

SCORE



**Tribute to the
basketball legend**

**KOBE
BRYANT**

**Indian athletes
you need to
watch out for**

**The extraordinary
HATTEKAR twins
who beat all odds!**

**10 Indian sports
you probably
never knew about**

**HOCKEY:
Will the Indian
women's team
score?**

**2020
SUMMER
OLYMPICS**

.....
**Watch out for the tear-out Sports
quiz and crossword pages!**



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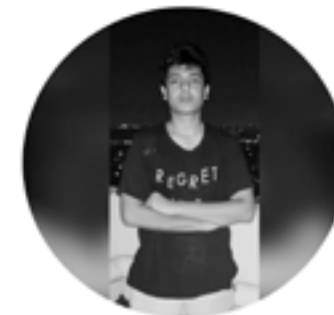
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SCORE

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FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Welcome to the first edition of Score! Our magazine is all things sports. From the upcoming Olympics, star players from all over the world and India, to sports you have never heard of, Score is your key to everything.

We begin this edition with the Indian Olympic hopes. With the qualification rounds almost coming to an end, the Indian contingent is gearing up for Tokyo. Find a detailed analysis of the Indian contingent, along with a ground check of the venue itself. And have you met this year's mascots? Turn some pages to meet Miraitowa and Someity, along with the other iconic mascots over the years.

We also cover new, upcoming players all around the world who are making a mark in the world of sports. From aspiring young gymnasts, the Hattekar sisters of Aurangabad to Flt Lt Shikha Pandey, cricketer and an Indian air force officer, we are here to tell some inspiring stories of success. Talking about new players, ever heard of chess boxing? Or Korfbal? Find out more on hybrid sports in this issue.

Score also pays tribute to Bryant, Sala and the legends we have lost this year. Not only we are here to tell your stories about your favourite stars, but we will guide you to find such inspiring stories on your own. Our magazine lists the top sports documentaries and biographies. And don't forget to check the interactive section with quizzes and games.

Sports becomes an integral part of everyone's life from the time we learn to walk and Score aims to celebrate this very spirit of sports, by saluting stories of grit, determination and passion.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition!



ADRENALINE RUSH!

DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES, 600+
PARTICIPANTS, ONE PANEL -
WELCOME TO SCMC RUSH

RUPAL JHAJHRIA



SCMC recently hosted its first-ever inter-collegiate sports fest, RUSH, from January 9th-11th, 2020. Rush was a one-of-a-kind hybrid media-sports festival which was organized by the students and faculty at SCMC. This unique blend of sports competitions, photography contests, quizzes, and a panel discussion with industry experts saw a tremendous turnout of over 650 participants from 20 colleges and 12 clubs.

Participants competed in basketball, volleyball, futsal, tennis, sports photography and the sports quiz. The men's volleyball was won by Team Zeal, while FLAME University bagged the women's title. The futsal titles for men and women were taken by NDA and Symbiosis Law School respectively. NDA also won the sports quiz. In basketball, Sports Arena won the women's trophy while Court Vision took the men's trophy. Yash Joglekar won the Sports Journalism contest and Suprasana DN won the photography contest. Harsh Gurnani won the tennis men's singles trophy and also teamed up with Krishna Thakkar to grab the mixed double's prize.

The panel discussion on day two was organized to give students a deeper insight into the world of sports in India. The topic chosen was "Barriers in Sports" to understand and tackle the various challenges that prevent sportspersons from reaching their full potential. The panel included Milind Joshi, a swimming coach; Shirish Dattatraya Kulkarni, associate professor at Symbiosis Law School who specializes in sports law; Vivek Shivade, a city-based mountaineer who will attempt to scale Mount Kilimanjaro; and Aditya Bhandarkar, a professional golfer.

"Sports build character. It gives you the ability to accept victory and defeat in the same way. You don't take yourself seriously when you are playing. The sport is prioritised then. It helps combat much of the evil in modern life. It is too stressful to deal with modern-day difficulties. We at SCMC, welcome a culture that encourages sports. For us, both sports and cultural performances are equally important. SCMC is all about celebrating artistic achievements in cultural events. We now consider sports to be of utmost importance. Our team put up a great show in RUSH and we hope to continue that in the coming years, bigger and better," said Sreeram Gopalkrishnan, Director, SCMC.

The first-ever installment SCMC RUSH managed to exceed all expectations of those involved in its planning and execution. The three-day event saw great enthusiasm and effort from all participants and organizers. The event was conducted smoothly, saw a great turnout from across the country, and managed to showcase great skill and talent. Owing to the resounding success of the first edition of RUSH, it is well placed to become a staple of SCMC for years to come.

Indian Players Taking the Lead

VIKRAM VARMA

Global sporting events dominate headlines the world over every year, and some, like the Olympics, every four. India, a country with 1.3 billion people, is thriving in terms of its sportspersons. Aside from mainstream sports such as football and cricket, the past few years

have seen some tremendous attempts to bring our indigenous sports into the limelight. Kabaddi is a shining example. However, mainstream or indigenous, Indian players are dominating the sports scene and are steadily rising in the ranks. Profiles of some of the notable players in these various sports are as follows:

JEMIMAH RODRIGUES

Born into a sporting family, Jemimah made her debut in the world of women's cricket in India in the year 2018. The batting mainstay for the Indian team, Jemimah is for all her talent, an extremely down to earth individual. Her love for cricket keeps her going on the field, and her determination to improve on her batting goes to show her dedication to her goals. Her entrance to the official world of cricket was based on her performances across various ODI's and T20I's.

At 19, Jemimah has achieved a lot. She has represented India in 34 T20's and 16 ODI's and has made her presence felt in the Indian cricketing circuit, owing to her flamboyant batting style. India will be facing Australia, its toughest opponent. Australia also happens to be her favourite team to play against, she claims, as it's 'more of a mind game than just the use of skills'.



SOURCE: VIJAY PATE

KARTIK TYAGI

Kartik Tyagi, 19, has been a rising star in the U19 cricket scene. Recently picked up by the Rajasthan Royals at the IPL 2020 auctions for Rs. 1.3 crores, co-owner of the team Manoj Bodale is reported to have bought him as a prospect for the team, believing that he will be crucial for the team over the next four to five years.

