIOR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

Pakistan Reclaim World Title & India finishes on 4th position

(06/08/2008)



Indian team at the World Junior Team Championship

Pakistan second seeds beat the defending champions Egypt in the 15th World Junior Squash Team Championship at Vitis Squash Club in Zurich. It was Egypt & Pakistan's 3rd meeting in the finals and this time Pakistan made a perfect start when 18-year-old Aamir Atlas Khan, recovered from a game down to beat opponent's El Shorbagy 7-9, 9-2, 9-1, 9-1.

It took a further 64 minutes for Pakistan to win the title. Their number three player Mohd Shoib Hassan, grinding out a 9-5, 9-6, 9-2 win over Egypt's Karim Abdel Gawad to clinch their upset over the event favorites. Thus Pakistan won 2-0 and did not have their 3rd player Waqar Mehboob play Andrew Wagih Shoukry.

With previous title wins in 1982, 2002 and 2004, Pakistan are now celebrating their fourth Men's World Junior Team success -

equaling the achievement of England (1990, 1996, 1998 and 2000) but one behind Australia (1980, 1984, 1986, 1988 and 1992).

For the bronze medal third seeds England played surprise opponents India, the fifth seeds who had reached the semi-finals for the first time in their history. It seems there was going to be an upset when Vikram Malhotra beat British Junior champion Joe Lee 9-6, 9-0, 0-9, 9-3.

But England fought back and Alex Ingham defeated Ravi Dixit 4-9, 9-3, 9-2, 9-6 in a grilling four setter. Adrian Waller then defeated Aditya Jagtap 9-0, 9-4, 9-4 to ensure their bronze medal.

After reaching semi-finals for the first time in the history India lost to 2nd seed Pakistan 3-0. Waqar Mehboob had tough time beating Aditya Jagtap 9-0, 7-9, 10-8, 9-0 in four sets while his counterpart Amir Atlas Khan, world junior champion beat top seed of India Vikram Malhotra easily 9-0, 9-3, 9-0. In the best-of-three-games third match, Mohd Shoib Hassan made the lead 3-0 by beating Ravi Dixit 9-1, 9-0.

Earlier India has stunned France to reach the semifinals. First on court was the flamboyant Vikram who came with all guns blazing. Showing no respect for his higher ranked opponent Gregoire Marche, Vikram kept a very fast pace and hit a series of winners to win the first game 9-1 in double quick time. In the second game Vikram ran up to a 4-0 lead

Contd...2

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but unfortunately Gregoire was the steadier of the two and wrapped up the match 3-1.

Aditya Jagtap was next on against Lucas Vauzelle whom he had lost to in an European event last year. It was going to be an uphill task; so everyone thought. But from the onset, Aditya looked determined and played aggressive squash to give his opponent little chance to take the advantage. Aditya cooed confidence as he had his opponent scrambling all over the court. Aditya leveled the match for India without showing any mercy, going on to win 3-0.

The decider was a cliff hanger. Ravi Dixit started off nervously against Antoine-Camille Petrucci and was soon 0-2 down in games and 2-5 down in the 3rd game. At this point he staged a most remarkable comeback. If he was only retrieving in the first two games he was now attacking at will. His opponent was slowing down and Ravi capitalised on this making him move to all four corners of the court. A dejected Antoine simply could not keep up with the pace and succumbed rapidly. Ravi wins 3-2 and India make it to the semis for the first time in its history.

RESULTS

TEAM EVENT

FINAL:

[2] PAKISTAN bt [1] EGYPT 2-0

Amir Atlas Khan bt Mohamed El Shorbagy 7-9, 9-2, 9-1, 9-1
Mohd Shoaib Hassan bt Karim Abdel Gawad 9-5, 9-6, 9-2
Waqar Mehboob v Andrew Wagih Shoukry (dead rubber - match not played)

3RD PLACE PLAY-OFF:

[3] ENGLAND bt [5] INDIA 2-1

Joe Lee lost to Vikram Malhotra 6-9, 0-9, 9-0, 3-9
Alex Ingham bt Ravi Dixit 4-9, 9-3, 9-2, 9-6
Adrian Waller bt Aditya Jagtap 9-0, 9-4, 9-4

SEMI-FINALS:

[1] EGYPT bt [3] ENGLAND 2-1

[2] PAKISTAN bt [5] INDIA 3-0
Waqar Mehboob bt Aditya Jagtap 9-0, 7-9, 10-8, 9-0
Amir Atlas Khan bt Vikram Malhotra 9-0, 9-3, 9-0
Mohd Shoaib Hassan bt Ravi Dixit 9-1, 9-0

QUARTER-FINALS:

[1] EGYPT bt [10] CANADA 3-0

[3] ENGLAND bt [6] MALAYSIA 2-1
[5] INDIA bt [4] FRANCE 2-1
Vikram Malhotra lost to Gregoire Marche 9-1, 4-9, 0-9, 1-9
Aditya Jagtap bt Lucas Vauzelle 9-6, 9-2, 9-5
Ravi Dixit bt Antoine Petrucci 8-10, 2-9, 9-7, 9-1, 9-2
[2] PAKISTAN bt [7] GERMANY 3-0

LAST SIXTEEN ROUND:

[5] INDIA bt [11] AUSTRALIA 2-1

Vikram Malhotra bt Matthew Hopkin 9-7, 9-6, 9-6
Aditya Jagtap lost to Jacob Alexander 3-9, 6-9, 9-7, 4-9
Ravi Dixit bt Joshua Larkin 9-2, 9-1, 9-0

INTERNATIONAUX DE FRANCE

(24/09/2008)

All three local bids for success in the qualifying finals of the Internationaux de France failed as two Englishmen, one Indian and one Australian joined the main draw of the \$62,000 5-star PSA Tour event in Paris - the first major squash championship to be held in the French capital since 1995.

France's last hope for success in the Internationaux qualifiers was Mathieu Castagnet. But the 21-year-old from Le Mans went down 11-3, 11-7, 11-7 to four-time Indian champion Saurav Ghosal, surprise winner of the Ornano International Open title in the French city of Bordeaux earlier in the month.

But Saurav lost to 3rd Seeded French player Thierry Lincou in a easy 3 setter in the main draw of Round one.