Born in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh, Kartik grew to represent the state till he was picked up by Rajasthan Royals after one-upping Kings XI Punjab in the bidding. He is a medium-fast, right-handed bowler and has consistently crossed the 140kmph mark, and was thus picked up by the former Uttar Pradesh captain to represent the state in the Cooch Behar trophy. Ever since he's been on an upward trajectory. Tyagi is currently preparing for the Vivo IPL 2020 which is scheduled to begin on the 29th of March.



SOURCE: SUPER STARS BIO

NAVEEN KUMAR GOYAL

Born in Feb 2000, Naveen Kumar Goyat has made his mark in the kabaddi scene in India. He was the youngest player, and the only one born in the 2000s to make a debut in the Vivo Pro Kabaddi League. He finished his debut season as Delhi Dabang's top scorer with 177 points. He performed equally well in the 7th season of the Pro Kabaddi league and emerged as one of the finest raiders in what was only his second campaign. After all, he was introduced to the sport by his grandfather who was a wrestler, and ever since, there's been no turning back for Naveen.

With his family being immensely supportive of his choice of pursuing kabaddi, Naveen has been able to give the sport his all. Years of training have made him an offensive juggernaut; he deploys the Running Hand Touch, his spale move at crucial moments to score points. He is expected to perform at the 8th season of the Pro Kabaddi League this year.



SOURCE: PRO KABADDI LEAGUE

DHEERAJ SINGH

Dheeraj Singh, 19, was born in Manipur in July 2000. The topper of his school, his parents were against him pursuing football as they felt that he would do much better in an academic setup. After years of having his grandmother buy him his football kits, constant training and grit, and determination, Dheeraj today is the goalkeeper for the Indian squad. He received international attention after his performances in the U17 World Cup.

He currently plays for the Indian Super League. While earlier a member of the Kerala Busters, he is now a member of the ATK. With his final match for the 2019-2020 League on the 22nd of February against Bangalore, this will mark another successful year for the young player.



SOURCE: SPORTS KEEDA

UDATNA SINGH

Born in 1996 in Manipur, Udatna Singh received his formal football training at the Tata Football starting in 2010. He made his international debut for India in the Under 19 category in the 2014 AFC qualifiers. He was roped in by Bengaluru FC the same year and has been a steady contributor to the team ever since.

During the Hero ISL of 2017-2018, he had seven assists and one goal and also collected the "Winning Pass of the League Award". He was in even stronger form the previous season, contributing 5 goals and 3 assists.



SOURCE: THE CANAL NEWS



SOURCE: INDIAN GYMNASTICS LEAGUE

GYMNASTICS

A Tale of the Twins: Riddhi and Siddhi Hattekar

RASHI BHATTACHARYYA

Gymnastics as a sport was often ignored at an international level. In a world dominated by kids aspiring to be the future Messis, Serenas, and LeBrons, people often tend to forget about Simones. Up until Ashish Kumar bagged 2 medals in the 2010 Commonwealth Games, India was unknown to our country's prowess in the sport. But after Dipa Karmakar's spectacular Produnova vault in Glasgow Commonwealth Games, gymnastics got the much-needed attention of the sports federation of India. This garnered mass support for the growing gymnastics fraternity in India. Amongst the many players in the sport, are two bright-eyed twins from Aurangabad, Maharashtra, Siddhi and Riddhi Hattekar.

After having represented Maharashtra in Khelo India Youth Games, the 15-year-old artistic gymnasts are about to take their boards. Despite that kind of pressure, the girls gave a great performance in Guwahati, with Siddhi even securing a silver in Individual All-around U-17 category. Back in December, both the sisters participated in season 3 of the Indian Gymnastics League. With a big support system and even bigger dreams, the duo talked about their past, their present and their glorious future.

Every story has a beginning. What was yours?

Riddhi: We started our training when we were three and a half. Our father, Pravinchandra Hattekar, who is a sub-editor for Dainik Bhaskar, introduced us to the sport. Initially, Tanuja Tai (Gadbe) taught us the basics of gymnastics. In this sport, proper infrastructure is very crucial for our safety but in the beginning, it was not that great. We had minimal infrastructure, but we persevered. Within the next 3-4 years, we realised that we need to up our game and soon enough we started to train under Ramakrishna Lokhande, who is the head coach of the Women's Artistic gymnastics team, Maharashtra. Currently, we are still training under Lokhande sir, along with other stars of the team.

Siddhi, you represented India in Jakarta during the 15th Junior Artistic Gymnastics Asian Championship, which is a big deal at your age. What is your training regime for such high power tournaments or in general?

Siddhi: Ever since we were kids, we have followed a strict practice routine regardless of the circumstances. On average, we train for a total of six hours, daily. We practice three hours

before and then after school. It is tiring, but our love for gymnastics is what keeps us going. For big tournaments, training takes precedence over everything, apart from maintaining our routine, we spend more time in the arena with other teams to analyse their methods. More than the competition, it's also about learning.

Shy in nature, these two are a treat to watch in the arena. But competing in the same category is never easy. Students of Sharda Mandir, the twins also spoke about sibling rivalry.

So, both of you compete in the Under-17 Artistic Gymnastics category. Does this bring any kind of rivalry outside the arena?

Riddhi: In the arena, yes, we do compete against each other, given we perform in the same category and it's mainly because we have no other choice. But it is a friendly fight, we know we have to do our personal best to succeed. Our scores generally differ from apparatus to apparatus but somehow, we often end up getting the same score. Whether it's in the arena, or outside the arena, we are also each other's biggest supporters. In the end, our goal is to win for our school, our state and hopefully in the future, our country as well.

The last time I saw them in action during 2019's Khelo India Youth Games, they bagged silver and bronze respectively with a 4-point difference in the individual all-around category.

Who do you see as your biggest supporters?

Siddhi: As we said before, our father has been there with us through all our practices, tournaments despite being in the media. So our family is our strongest pillar of support. But the Maharashtra gymnastics team are our biggest cheerleaders in the arena. They are consistent with their encouragement and support throughout our performances. The senior players are also a big source of inspiration and often offer us tips to improve.

After garnering success at such a young age, where do you see yourself in the future?

Riddhi: We train rigorously every day because we hope to get to places. Further, we want to play and win international tournaments. We have a long way to go, but tournaments like Khelo India and the new gymnastics league give us the perfect opportunity and exposure to shine. Hopefully one day we will even go for the Olympics, whenever we qualify. Till then, the goal is more medals and more practice.

These talented sisters not only represent Maharashtra in national competitions but also play in the three-year-old Indian Gymnastics League. While Siddhi plays for the Bouncers, Riddhi plays for the Twisters. They are currently training under international coaches with an extremely supportive fraternity who play a solid role in their success story. As the twins climb the ladder of success we hope to see the entire country cheer for the girls.



PHOTO: RASHI BHATTACHARYYA

Air Warrior and Cricketer: The Story of Flt Lt Shikha Pandey

ADITI PARIDA

Shikha Pandey made her international Twenty20 debut on 9 March 2014 against Bangladesh at Cox's Bazar cricket stadium in Bangladesh.

The batsman took their position as the bowler's ran up to the crease. The air around them was tense as the batsman was trying to focus on the ball in front. The next five seconds could determine the fate of the entire game. As the audience waited with bated breath, the ball hit the bat and swoosh went for a six...

**And CRASH!
The aunty working inside came out with the ball and the furious face said it all.**

This is the story that most kids in India must have gone through at some point. Everyday plans to play gully cricket have been the source of fun for many as the years have passed. The same is true for Flt Lt Shikha Pandey, who is a part of the Indian women's cricket team. In her own words, hers "is a story of stubbornness, inspiration, hope, and passion."

A five-year-old girl inspired by Sachin Tendulkar and Shaun Pollock, who was immersed in the sport, slowly and gradually ended up representing her country on an international level. If that is not an achievement in itself, what's more interesting is that she is also an Indian Air Force officer!

After a move to Goa from Telangana at the age of eight, Pandey put in a lot of effort on the cricketing front to be able to reach the level she is at today.

Her passion for cricket saw her make her way into the Indian Women's playing XI in 2014. She has also supported the success of the team at many fronts, by being a part of the team playing the ICC Women's World Twenty20 2014 in Bangladesh, the T20 World Cup 2020 and even started playing in the ODI format.

Training and recovery are critical aspects for any athlete and the same is true for Shikha Pandey as well. On being asked to share her training regime, she stated that during the off-seasons, she has three sessions in a day. These include gym and conditioning, corrections and drills, and skills. These sessions help her maintain her fitness and also improve her form. She said, "I also pay equal attention to recovery."

Of course, when it is in-season, her entire focus is on the sport, and during tournaments, she has maintenance work in the gym and undergoes several recovery sessions, either in the swimming pool or with a lot of ice baths.





SOURCE: TWITTER @SHIKHASHAUNY

As someone who has been around defence set-ups throughout her life and has gone around studying in schools in these areas, she was always fascinated by the life of defence personnel. She considers her father to be her inspiration and her role model growing up.

Standing behind her like her rock, her father has been there for her throughout. Reminiscing a night where there was a power shutdown in her area and a young Shikha was disheartened because she was not able to watch a match that was going to be televised live, it was her father who came to the rescue by bringing the transistor out. As they went out for a walk under a starry sky while listening to Sachin Tendulkar bat, her father transformed into the guiding light in her life. Growing up in an environment such as this contributed to her decision to serve the nation by joining the Indian armed forces.

One of the first questions that comes to mind on knowing her story is how she manages

to maintain this balance between cricket and the Air Force. According to her, the Indian Air Force played a huge role in ensuring that she could fulfil her duty as a team member of the Indian cricket team to her utmost capacity. She said, "Firstly, Indian Air Force has been very supportive and if it weren't for Air Force Sports Control board, playing cricket would have been difficult. I try to manage my sessions well and time management has been the key to keeping the balance going."

Working diligently to get past all the curveballs that life throws in her path, she believes that even though her journey has been tough, she has put more hard work whenever it got tougher. It is easy to get demotivated, but throughout the ups and downs, she thinks of her life as a great learning curve.

In addition to her various achievements, Shikha Pandey, on the occasion of National Sports Day became the first cricketer to receive

the Dilip Sardesai Sports Excellence award 2017-18. Impressive as it may sound, she is also the first national woman cricketer from Goa who has played both at the state and the national level.

Women's cricket is still budding in India and there are still a lot of improvements that have to be made to ensure that young girls get abundant opportunities to try their hand at the sport. Pandey believes that the way to do this is by investing in better infrastructure and coaching right from the grass-root level. The players should also be provided with better incentives so that they choose the sport willingly. To help give them exposure, a lot of different competitive matches for various age groups should also be organised.

The only message that she wants to impart to all budding cricketers is that they should keep working hard towards their dreams and to remember that "dreams don't turn to dust".



12

With 10:15 left in the fourth quarter, the mighty Los Angeles Clippers were trailing the Memphis Grizzlies by 3 points at the FedEx Forum. Boasting of probably the best defensive lineup in the league, this was the key moment where everyone expected the Clippers to turn up the pressure, get some crucial defensive stops and coast to victory with the offensive talents the organisation had assembled, led by Kawhi Leonard and Paul George. But first-year Memphis guard Ja Morant had the ball at the edge of the arc. He was being guarded by veteran defensive specialist Patrick Beverly who has foiled future hall of farmers and all-stars throughout his career with his aggressive defence. But Morant didn't seem fazed, casually handling the ball between his legs and behind his back and then drilling a smooth 3 pointer over Beverly who could barely touch him. The arena erupted into cheers as Morant stormed back to the bench with the look of a veteran. His father watched on proud, yelling words of encouragement.

The Grizzlies eventually went on to lose that game, but it showcased one truth and set it in stone, Ja Morant was a future superstar in this league. Just like the week before that when Morant intercepted LeBron James' pass and dunked on the other side and proceeded to flex on the 3-time Champion, Morant possesses not just the physical gifts, but also the mental strength to be considered the real deal in this league.

The off-season preceding the 2019/2020 NBA season had a draft class that was scrutinized more than usual because of one name, Zion Williamson. The media and the fans have talked about and salivated over the potential of the Duke forward and the number 1 overall pick to a degree never seen before for an individual in the NBA since LeBron James. His physical abilities and highlight plays are one in a generation, and thus there was an extra emphasis on this draft class, especially the lottery picks. While Zion and the third overall pick, former Duke teammate RJ Barrett, were playing nationally, televised college games and were given a global media spotlight before the summer league even began. Ja Morant quietly paved his way from an unranked high school prospect to a lottery pick in the draft.