RESULTS

Round one:

Saurav Ghosal lost to Thierry Lincou (Fra) 2-11, 5-11, 9-11

Qualifying round 2:

Saurav Ghosal (Ind) bt Mathieu Castagnet (Fra) 11-3, 11-7, 11-7

Qualifying round 1:

Saurav Ghosal (Ind) bt Jesse Engelbrecht (Rsa) 11-8, 7-11, 9-11, 11-3, 11-9

ORNANO INTERNATIONAL OPEN, FRANCE

Dawn of the other SG (13/09/2008)



While Kolkata is bemoaning the sun setting on an illustrious career of Saurav Ganguly, it should celebrate the dawn of the career of another Saurav — Saurav Ghosal who won the biggest title of his squash career when claiming the crown in the \$15,000 PSA event in Bordeaux, France. It has been fascinating tracking the rise of Ghosal.

For long, one has been fervently hoping that he reaps fortune proportionate to his efforts. But in the tough world of pro squash that seldom happens. Players from other countries have such a headstart in the matter of training, infrastructure, physique, diet and sports medicine that the odds are always high against Indians. And Ghosal doesn't have the big frame of some of the top-notchers.

Considering all that Ghosal has done well to win the Asian Games bronze and four PSA titles.

Ghosal beat three men seeded higher and the World No. 27. Ghosal's qualities are his never-say-die spirit. Pain doesn't hamper him as he showed during the World team event in Chennai last year. He is game for a retrieving duel as Pakistani young gun Amir Atlas found out during the Asian Juniors when Ghosal made him fight for every point.

Ghosal made a big sacrifice when he moved from Kolkata to Chennai to train at the ICL Academy. His father ensured a comfort zone by getting Ghosal's grandparents to also shift to Chennai so that he wouldn't feel lonely. When he won the National title recently, Ghosal dedicated it to his grandparents.

The results of the shift came in 2004 when Ghosal won the British Junior Open emulating Anil Nayar who won the Drysdale Cup in the 1960s when it was virtually the World Junior Championship.

Ghosal beat Egyptian Adel el Said who had ousted the top seed Khalid Atlas of Pakistan. His win over thirdseeded Pakistani Sharif Kamal had seen him display unbelievable speed of stroke, especially on the forehand.

R N Ghosal, the father who has been secretary of Calcutta Racquet Club, has been the inspiration for his son since 1995 when he first started playing.

Indian squash great Raj Manchanda had said Ghosal's innovative play, married to greater experience would ensure he would make a mark on the PSA circuit. The veteran's words have been prophetic as Ghosal has reaped the fruits of hard work at Leeds where he went for further studies and vindicated him with his Bordeaux show.

(Courtesy : Times of India, Mumbai)

RESULTS

Finals:

[6] Saurav Ghosal (IND) bt [3] Davide Bianchetti (ITA) 11-6, 11-6, 9-11, 11-9

Semi-finals:

[6] Saurav Ghosal (IND) bt [5] Amr Swelim (EGY) 10-12, 11-2, 11-2, 3-11, 14-12

Quarter-finals:

[6] Saurav Ghosal (IND) bt [1] Renan Lavigne (FRA) 7-11, 15-13, 11-5, 11-5

[3] Davide Bianchetti (ITA) bt [7] Ritwik Bhattacharya (IND) 11-8, 11-3, 11-8

MAHARASHTRA STATE OPEN SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

(19/09/2008)

Ritwik scores biggest win of his career beating Iskandar, Joshna too good for Dipika

Ritwik Bhattacharya scored the biggest win of his career when he beat the top seed and world No. 11 Mohd. Azlan Iskandar of Malaysia in straight games to clinch the Men's Open title in the 33rd Bombay Gymkhana-HSBC Maharashtra State Open Squash Championships, co-sponsored by Sapat and Westside, at the Bombay Gymkhana.

The two know their games well. In normal course one would have said Ritwik had home advantage. But he said he did not. "Coming from playing abroad in air conditioned courts, I felt as dehydrated as anyone of the foreigners".

The key he said was winning the crucial points in the opening game.

Ritwik endured a strong challenge in the first two games of the best-of-five contest before cruising to a 12-10, 11-9, 11-1 victory in a championship round that lasted just 33 minutes.

Warming up for the forthcoming World Open, Bhattacharya experienced a tough opening game with Iskandar running the Indian close.

Bhattacharya, ranked No. 58 in the world, faced a similar challenge in the second game before he rested on a crucial 2-0 cushion against a player as dangerous as Iskandar.

But the Malaysian's challenge fizzled out in the third game and he later admitted he was exhausted and struggled in the Mumbai humidity.

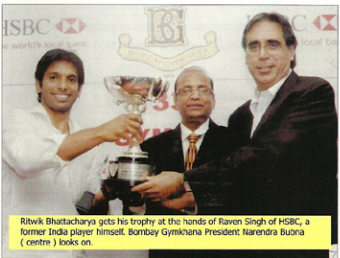
"Though I was forced into a tight opening game, I played well. Winning the first game was crucial against a player of Iskandar's calibre. I had to push hard because he hit a lot more. I set up a fast pace which probably tired him out and in the end proved decisive," admitted Bhattacharya who beat Iskandar for the first time in his career.

Iskandar said: "Too bad for Ritwik this win didn't come in a PSA event. Ritwik played well. I was struggling in the humid conditions. I tried to keep pace in the first two games but by the third, I tired out. But Ritwik's victory is good for Indian squash," said a graceful Iskandar.

Women's top seed and India No. 1 Joshna Chinappa overcame second seed Dipika Pallikal 12-10, 11-9, 11-9 to snatch the women's crown following a tight and absorbing championship round. Dipika, as in the semi final against Englishwoman Mandy Kennedy was prone to errors which had allowed Mandy to win the opening game. Joshna's overheads were top class which is why Dipika could not make any headway. Joshna also made fewer mistakes. Dipika will have to cut down on errors if she has to beat Joshna.

Earlier in the day, Pallikal overcame No. 3 seed Mandy Kennedy of England in the semi-finals.

Chinappa said, "Dipika played well, she is a much improved player. But I was trying out different things. I was trying to move around more in front. I also tried to be more consistent."



Ritwik Bhattacharya gets his trophy at the hands of Ravin Singh of HSBC, a former India player himself. Bombay Gymkhana President Narender Buona (centre) looks on.



President Narendra Dubria, Mohd. Azlan Iskandar, Raven Singh of HSBC, Ritwik Bhattacharya, Joshua Chinappa, Nikhil Joshi of Sapet and Raj Arora at the presentation of the awards.