Murray State assistant coach James Kane visited Spartanburg Day School in South Carolina two years ago to scout a prospective guard when he first saw Temetrius 'Ja' Morant playing 3 v 3 in an auxiliary

gym. He was one of the last entrants into the combine and was entering his senior year with no real prospects or reasonable offers from colleges. He met his father who was videotaping the game with a go pro, a man who had devoted his life to supporting his son in becoming a pro. Kane immediately called the rest of the staff, and over the next few weeks, they saw what Morant could evolve into and marveled at his athletic prowess and explosive abilities. Then they offered the guard a scholarship program and prioritized love and interest, which sold the Morant household. While Zion was already generating national attention with his skills, Morant had slowly worked his way up to a college basketball future as a Murray state guard.

But if anybody missed the lanky young guard in high school, nobody could stop talking about him in college. Morant averaged 24.1 points, 5.6 rebounds a nation-leading 10.5 assists. His monster dunks complemented his elite ability to be a floor general, and an elite scorer. His electric play made him a rare case where a mid-level college player gets rated as a top prospect in the country. Morant was drafted second overall in the 2019 NBA draft.

With just having returned from an injury that saw him miss 50+ games this year, Morant has easily been the star of the rookies and taken pole position in the race for rookie of the year. He has been simply incredible for the Grizzlies and played at a level higher than what the organization could have dreamt of. His explosiveness and ability to be dynamic makes him a standout prospect among guards, and many have compared his playing style to that of former league MVP's, Russell Westbrook and Derrick Rose.

Morant can burst in the paint and finish with his quickness and has showcased some highlight dunks far beyond his age. This season, he's averaging 17.6 points and 6.9 assists. He has also modified his defensive abilities to suit the NBA, averaging 1 steal a game. Morant has played at a level above fellow standout rookies Kendrick Nunn, teammate Brandon Clarke, RJ Barrett, and Coby White, who have all put up decent all-round numbers. While he needs time to develop his shooting, improve his shot selection and playmaking abilities, Morant has made those around him play better and facilitated the introduction of a new style built around him under first-year head coach Taylor Jenkins.

Another interesting dynamic is that his trajectory aligns with Memphis's fourth overall pick from last year Jaren Jackson Jr. The incredibly skilled player who possesses the qualities of an elite big man with the ability to make shots and make plays for those around him. The team has high hopes for him, and it's an exciting prospect for Grizzlies fans to see both these players grow and improve together. This gives Memphis the ability to develop a young core around two potential franchise superstars whose skill sets complement each other incredibly well on the basketball court.

Morant has the athletic ability, no doubt. But the guard carries himself with an attitude that inspires confidence and plays with a hunger to win which cannot be taught and that might ultimately be why the 20-year-old rookie could be on the path to greatness.



SOURCE: TWITTER @JOMORANT



SOURCE: TWITTER @JOMORANT

THE CRAZY MONEY GOING INTO SPORTS MONEYBALL

ADARSH TRIPATHI

After the sale of Neymar Jr. to PSG for just about £200 million, football clubs have been doling out gigantic bucks to sign players and managers. Barcelona shelled out a combined £310 million for three players, Philippe Coutinho, Ousmane Dembele, and Antoine Griezmann. PSG broke the record for a teenager by signing Kylian Mbappe for £116 million, while Atletico Madrid dished out £114 million for teenage sensation Joao Felix. Sheikh Mansour, the owner of the English football club Manchester City FC, is reported to have invested over \$1 billion into the club over 10 years of ownership, which is more or less the same amount the Glazer siblings have made off of Manchester United. Floyd Mayweather Jr. fought the Filipino southpaw Manny Pacquiao in Las Vegas in 2015, a match that generated revenues of over \$410 million in pay-per-views in the United States alone. It was also the most pirated live sports event in history. Serena Williams, arguably the greatest female tennis player ever, has a net worth of \$225 million. Stephen Curry, who has been the highest-earning basketball player for the past three years, will pocket around \$40 million this year.

All of these were facts from different sports that say the same thing. Money is blowing up in sports. But this is not consistent across all sports. This article focuses on the origin and direction of the insane spending sprees witnessed by sports in the last decade. Where does this money come from, and where does it go?

Money has always been a major driving force in sports, everybody wants a piece of the pie going around in sports. One of the best examples is the sports management company RocNation Sports, owned by the rapper Jay Z, that now represents athletes like Romelu Lukaku, Kevin Durant and Robinson Canò. Carlos Tevez turned out for Shanghai Shenhua for two years, after which he returned to Boca Juniors and claimed that he had "never really left". It doesn't make sense until you add his salary figures to the mix. \$600,000 a week. He earned a reported \$84 million for his time in Shanghai, making 16 appearances in total. Luis Figo moved to Real Madrid from their sworn rivals FC Barcelona for a then world-record fee of £62 million.

What is spectacular about the last decade, in particular, is the huge boost in sports investment, and subsequently, revenue.

Everyone wants a bigger stadium, more fans, which in turn attracts more investment from companies wanting to associate with the success of the team. Sportswear companies like Nike, Adidas and Puma scout out potential superstars and tie them down to a contract. A great example of this would be Puma's sponsorship of Usain Bolt, the largest athletics contract in history. Puma signed with Bolt back in 2003, when he was 16 years old and tearing up tracks in Jamaica. Companies identify top-level athletes with a good public image and tie them down to lifetime contracts, sometimes dishing unprecedented amounts for the image that the athletes provide.

However, not all the money being spent is for the betterment and love of the sport.

To understand the kind of money going into sports better, one only needs to look at the Indian Premier League's business model, which is now being followed not only for cricket all over the world, but also many other sports like football, kabaddi, volleyball, and badminton in India itself. Leagues all over the world like the Big Bash League in Australia, the Caribbean Premier League in the West Indies and the Pakistan Super League in Pakistan follow the same model of investment and revenue. Companies line up and bid for sponsorship rights, stadiums bid for the rights to host, and teams pay big money to sign the best players in their strife for success. In India, there are leagues like the Indian Super League for football, the Pro Kabaddi League for Kabaddi and the Pro Volleyball League for volleyball following the same modus operandi. Franchisee teams, auctions for players, big money spent on merchandising and advertising. For a glimpse at the amount of money that goes into such leagues here is yet another example, in 2018 Vivo secured the title sponsorship for the Indian Premier League for the next five years by bidding a whopping ₹2199 crores (approximately \$341 million), an increase of 554% over the last sponsorship deal signed by PepsiCo.

Another sports league defined by its high rolling teams is the Chinese Super League,

China's first division of football. Shanghai SIPG pays its marquee Brazilian duo Hulk and Oscar a total of nearly £720,000 per week. Dalian Yifang signed Jose Fonte, Yannick Carrasco and Nicolas Gaitan in the same transfer window in 2018. For a European team, this would be considered a first-rate transfer window. For Chinese teams, however, this is the norm. Dalian lost their first game starring all three marqueees 8-0 to Shanghai SIPG. In 2017, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that football would be made a national priority and the CSL signed a 5-year television rights deal with state-backed China Sports Media that is pumping \$1.22 billion into the league.

However, not all the money spent is for the betterment and love of the sport. Blatant corruption among the top brass, bribes to fix matches and simulate the results of tournament draws, as well as to secure hosting rights to tournaments that will bring in far more revenue, none of this is unheard of in the world of sport. Hosting a FIFA World Cup or the Olympics means billions of dollars in revenue through increased tourism, local merchandising and a boost in foreign investment from companies wanting to associate with the greatest sporting events in the world. For example, McDonald's built its largest standard restaurant in London for the 2012 Olympics, a mammoth 3000 square ft. building that served 1200 people every hour and over £3 billion worth of fast food during the Games. The restaurant was taken down after the Olympic Games.

The question is where does all this money go? The answer, although not definitive, is this; It goes into profit margins, deepening the pockets of the top brass of the sports infrastructure even further. A lot of sports teams operate as a standard company, offering shares on stock markets across the world. Sport is more business-driven than ever before. Clubs like Ajax AFC, which used to be at the pinnacle of the game because of their amazing scouting departments and academy philosophy now sell their hottest prospects for huge amounts, for no reason other than to make a profit. Ajax made a gross profit of £150 million on an investment of nothing on the sales of Frenkie De Jong to Barcelona and Matthijs De Ligt to Juventus, both academy prospects. There was a time when players from Barcelona and Juventus would be honoured to play in the red and white of Ajax, but that time is long gone, lost among the bustling balance sheets of modern sport.

AKSHAY THIMMAYA

There was a time when Kayfabe was one of the most fiercely protected things in the world of pro wrestling. For those of you who are not familiar with the term, Kayfabe is essentially the convention of presenting performance as genuine or authentic. Way back in 1999, Dwayne ‘The Rock’ Johnson, released an autobiography, very aptly titled, “The Rock Says...The Most Electrifying Man in Sports Entertainment”. In the book, Johnson gave fans a sneak peek into the world of wrestling and told people what they already knew, but refused to accept; pro wrestling was scripted.

Still, it was shocking to see one of the most respected and decorated Superstars essentially ‘out’ the industry that made him a megastar. Flash forward to a couple of decades later and pretty much everyone knows that pro wrestling is scripted. Numerous websites dedicated to breaking wrestling news have come up and people like Dave Meltzer and Ryan Satin are a couple of the most respected sources for pro wrestling news. WrestlingInc, Ringsidenews and Pro Wrestling Insider have loads of articles speculating on wrestling rumours, spoiling returns and reporting backstage news. Before WWE Smackdown became a live show, results from the taping would often be released days before the show aired. Telling someone to avoid the spoilers was easier said than done, as they were pretty much ubiquitous.

For years, WWE programming in India was relegated to Thursday and Friday, despite shows airing much earlier in the week in the United States. More recently, Ten Sports has started airing the shows live early in the morning on Tuesdays and Saturdays, but it has come at a cost. Even though the viewership for those 5 AM shows eclipse those elicited at primetime slots in the United States, WWE has

stalled on uploading videos to their YouTube channel till much later in the day, simply because of the revenue generated by evening replays of the show.

Perhaps the biggest impact the internet has had on pro wrestling is the birth of the Internet Wrestling Community (IWC). One of the largest issues WWE has struggled with for the last decade or so, is the fact that audiences have tried to dictate the direction of storylines. While audiences, or the WWE Universe as it is known, have every reason to voice its displeasure, the lines between script and reality have been blurred far too often. When wrestlers have been overexposed to audiences, people have taken to social media platforms to attack the wrestlers themselves, forgetting that these are people playing characters for our entertainment. Despite the knowledge that there is a room of writers putting together a script for every show, people online go out of their way to criticise and express their displeasure with the show.

If that is not enough, people cling onto their opinions to an extent that they reject anyone who offers contrasting opinions. Not only does this create a toxic environment for fans of the same product, but that toxicity also increases exponentially when it comes to discussions between rival shows. The birth of All Elite Wrestling has led to two general schools of thought; you either like WWE, or you like AEW. There are a precious few that take pleasure in both shows, but people like these are hard to come by. A large chunk of the Internet Wrestling Community boils down to this; “Agree with me, or you are the worst person alive.”

Just imagine if news of Hulk Hogan being a part of the New World Order broke a week before it happened, or if Dave Meltzer reported that WWE had decided to have the Mega



Powers explode a day before the show. These are a couple of the most iconic and fondly remembered moments in pro wrestling history because of their shocking and unexpected nature. WWE had the freedom to sow the seeds for long-term storytelling without hordes of fans and wrestling pundits speculating what happens next on a daily basis.

There is also no scenario in which WWE can win because if it gives the IWC what it wants, the community starts clamouring for something else. A perfect example of this is Becky Lynch’s ascent to the top of WWE. Her

momentum and fan support led her to win the main-event of Wrestlemania 35, which was a historic moment as WWE finally allowed women to main-event the biggest show of the year. A few months later, Lynch was one of the more divisive figures in WWE. Sure, her booking has been inconsistent, but instead of fans blaming the company, internet trolls instead preferred to criticize and ridicule Lynch for every move she made.

This sort of situation has taken place over and over for the last several years and is a resounding lose-lose for everyone involved.

Of course, this is not all bad. The internet supported Daniel Bryan’s rise to the top of WWE and fueled the Women’s Revolution.

When motivated correctly, the Internet Wrestling Community can be a wonderful weapon to drive lasting change in the pro wrestling industry. But these changes are often covered under layers of trolling, bullying and the fact that surprising audiences is much harder today than it was 20 years ago. It is difficult to say if the internet has ruined pro wrestling, but what we can say with certainty is that it has changed it forever.