"Though I was trailing 2-6 in the second game, I was in control of the match. I had to raise my game. Yes, thanks to the support of the Mittal Champions Trust, I am much fitter, stronger and confident with my advanced training," added Chinappa, who will also feature in the World Open in Manchester soon after the Amsterdam tournament.

Saumya Karki helped herself to a triple crown following victories in the girls' under-19, under-17 and under-15 Finals.

India's top junior Mahesh Mangaonkar of Mumbai bagged a double after clinching the boys' under-17 and under-15 titles.

RESULTS

FINAL:

Men's Open: Ritwik Bhattacharya bt Mohd. Azlan Iskandar (Malaysia) 12-10, 11-9, 11-1.

3rd-4th play-off: Muhd Asyraf Azan (Malaysia) bt Vikas Jangra (Services) 7-11, 11-6, 12-10, 4-11, 12-10.

Boys U-19: Vikram Malhotra bt Laxman Joshi 9-11, 11-4, 11-2, 11-5.

Boys U-17: Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Karm Kumar 11-9, 7-11, 3-11, 11-5, 11-9.

Boys U-15: Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Rahul Fazelbhoy 11-5, 11-8, 12-14, 11-5.

Boys U-13: Raghav Mehrotra bt Arjun Kochhar 7-11, 11-2, 11-5, 12-10.

Boys U-11: Yohan Surti bt Kshitij Prasad 3-11, 11-1, 11-6, 11-8.

U-9: Chitanya Shah bt Aryan Parekh 11-9, 8-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9.

Girls U-19: Saumya Karki bt Surbhi Mishra 11-9, 11-6, 9-11, 11-8.

Girls U-17: Saumya Karki bt Shria Khatri 11-5, 14-12, 11-9.

Girls U-15: Saumya Karki bt Shria Khatri 11-3, 11-7, 11-9.

Girls U-13: Adya Advani bt Gayatri Raheja 11-5, 11-5, 11-3.

Girls U-11: Adya Advani bt Juhi Kalgutkar 11-5, 12-10, 11-7.

Professionals: Rohit More bt Temo Gomez 8-11, 11-4, 11-5, 11-3.

ALL SEMIFINALS :

Men's Open :

Ritwik Bhattacharya bt Vikas Jangra 11-7, 11-3, 11-2;
Mohd. Azlan Iskandar (Malaysia) bt Muhd Asyraf Azan (Malaysia) 11-7, 11-2, 11-6.

Women:

Joshna Chinappa bt Surbhi Mishra 11-5, 11-3, 11-9.
Dipika Pallikal bt Mandy Kennedy (England) 9-11, 11-3, 11-5, 11-7.

Boys U-19:

Vikram Malhotra bt Naveen Jangra 11-4, 11-7, 11-9;
Laxman Joshi bt Gunraj Singh 11-6, 11-5, 4-11, 11-2.

Boys U-17:

Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Ashray Ohri 11-6, 13-11, 11-6;
Karm Kumar bt Samir Mistrya 11-6, 11-1, 11-6.

Boys U-15 :

Rahul Fazelbhoy bt Ishan Advani 11-3, 11-9, 11-7;
Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Aditya Advani 11-7, 11-8, 11-2.

Boys U-13 :

Raghav Mehrotra bt Yohan Pandole 11-6, 11-4, 11-6;
A.Kochhar bt A. Shah 11-8, 11-4, 11-6.

Boys U-11:

Yohan Surti bt Vedant Rao 11-2, 11-4, 11-6;
K. Prasad bt R. Agarwal 9-11, 11-4, 11-6, 10-12, 11-9.

Girls U-19 :

Surbhi Mishra bt Shaheen Madraswala 11-4, 11-5, 11-5;
Saumya Karki bt Shria Khatri 11-4, 11-7, 9-11, 11-4.

Girls U-17 :

Shria Khatri bt K. Agarwal 11-3, 11-1, 11-6;
Saumya Karki bt A. Kulkarni 11-3, 11-1, 11-1.

Girls U-13 :

A. Advani bt A. Mehra 11-2, 11-3, 11-4;
G. Raheja bt A. Nambiar 11-6, 11-7, 10-12, 11-9.

Professionals :

Rohit More bt Sanjay Pawar 11-8, 11-8, 5-11, 11-9;
Temo Gomez bt Sachin Jadhav 11-8, 12-10, 11-3.



The World No.11 - Mohd. Azlan Iskandar receives his trophy from Raven Singh of HSBC. President Narendra Dubria (centre) looks on.

MINUTE MAID PULPY ORANGE SQUASH CLASSIC**Vikram outplays Sahil for title** (23/09/2008)

Indian Squash Professionals 88th tournament will be remembered for the win of the top seed and under-19 National champion Vikram Malhotra.

The Trinity-bound India junior was in rampaging form as he blanked second-seed Sahil Vora (Trinity) to lift the men's singles title in the Minute Maid Pulpy Orange Squash Classic 2008, which concluded at the squash courts of Gold's Gym, Oshiwara.

Malhotra was in total control against Vora, his speed and power play brooking no opposition from the senior rival, who has been playing collegiate squash in the US. Malhotra prevailed 11-9, 11-7, 11-6 in just 35 minutes. Malhotra won Rs 7,500 for his victory, while Vora took home Rs 4,000. The handicap doubles title was lifted by Kunwarpal Singh and Nitin Chauhan of Jindal, who defeated their clubmates Sunil Verma and Laxman Joshi 15-14, 15-13. The doubles winners gained Rs 8,000, with the runner-up pair winning Rs 4,000.

In the semi-finals, Malhotra weathered a tough first game before getting the better of former National champion Akhil Behl 12-10, 11-3, 11-5, while Vora scored a 11-2, 11-6, 11-6 victory over teenager Mahesh Mangaonkar.

Additional Commissioner of Police Archana Tyagi gave away the prizes.

RESULTS**FINAL :**

Men's top 16 singles : 1-Vikram Malhotra bt 2-Sahil Vora 11-9, 11-7, 11-6.

Handicap doubles : Kunwarpal Singh / Nitin Chauhan bt Sunil Verma / Laxman Joshi 15-14, 15-13.

SEMI FINALS :**Mens Top 16 Singles :**

1-Vikram Malhotra bt 6-Akhil Behl 12-10, 11-3, 11-5;
2-Sahil Vora bt 5-Mahesh Mangaonkar 11-2, 11-6, 11-6.

Handicap Doubles :

Sunil Verma /Laxman Joshi bt Sanjay Pawar / Virendra Pawar 15-12, 8-15, 15-12
Kunwarpal Singh / Nitin Chauhan bt Dr. Sudesh Mishra / Dr. Anil Khot 15-12, 15-11



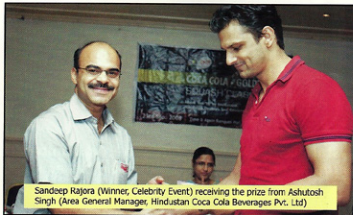
Fazal Khan (Actor) giving away the prize to Mukesh Desai and Sanir Mistry (Quarterfinalist, Handicap Doubles event)



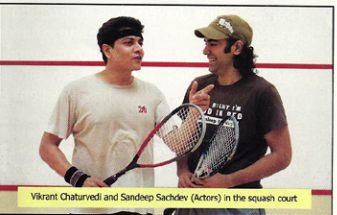
Mahendra Agarwal (Founder Director, ISP) felicitating Aditya Pancholi (Actor) alongwith Ms Riddhi Jadhvani (Gold's Gym) and Sanjay Nirupam



Vipin Sharma (Actor) giving away the trophies to Kunwarpal Singh and Nitin Chauhan (Winner, Handicap Doubles)



Sandeep Rajora (Winner, Celebrity Event) receiving the prize from Ashutosh Singh (Area General Manager, Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd)



Vikrant Chaturvedi and Sandeep Sachdev (Actors) in the squash court



Look-alike of Sachin Tendulkar, Hrithik Roshan and Ritesh Deshmukh causes merriment at the party.



From left to right: Ashutosh Singh, Vikram Malhotra (Winner, Mens top 16 event) Archana Tyagi (Additional Commissioner of Police, Mumbai), Sanjay Nirupam (Ex-M.P.), Mahendra Agarwal and Sahil Vora (Runners up, Mens top 16 event)



Mahendra Agarwal and Ashutosh Sharma at the function



Sandeep Rajora and Mahesh Gulka (Winner & Runners up, Celebrity event) in the squash court

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56TH NATIONAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

(23/08/2008)

8th title for Joshna Chinappa and Saurav Ghosal

Defending champion Joshna Chinappa defeated Dipika Pallikal 11-8, 11-7, 11-2 to win her eighth title, in the 55th senior National squash championships at the Secunderabad Club.

In the men's final, 3 time National winner Saurav Ghosal (Tamil Nadu) warded off a spirited challenge from Siddharth Suchde (Maharashtra)



The winners with their trophies

before winning 11-13, 11-8, 11-5, 11-4. Siddharth had given tough fight in the semi-finals to no 2 seed Ritwik (Delhi).

Siddharth

gave a tough fight in the first game and won 13-11. In the second game also he was leading with 8 points before Saurav showed his real game and made it 1-1. But in the next 2 games he seems to have lost his fire and gave away easily to Saurav who won his 4th National title.

"I dedicate this win to my grandparents — Dr. S.B.N. Ghosal and Dina Ghosal," an elated Ghosal said.

The women's event was a one sided affair as Joshna crushed Dipika 3-0 but for the first game in which Dipika gave tough fight to Joshna.

"It is always a great feeling to be the National champion, though the first title when I was just 14 stands out as very special," said Joshna. "Every National is a different proposition and one needs to be consistent over the years to win these titles. I am happy that I am able to do that," she said.

In the pro-category, the 23-year-old A. Parthiban defeated his former coach and 10-time champion B. Balamurugan 12-10, 8-11, 11-7, 11-8

Courtesy : The Hindu **RESULTS**

FINALS :

Men: Saurav Ghosal bt Siddharth Suchde 11-13, 11-8, 11-5, 11-4.

Women: Joshna Chinappa bt Dipika Pallikal 11-8, 11-7, 11-2.

Professionals: A. Parthiban bt B. Balamurugan 12-10, 8-11, 11-7

SEMIFINALS:**Men:**

Saurav Ghosal bt Harrinder Pal Singh 11-8, 11-4, 14-12

Siddharth Suchde bt Ritwik Bhattacharya 11-6, 7-11, 11-8, 11-4

Women:

Joshna Chinappa bt Anaka Alankamony 11-7, 11-6, 11-5

Dipika Pallikal bt Anwesha Reddy 11-6, 11-7, 11-8.

Professionals:

A. Prathiban bt Rohit More 11-2, 11-7, 11-3

B. Baia Murugan bt Dalip Tripathi 11-7, 11-8, 11-7.

NATIONAL MASTERS SQUASH OPEN 2008

(27/09/2008)



The winning team with their trophies

Dushyant Singh Jamwal of Delhi Gymkhana won a double by winning the Over 40 & 45 categories in the National Masters Squash Championship being played at the Delhi Gymkhana Courts.

Dushyant beat Sanjeev Anand also of Delhi Gymkhana in straight sets 9-6 9-4 9-5 in 34 minutes and beat O'neil Pramanik of West Bengal also in 3 sets 9-1, 9-1, 9-0.

The only match that went the distance was in the Over 50 category where Vijay Jani of Delhi beat Dr. B I Singh also of Delhi in a hard fought 4 setter in a match lasting 43 minutes. Dr. B I Singh earlier won the over 55 category beating Rajiv Reddy of Tamil Nadu.