10 INDIAN SPORTS YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT

ROOP SAWHNEY

With an abundance of talented athletes and sportspersons, India has never fallen behind in the sports category. While sports like cricket and football continue to be the talk of the town, the country also has a variety of other sports that probably no one has heard about, save for a few. Although these sports might be the hidden gems they have given us some of the most legendary sportspersons who have carved a niche for themselves both nationally and internationally. Some of these sports have indigenous origins and are in the stages of gaining mass popularity and get the coverage they deserve. While this is not a comprehensive list of sport played in India, here are 10 sports in India that you probably didn't know about.

1. TCHOUKBALL

Pronounced chuke-ball, Tchoukball is an indoor, non-contact sport and consists of 7 players on each team. The game has borrowed elements from sports like handball, volleyball, and squash. What makes the sport unique is that either of the teams can score on either end of the court where a trampoline-like frame is placed off which the ball bounces. There have been several national Tchoukball championships and India has also participated in South Asian Tchoukball championships. The Indian Tchoukball team has won all three South Asian Tchoukball championships.

2. SEPAK TAKRAW

Sepak Takraw or kick volleyball is a sport where the players have to display their extraordinary gravity-defying skills to beat their opponents. Sepak Takraw is no different than volleyball except, the players are only allowed to use their feet, chests, knees or heads to touch the ball. What started as a small insignificant sport in Malaysia, Sepak Takraw is now rapidly gaining recognition all around the world. Sepak Takraw has a strong presence in the Asian Games with various countries participating in the sport. The Indian men's team for Sepak Takraw bagged their first bronze medal in the sport in the 2018 Asian Games.

3. HANDBALL

Handball is largely based on football except the ball is thrown with the hands. The history of Handball can be traced back to as early as 600 BC and has since gained recognition all over the world and was incorporated as an Olympic sport in 1931. The Senior Men's National Handball Championship was held at Rohtak in Haryana in 1972. The Indian Handball team has also been a regular participant at the Asian games. The Under 21 men's Handball team of India also defeated Uzbekistan and won the International Handball Trophy.

4. CURLING

Curling is a sport where players slide stones across a sheet of ice (or a pitch if you will) to reach a goal or target area. Each team has four players who slide rock across the ice curling sheet towards the house or the target. These rocks are polished granite stones and the player can induce a curved path, described as curl, by causing the stone to slowly turn as it slides. The path of the rock may be further influenced by two sweepers with brooms or brushes, who accompany it as it slides down the sheet and sweep the ice in front of the stone. Team India made its debut at the 20th edition of the Pacific International Cup (PIC) in April 2019 at the Richmond Curling Club.

10. SPORT CLIMBING

Sport climbing is a form of rock climbing and competitively, the objective is to climb a wall as fast as possible. These walls have fixed anchors to aid climbing. Sport climbing made its debut in the Asian Games in 2018 and the Indian team put their best foot forward. Eighteen-year-old Bharath Periera, qualified for the 2020 Japan Olympics where the sport will make its debut. The Indian team also included 15-year-old Chingkheinganba Maibam who won the gold in speed climbing and silver in bouldering in the Asian Youth Championship in Malaysia in 2015 and Shreya Nankar who won a bronze in the 2015 Asian Youth Championship. The sport tests the participant's agility, strength, and technique.

5. INSUKNAWR

Insuknawr, also known as rod-pushing is a sport native to Mizoram. This indigenous game is fashioned like tug of war, except it is played with a rod. With two players holding a rod under their arm, the objective is to push the opponent outside of the ring. The end of the rod should protrude for at least two inches under the armpit, and the centre of the rod must align with the centre of the circle.

6. THANG-TA

Thang-Ta or Huyen Lallong is a martial art native to the state of Manipur. The martial art was largely practiced as a non-competitive sport for rituals and demonstrations and is based on the agility of the. Thang-Ta has transformed into a competitive sport with the first national Thang-Ta championship organised in Manipur in 1993. Since then, the sport has reached an international level with countries such as Uzbekistan and Philippines actively participating in the sport. India was placed third at the 2nd International Thang-Ta championship in 2014.

7. YUBI LAKPI

Literally meaning 'coconut snatching', Yubi Lakpi is a sport native to Manipur. With uncanny similarities to rugby, except there are no teams in Yubi Lakpi, this indigenous sport is speculated to have a role in the invention of modern rugby. Before the start of the game, players rub their bodies with mustard oil and water to make them slippery to catch each other and a coconut steeped in oil is used as the 'ball'. While the game is not played at an international or national level it is evidence of the local sports heritage of Manipur.

9. INBUAN

Another indigenous sport, Inbuan is a form of wrestling that is native to Mizoram. The objective of the sport is for a player to lift the opponent off his feet without breaking any rules. This form of wrestling follows a very stringent set of rules and prohibits kicking, stepping out of the demarcated circle and even bending the knees. The match ends when a player breaks the rules or defeats the opponent.

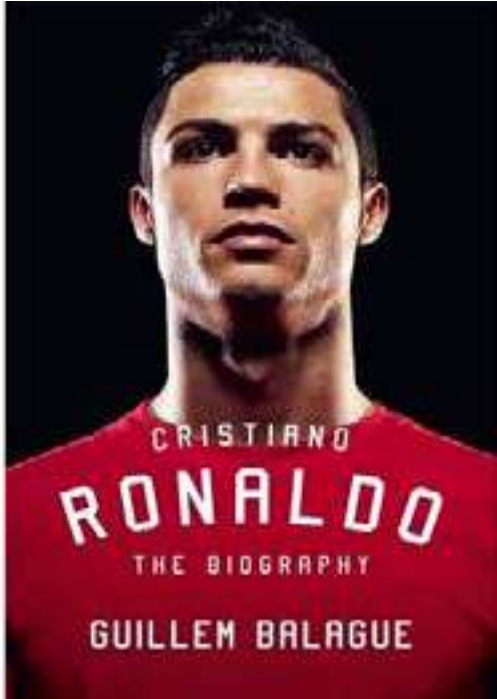
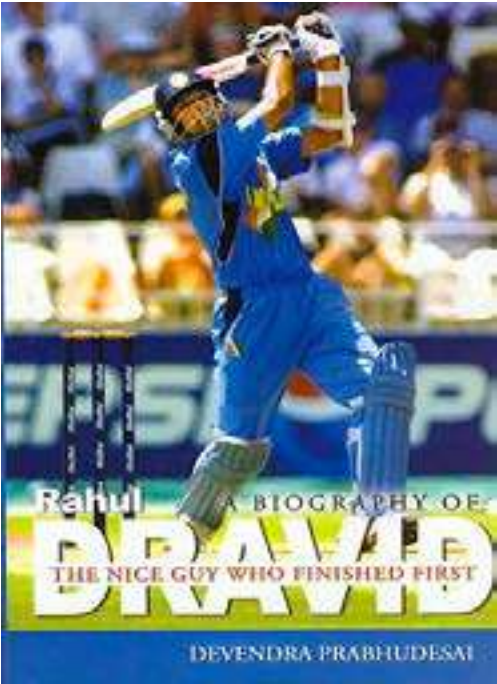
8. DHOPKHEL

Dhopkhel is a sport native to the state of Assam and loosely based on the principles of catch and throw. With a team of 11 players each, each team has to get the dhop or the ball to the courtside of the opposing team in such a way that they cannot catch it. The game was traditionally played during the spring festival, Bihu. This game tests the agility, strength, and stamina of its player. While the sport is not played nationally or internationally, efforts are being made to give proper training to its players and give the sport the recognition it deserves.