RESULTS**FINAL:**

Over 35 : Dalip Tripathi (WB) beat Vicky Nayar (CHD) 9-1 9-4 9-6

Over 40 : Dushyant Singh Jamwal (ND) beat Sanjeev Anand (ND) 9-6 9-4 9-5

Over 45 : Dushyant Singh Jamwal (ND) beat O'neil Pramanik (WB) 9-1 9-1 9-0

Over 50 : Vijay Jani (ND) beat B I Singh (ND) 9-3 9-4 7-9 10-8

Over 55 : B I Singh (ND) beat Rajiv Reddy (TN) 9-3 9-1 9-1

SEMIFINAL :

Over 35 : Dalip Tripathi (WB) bt Shammii Khurana (ND) 9-2 9-2 9-1
Vicky Nayar (CHD) beat Vivan Khubchand (ND) 9-3 2-9 9-5 9-2

Over 40 : Sanjeev Anand (ND) beat Col A. Bahl (SSB) Walkover
Dushyant Singh Jamwal (ND) beat Mohanish Sawant (MAH) 9-1 9-4 9-2

Over 45 : Dushyant Singh Jamwal (ND) beat Mukul Gupta (ND) 9-0 9-1 9-2
O'neil Pramanik (WB) beat Col A. Bahl (SSB) Walkover

Over 50 : Vijay Jani (ND) beat V Laxman (TN) 9-5 9-1 1-9 9-7

Over 55 : B I Singh (ND) beat Col Ashok Saydha (ND) 9-1 9-1 9-3
Rajiv Reddy (TN) beat Lalit Verma (ND) 2-9 5-9 9-0 9-0 (Ret)

INTERSTATE SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

(28/08/2008)

Tamil Nadu retains its title, Services are Runners Up



Tamil Nadu team (from left), K. Srikanth (manager), Harinder Pal Singh, Saurav Ghosal, Rav Dixit, and Nareesh Kumar

Tamil Nadu scored a 2-0 win over Services to retain the team championship in the 56th ICL Senior National Inter-State squash championship at Secunderabad Club.

Harinder Pal Singh of Chennai who lost the first game to Vikas Jangra of Services had to put up a brave fight in the next three games to win 11-13, 12-10, 11-2, 11-6 in the first match.

Vikas won the first game easily in 10 minutes but the second game saw a tough fight after Harinder took a lead. Vikas managed to fight back and the score was 9 all before Harinder clinched the game.

The next two games were cake walk for Harinder and he won 3-1. In the next match look a one sided affair as National champion Saurav Ghosal of Chennai defeated Sandeep Jangra easily 11-3, 11-2, 11-7.

Narayan Das, president of Secunderabad Club, gave away the prizes. The winners got Rs. 25,000, runner-up Services Rs. 15, 000 and Delhi which finished third Rs. 10,000.

It is interesting to note that none of the TN players are originally from TN.

RESULTS

FINAL:

Tamil Nadu bt Services 2-0

Harinder Pal Singh bt Vikas Jangra 11-13, 12-10, 11-2, 11-6
Saurav Ghosal bt Sandeep Jangra 11-3, 11-2, 11-7

3rd place: Delhi bt West Bengal 2-1

Suhail Kapoor bt Geurav Narvan 11-9, 11-7, 11-4
Amjad Khan lost to Dalip Tripathi 6-11, 11-9, 7-11
Rishi Jalan bt Rishabh Mundra 11-9, 11-5, 8-11, 11-7

SEMIFINALS:

Services beat West Bengal 3-0

Vikas Jangra beat Gaurav Narvan 11-7 11-3 11-6
Sandeep Jangra beat Dalip Tripathi 11-6 11-6 11-7
Sandeep Singh beat Rishabh Mundra 11-5 12-10

Tamilnadu beat New Delhi "A" 2-0

Harindarpal Singh beat Suhail Kapoor 11-8 11-13 11-2 11-7
Saurav Ghosal beat Amjad Khan 11-4 11-6 11-5

KARNATAKA OPEN SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

(10/08/2008)

The JSW-Karnataka State Open Squash Championship, 2008 drew to a close with Mr. Goolhathi D Shekhar (Ho'nble Minister for Textiles, Youth Services Government of Karnataka) attending the concluding ceremony as the Chief Guest. The function was also attended by Mr. K. Govindaraj (President Karnataka Olympic Association & Vice President, Indian Olympic Association), Mr. Y Siva Sagar Rao (JMD & CEO, JSW Steel Ltd), Dr. Vinod Nowal (Director Commercial), Cmde. J P Carneiro (President Karnataka Squash Rackets Association) and enthusiastic players and JSW'ites. The championship was held from 8th August to 10th August 2008 at Vijayanagar Sports Club, Vidyanagar. This is the third time JSW organised the Karnataka State Open Squash Championship. The Championship was inaugurated on 8th August, 2008 by Mr. Parth Jindal, a noted squash player and a leader in the making of the JSW squash fraternity. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Cmde. J P Carneiro, Mr. V Laxman Tournament Director, Mr. H R Lal, VP (HR & Admin), JSW Steel Ltd & Brig. Amr Prakash, Avp (Admin).

The championship comprised of singles events. Prize money of Rs.1.65 lakh were awarded to the winners in various categories. The numbers of confirmed participants were more than 175. The main participating contingents were from Jindal Squash Academy, Vasind, ICL Squash Academy, Chennai, RIMC, Dehradun, Karnataka, Delhi, Salem, Chhatisgarh and Maharashtra.

The JSW Karnataka State Open squash championship is a serious attempt by JSW Steel Ltd to invest in building future champions. The Squash Open Championship is providing an opportunity to youngsters to participate in national championships and hopefully it also be a stepping stone to the 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 who have won state, national and international level trophies.

RESULTS

FINAL:

Girls U-13: Urvashi Joshi (Mah) bt Lakshya (TN) 9-0, 9-6, 9-2.

Girls U-15: Urvashi Joshi (Mah) bt Lakshya (TN) 9-5, 10-8, 7-3

Girls U-17: Rinky Soni (Mah) bt Shweta Yadav (Mah) 5-9, 9-3, 9-2, 9-3

Boys U-11: Roshan Kannan (TN) bt Sandeep Paswan (MAH) 9-1, 9-1, 9-7

Boys U-13: Sandeep Ramachandran (TN) bt Aditya Khatri (Mah) 10-8, 9-3, 9-0

Boys U-15: Shashi Pandey (Mah) bt Vishabh Kotian (Mah) 9-6, 10-8, 9-6

Boys U-17: Prithvi Aditya (TN) bt Awadesh Yadav (Mah) 9-3, 9-1, 9-3

Men: Desappan (TN) bt Abhimanyu Pandu (MAH) 9-4, 9-5, 7-9, 7-9, 9-6

Men Over 35: Laxman V (TN) bt Sunil Verma (Mah) 9-5, 9-1, 9-5

Boys U-19: Laxman Joshi (MAH) bt Abhinav Sinha (MAH) 9-3-9-5-9-6

CHENNAI OPEN 2008

(07/07/2008)

Saurav Ghosal keeps his nerve to take Chennai Open title

Saurav Ghosal played to his strengths and triumphed, while Dipika Pallikal failed to do that and lost to Annie Au of Hong Kong as the final day ended on a contrasting note for the two Indians in the ICL-Chennai Open.

The PSA title clash was an all-Indian affair with Ritwik Bhattacharya being Ghosal's opponent. The two had not faced each other in recent times but when they last met, Ghosal was the victor. It initially seemed that Ritwik was out for revenge, given the way he controlled the pace and trend of the exchanges. In particular, he displayed delicate touch when dealing with the ball at the forecourt, something that Ghosal failed to do.

Wait and watch

Ghosal is nowadays showing a tendency to wait and watch. Aggression has always been his first choice but he has now started to play according to the demands of the situation. Proof of that came when he roared back after dropping the first game.

Suddenly, Ghosal was everywhere, dashing to the front for near impossible drop shots or racing back to almost crash on to the glass back for long returns. In short, Ritwik suddenly found the court too small for placements. He also started to make errors, either missing the wall for the tin or failing to reach the power-packed cross-court drives.

Added to that, Ghosal began to thrive during the rallies. During this phase, his wristy efforts were a delight to watch. Taking a handy lead in each of the next three games, Ghosal grabbed the initiative, worked his way to glory and his third title in the PSA tour.

Not consistent

In the WISPA final, all Dipika needed to do was pick a leaf out of Ghosal's book. Good friends off the court, Ghosal's advice clearly failed to pep up the 16-year-old.

Dipika has the game, drives the forehand shots well and her wristy deceptions often catch her opponents on the wrong foot. Annie also fell prey to that. However, consistency was the need of the hour and it was

Annie who produced a steady display.

Dipika's front court efforts never inspired. She could still have made up for that with a clear strategy of exploiting Annie's weak backhand.

As it happened, Dipika twice failed despite showing touches of excellence. She led 8-0 in the second before losing 8-10 and then in the next trailed 2-6, was on game-ball at 8-7 to once again lose her way.

For Annie, her first final of the season provided a memorable finish while Dipika had to be satisfied with her first entry into the final in her young WISPA career.

Courtesy : The Hindu, Chennai

RESULTS

FINAL:

PSA: Saurav Ghosal (Ind) bt Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) 7-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-6.

WISPA: Annie Au (Hkg) bt Dipika Pallikal (Ind) 9-3, 10-8, 10-8.

SEMIFINALS:

PSA:

Saurav Ghosal (Ind) bt Ryan Cuskelly (Aus) 10-12, 5-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-7;

Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) bt Mohd Ali Anwar Reda (Egy) 10-12, 7-11, 12-10, 11-7, 11-8.

WISPA:

Dipika Pallikal (Ind) bt Orla Noom (Ned) 10-8, 7-9, 9-5, 9-1; Annie Au (Hkg) bt Joshna Chinappa (Ind) 10-9, 9-1, 5-9, 10-9.

QUARTERFINALS:

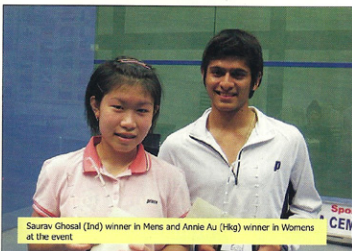
PSA:

Saurav Ghosal (Ind) bt Rob Sutherland (Wal) 11-8, 15-3, 11-5; Ryan Cuskelly (Aus) bt Dick Lau (Hkg) 11-9, 6-11, 11-9, 11-3;

Mohd. Ali Anwar Reda (Egy) bt Max Lee (Hkg) 11-4, 11-3, 11-7; Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) bt Harinderpal Singh (Ind) 11-8, 13-11, 11-8.

WISPA:

Dipika Pallikal (Ind) bt Christina Mak (Hkg) 9-7, 9-5, 9-3; Joshna Chinappa (Ind) bt Birgit Coufal (Aut) 9-2, 9-5, 9-2; Orla Noom (Ned) bt Anvesha Reddy (Ind) 3-9, 8-10, 9-5, 9-1, 9-2; Annie Au bt Harita Omprakash (Ind) 9-2, 9-0, 9-1.



Saurav Ghosal (Ind) winner in Mens and Annie Au (Hkg) winner in Womens at the event

INDO SCHOTTLE PUNE OPEN SQUASH

(17/08/2008)

Women: Saumya Karki beat Alshwarya Kulkarni 9-1, 9-0, 9-0

Over 35: Niraj Shrigaokar beat Mohanish Sawant 9-4, 9-5, 9-6

Over 40: Mohanish Sawant beat Deepak Moolani 4-9, 9-0, 9-6, 10-8

Over 45: Vaman Apte beat Col Bahl 9-6, 9-3, 9-6

Over 50: Vaman Apte beat Lalit Agnihotri 9-0, 9-7, 9-2

Open: Ritwik Bhattacharya beat Vikram Malhotra 8-10, 9-2, 9-3, 9-3

Professionals: Sanjay Pawar beat Benjamin 9-0, 9-5, 9-0

Under 11: Vedant Rao beat Jui Kalgutkar 9-5, 9-2, 10-8

Under 13: Raghav Mehrotra beat Divij Kadan 9-2, 9-4, 8-10, 9-6

Under 15: Vishabh Kotian beat Rohan Vora 9-5, 9-2, 9-4

Under 17: Vishabh Kotian beat Prenay Merchant 9-6, 3-9, 7-9, 9-1, 9-6

Under 19: Vikram Malhotra beat Mahesh Mangonkar 9-3-9-9-2

BATTLE OF THE SEXES UDAI SINGH V/S NICOL DAVID

(03/08/2008)



Udai Singh with Nicol David

Udai Singh is Singapore's No. 1 men's player, no doubt, but even he describes himself as a club player at best as he stopped playing professional's circuit years back. And taking on the world's no. 1 woman player Nicol David is just about the last thing he had expected at the age of 36.

But Udai Singh is a brave man and there's not a lot to gain for him to play the world's best woman player. And if he won then every one would remember him and if he lost that's almost certainly what the 600-plus people who packed the Kallang Squash Courts came to see and you can be sure Udai would not be spared. And just to remind him that his very manhood was on the line, some of his close friends brought skirts for him, never mind if they were not in his favourite colour, these pals were more than ready to help him put them on, should he lose the Battle of the Sexes. What's that saying again- with friends like these...