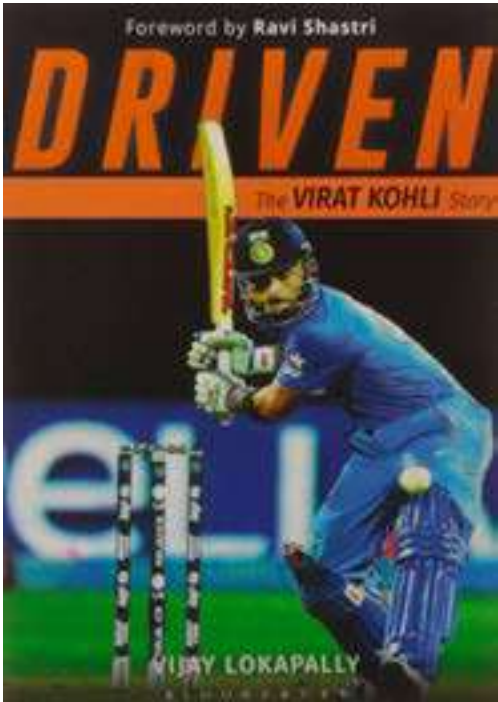
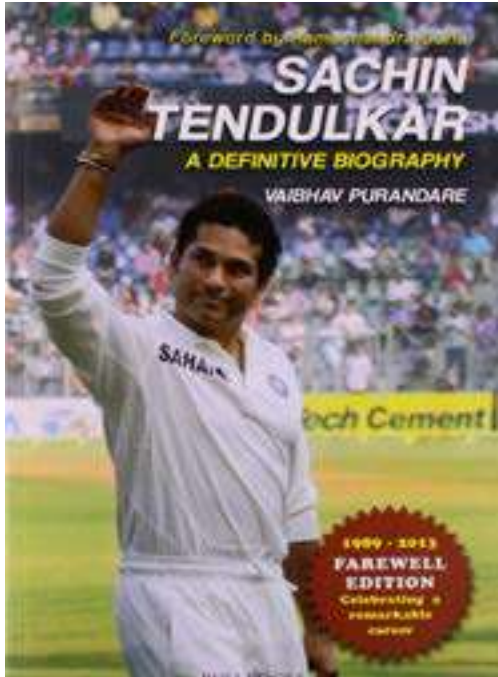
Lives of Legends

Five biographies of brilliant sportspersons

SAYANTA SENGUPTA



IMAGES: GOODREADS, AMAZON.IN



Penning down the biography of a sportsperson is always a daunting task. You have to dig up nuggets of information that were previously unknown to wide sections of the society and present it uniquely. A biographer has to be extremely meticulous with research to make their book a mighty success. In this article, we shortlist 5 brilliant biographies of sportspersons which have played a crucial role in influencing and motivating a legion of impassioned sports followers



Written by Devendra Prabhudesai, *The Nice Guy who finished First: Rahul Dravid* provides a holistic insight into the life of one of the most solid Indian middle-order batsmen of all-time, Rahul Dravid. Prabhudesai has done a fantastic job by laying down the facts in proper order and then giving the reader the liberty to conclude. It takes us through the ups and downs of Rahul Dravid who is an epitome of dedication, perseverance, and greatness. The book highlights the rollercoaster journey of this humble cricketer and also describes the events when he surpasses his contemporaries. This book is a must-read for all cricket pundits and lovers.



Saina Nehwal has become a household name in India because of her brilliance in the field of badminton. Her name is synonymous with greatness, perseverance, grit, and determination. She is credited to have brought badminton to the fore among the Indian audience after her stupendous performance nationally and internationally. And all this is aptly put to paper by T.S Sudhir in this book. The biography reconstructs the events in Nehwal's life which make her a leading figure in the field of badminton. A fitting tribute to ace shuttler Nehwal, 'Saina Nehwal: An inspirational biography' highlights how Nehwal remained grounded even after embracing success in the international circuit. The book is a testimony to her characteristic humility and grace. Every ardent badminton fan needs to have a copy of this delight.