So, on a hot and humid Sunday afternoon, all gathered to witness the handsome squash player going price for male pride? Around 45000 rupees to win and leave with your ego generally intact, 30000 rupees and a skirt, if you lose.

But in the end it was Udai Singh who defeated Women world No.1 Nicol David (who incidentally lost her first match in 2008) but to a man and in a friendly encounter at Kallang Squash Centre Singapore, in the battle of sexes.

David entertained over 600 fans as she pushed the Singapore's top male player Udai Singh to the rubber before losing 9-11, 11-8, 11-9, 8-11, 5-11 in the 7-Eleven Battle of the Sexes event.

"It's harder to get the ball past men. They have more speed and strength. You have to be very tight with your shots," said the 5 feet 3 inches-tall, 55kg Malaysian.

"Still, I enjoyed the match. Playing with men raises my game to another level."

The vocal crowd were hoping for an upset- and David, 24, nearly caused it having opponent scampering with stunning strokes and tactics.

But, Udai, at 5 feet 9 inches tall and 71kg, had his physical advantage to thank for claiming the Singapore 1500 Dollars winner's cheque.

The 36-year-old sales director, looking chuffed at the end of the hour-long match, said.

"I was fully stretched by Nicol. She makes no mistakes. She takes the ball very early and is very consistent."

**FROM THE COLLECTION OF ARTICLE
BY LATE RAJU CHAINANI FROM 1971-2001**
BITTER SWEET MEMORIES FOR JUNIORS

Mid-day 20/8/1998



Late Raju Chainani

NEW YORK, August 20

THE Indian team left Princeton with bittersweet memories of the 10th World Junior Squash Championships. The trio of Ritwik Bhattacharya, Gaurav and Rohan Juneja played above themselves and the 2-1 win over South Africa gave India 17th position overall, the highest they could achieve in the present

system.

"Somebody should have fought for your case. Your boys deserved a better seeding than 23rd". said Hong Kong coach Chris Clark who has been at nine World Junior Championships.

Bhattacharya leaves for the PSA circuit in South America. The Juneja twins were on their way to Connecticut where they join Trinity College. The trio had to play all five matches following the disciplinary action taken against Bikram Uberoi.

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The hand-to-mouth existence was very much on their minds. "We asked Manan Mashruwalla for the additional allowance we were supposed to receive and all he said was that when we come to Mumbai in December he will try and get it for us. We wanted it here. We don't need a Santa Claus", said Gaurav Juneja.

Team captain Bhattacharya was far from amused with Mashruwalla's presence. "Against South Africa he kept mumbling something to me in between games. It did not make any sense because Yogendra Singh was advising me", said the Indian skipper. For what it's worth, Mashruwalla did not attend as single training session. Things reached a stage when the local host, Madhav Joshi questioned Mashruwalla about his presence. It was said that the boys were denied allowance for the full period. The saving grace was they played against Jahangir Khan and rubbed shoulders with greats like Maqsood Ahmed, Umar Hayat Khan, Yusuf Khan and Anil Nayar. This is what made Their trip worthwhile.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS ALL FINALS

08/07/2008: PIONEER JUNIOR OPEN, GERMANY

Mens : Nicolas Mueller (SUI) bt Gregoire Marche (FRA) 9-5, 9-2, 9-2
Womens : Sara El Noamany (EGY) bt Sina Wall (GER) 9-6, 9-0, 9-7

08/07/2008:HARROW MEXICAN OPEN, PACHUCA

Samantha Teran bt Louise Crome 9-4, 10-8, 9-2

12/07/2008: NSC SUPER SATELITE NO2, MALAYSIA

Shahid Zaman bt Mike Corren 7-11, 11-6, 11-7, 11-7

13/07/2008: MEGA ITALIA, ITALY

Daivide Bianchetti bt Simon Rosner 11-5, 11-7, 11-9

15/07/2008: DUTCH JUNIOR OPEN, NETHERLANDS

Mens : Nicolas Mueller (SUI) bt Henrik Mustonen (FIN) 9-0, 9-3, 9-5
Womens : Salma Nassar (EGY) bt Olivia Blatchford (USA) 9-4, 10-8, 5-9, 9-2

20/07/2008: NSC SUPER SATELITE NO 4, MALAYSIA

Shahid Zaman bt Mike Corren 7-11, 11-4, 11-5, 13-11

27/07/2008: CIMB MALAYSIAN OPEN, MALAYSIA

Nicol David bt Natalie Grinham 11-1, 11-4, 11-6

29/07/2008: SOUTH AUSTRALIA OPEN, EDWARDSTOWN

Mike Corren bt Zac Alexander 11-7, 11-7, 12-10

03/08/2008: SINGAPORE MASTERS, KALLANG CENTRE

Nicol David bt Rachael Grinham 11-1, 11-3, 11-5, 11-8

03/08/2008: AUSTRALIAN OPEN, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

David Palmer bt Kashif Shuja 11-7, 14-12, 11-8

25/08/2008: WOMEN'S POF OPEN, PAKISTAN

Lisa Camilleri bt Maria Toor Pakay 11-6, 11-8, 10-12, 11-6

27/08/2008: DRAGONDC CHAMPS, USA

Patrick Chifunda (ZAM) bt Jose Angel Becerril (MEX) 7-11, 13-11, 6-11, 11-9, 11-9

10/09/2008: TAIWAN OPEN, TAIWAN

Chris Simpson bt Yasir Butt 11-8, 12-10, 11-1

15/09/2008: CHARLESTON CHALLENGE, USA

Alan Clynne (SCO) bt Jonathan Harford (ENG) 11-9, 8-11, 3-11, 11-6, 11-3

17/09/2008: NORDIC JUNIOR OPEN, SWEDEN

Henrik Mustonen (FIN) bt Casper Grauballe (DEN) 11-8, 11-7, 11-7

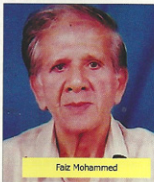
MENS RANKING SEPTEMBER 2008

RANK	PLAYER	COUNTRY
1	Amr Shabana	EGY
2	Gregory Gaultier	FRA
3	James Willstrop	ENG
4	Ramy Ashour	EGY
5	David Palmer	AUS
45	Saurav Ghosal	IND
58	Ritwik Bhattacharya	IND
124	Siddharth Suchde	IND
126	Gaurav Nandrajog	IND
158	Narash Kumar	IND
199	Harinder Pal Sandhu	IND

WOMENS RANKING OCTOBER 2008

RANK	PLAYER	COUNTRY
1	Nicol David	MAS
2	Natalie Grinham	NED
3	Rachael Grinham	AUS
4	Natalie Grainger	USA
5	Jenny Duncalf	ENG
38	Joshna Chinappa	IND
54	Dipika Pallikal	IND
171	Anwesha Reddy	IND
199	Surabhi Mishra	IND
240	Supriya Balsekar	ENG
104	Neha Kumar	CAN

SQUASH PROFESSIONAL FAIZ MOHAMMED PASSED AWAY IN MUMBAI



Faiz Mohammed

One of the country's most respected squash professionals, Faiz Mohamed passed away on September 1st 2008. He was 72. Faiz and Shyamal Verma were the two leading pros of the 50s and 60s.

He was always the bridesmaid, seldom the bride. That was the fate of late Faiz Mohamed in the professional's events of the leading squash tournaments.

That's how he has set a record of 11 runners-up trophies in the CCI championships of Western India and a fair number in the National where Shyamal Verma always used to come in his way.

But for Faiz his main job was to teach people to play the game and not win titles. And if you take that yardstick, Faiz was a winner all the way.

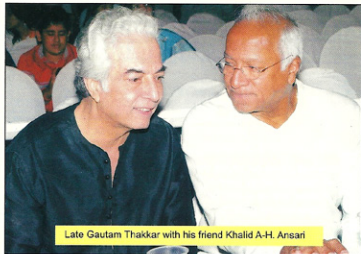
He has been a great motivator for club players to take to the game and not give it up because of its toughness. Faiz began playing at the age of 14 under Jamal Din, the famous professional who was his brother-in-law. It was at the Kalyan British Club. Then he moved with him to the Deolali Officers Mess and finally to College of Military Engineering Pune. In 1957, Jamal Din left for London and Faiz joined the Cricket Club of India.

Good professionals were only a handful in the country and Faiz kept getting and accepting good offers. So he moved to the Navy in 1959 and in 1965 to the U. S. Club where he was head coach in

squash, tennis and badminton, something of a Nasrullah Khan, the father of Rahmat Khan.

Mahendra Agarwal, the founder of ISP, said: "For Faiz his main job was to teach people to play the game and not win titles. And if you take that yardstick, Faiz has been a winner all the way. His son Riaz, Shiraz & Aiyaz has been continuing his good work."

A TRIBUTE TO GOD'S OWN GREAT MAN.... GAUTAM THAKKAR



Late Gautam Thakkar with his friend Khalid A-H. Ansari

Gautam Thakkar, vice-president of the Squash Rackets Association of Maharashtra, passed away in Mumbai at the age of 60 after a fourth-month battle with lung cancer. I saw him first in inter-collegiate matches. The University Stadium would be packed for a final between St Xavier's and Sydenham. There would be Anil Mahesh, Atul Premnarayan, Deepak Premnarayan, Shirish Nadkarni on St Xavier's side cheered by the cricketers like Sunil Gavaskar, Ashok Mankad, Kallash Gattani, Milind Rege and on the Sydenham side players like Gautam, Bharucha, Sarosh Shroff, among others. St Xavier's usually won.

When I got into journalism I always met him at the badminton events and he radiated charm all through.

Gautam, a former Asian Junior champion in 1965, didn't join any official associations as he had a dislike for politics in sport. But when he came in contact with the squash fraternity, his outlook changed. As Mahendra Agarwal, former secretary of the Squash Rackets Association of Maharashtra, said: "Gautam supported my venture, the Indian Squash Professionals and he agreed to be the vice-president of SRAM. He would have been the next president."

Thakkar, was one of the most handsome players to grace Indian

badminton and ever-smiling.

He was National boys singles and doubles champion in 1963 his partner being Atul Premnarayan. The year Dinesh Khanna won the Asian senior title at Lucknow in 1965, Gautam won the Asian juniors crown beating a Thai opponent. He was Maharashtra state champ for six years in the row in the 60s. He was to partner the all-time great Nandu Natekar and later Asif Parpia and married another player Gopika Saran. They had three sons.

On retirement Thakkar served as president of Badminton-45 an organisation of veterans which honours the sport's achievers every year. He was also a former president of Bombay Gymkhana, where he played practically every day till five months ago with the likes of Sunil Gavaskar, Gulam Vaharvati, and Dr Ajit Pai, obstetrician gynaecologist.

Said Gavaskar in a message from London: "Gautam was in the same school as us-- St Xavier's Dhobitalao. He was our hero. We would run to watch him play badminton. He was all elegance on the court and off it he was even more so. I got to know him better only after I became a member of the Bombay Gymkhana. He knew my love for badminton and so we started playing to try and put away the flab. Not that he needed to, since he remained slim throughout. Having him as my partner meant that most of the shuttles would come to me, the weak link in the partnership and that's what I wanted as it meant more exercise. Every afternoon from Monday to Friday whenever I was in Mumbai we would play with Dr Ajit Pai and Ghulam Vaharvati. He would be the one to call up and check whenever I returned from a trip and would have a hearty laugh when I told him 'Yes, I will be there at 3 pm'. Why 3 pm? we were asked often. It was simply because when we started way back in 1988 by 3.30 pm there would be the schoolboys from Cathedral who would come for a game and the rule is that if somebody is waiting then as soon as your game is done you vacate the court. So we didn't want to play just one game and then sit out so we decided to start at 3 pm which ensured that we got two games on the trot. Of course nowadays there is hardly anybody there even at 4.30 pm....."

Khalid Ansari, another close friend, wrote from Beijing: "The expression 'Those whom the gods love, die young' was coined expressly for the likes of Gautam Thakkar. Gautam was the epitome of good grace and sportsmanship. A sincere friend, Gautam was Mr. Reliable, unfailingly dependable and always willing to go the extra mile to help the deserving and those close to him...."

"There was much more than good looks to Gautam: His humane nature was exemplary. And, his services to sport, in general, and Mumbai sport, in particular, invaluable. To that extent badminton and squash have been orphaned. Goodbye dost. Your loss is unbearable. We will miss you. May your soul rest in peace."

Editorial Board: Mahendra Agarwal / Bruno Goveas / Noreena / Amitoj Inder Singh / Vidya Rao

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