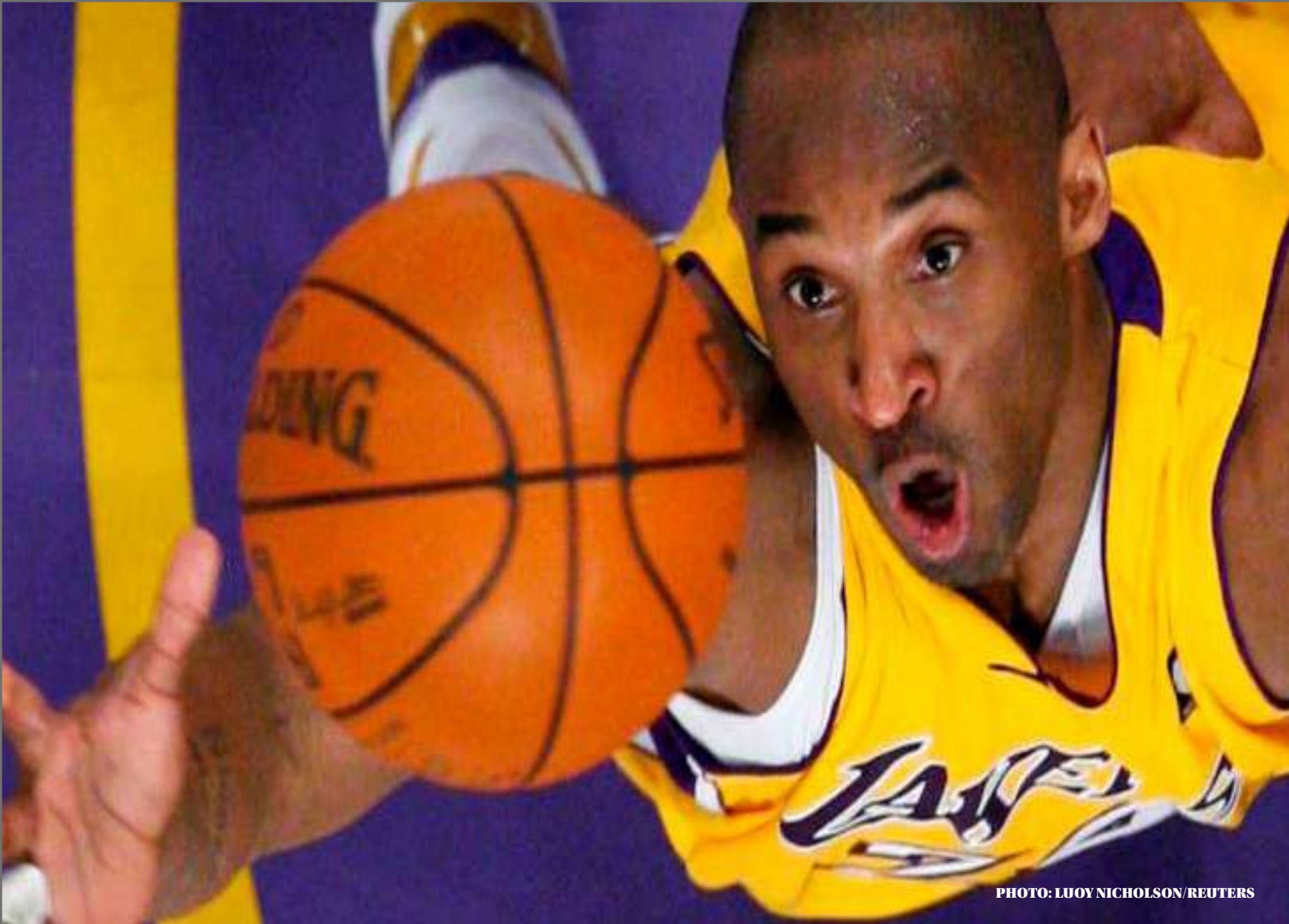
Written by journalist Vaibhav Purandhare, *Sachin Tendulkar: A definitive biography* chronicles the journey of one of the best batsmen of all time, Sachin Tendulkar. The author delves deep into the events in Tendulkar's life which made him the player he is and provides examples that are testimony to Tendulkar's skill in the game. Purandhare uses a lot of anecdotes to give us a glimpse into the master blaster's life and does a fantastic job by penning down one of the best biographies ever written on Tendulkar.



Written by widely respected sports journalist, Guillem Balagué, this book provides an exclusive insight into the life of one of the most gifted football players of all time, Cristiano Ronaldo. With a well-formed, extraordinary narrative, this book keeps its readers on the edge of their seats at all times while it takes us through the exhilarating journey of Ronaldo. Right from the time when he left his hometown, to him leaving Manchester United in 2009 and subsequently making a historic move to Real Madrid, the author perfectly encapsulates the life of a legend with his commendable writing abilities. In this definitive biography, Balagué also mentions the strained relationships Ronaldo had to endure with his coaches and many others and also the controversies he found himself in. Overall this is a fantastic account of Ronaldo's life which is a must-read for all die-hard fans of football.



Written by eminent sports journalist Vijay Lokapally, this book provides a detailed account of the life of one of the most prolific batsmen of all time, the legendary Virat Kohli. Kohli is a masterful batsman and this book is an ode to his craft. Despite being an old-school journalist, Lokapally leaves no stone unturned in presenting before us all the events which helped Kohli become the charismatic personality and a stupendous batsman he is today. Ranging from his failure in the initial legs of the IPL tournament to a grueling Australia tour in 2018 where he registered an unprecedented test series victory for India, this book ensures that its readers experience the same emotions that Kohli might have at the time. Just like Kohli's elegant drive, Lokapally keeps the facts and incidents straight, without mincing any words or letting personal judgement colour the events that took place.



KOBE & His Indomitable Legacy

A FAN'S TRIBUTE

ISHAAN BHATTACHARYA

The Los Angeles Lakers fell to the Philadelphia 76ers in their game on the 25th January 2020. The game made headlines because of the historic achievement of LeBron James becoming the third all-time scorer in the history of the National Basketball Association. James passed Lakers legend Kobe Bryant for the honour and Kobe congratulated James on Twitter. That tweet congratulating one of his peers for surpassing him will be the last tweet that the Black Mamba would ever send, as the former two-time Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) would pass away, along with eight other people in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, California. Kobe died along with his 13-year-old daughter Gianna Bryant.

Kobe Bryant was one of the greatest players of all time and makes a good case for being the best LA Lakers player of all time. He spent 20 years as part of the franchise after being drafted 13th overall in the 1996 Draft. Kobe won five championships across his NBA tenure and won the Finals MVP for his wins in 2009 and 2010. His impact was so great that the LA Lakers not only retired his iconic number 24 jersey but also his number 8 jersey. Kobe's elite defensive abilities and uncanny scoring ability made him a unique player, who is still called one of the most unguardable players in NBA history. Kobe's aggressive play style and ability to take over games made him a fan favourite even outside the Lakers nation. He became a global icon for the NBA alongside former teammate Shaquille O'Neal and was lauded for his continued success, even when Shaq left the Lakers to join the Miami Heat in 2006.

The news of his death stunned basketball fans worldwide, as Kobe was just three seasons into retirement. He had made multiple public appearances this season, coming to Lakers' games at the STAPLES Centre with his daughter Gianna. While we should remember the happy Kobe that came to the Lakers' recent games to support LeBron and the team, maybe the image of angry Kobe putting his all out on the court is what we should remember and immortalise. Kobe's aggressive scoring rate and place as the 4th highest scorer of all time shouldn't be dismissed, especially as he outranks Michael Jordan in that category.

Which fan will ever be able to forget the 81-point game that Kobe had on Jalen Rose and the Toronto Raptors in 2006? Or when he threw an alley-oop to Shaq to complete the Lakers' 16-point comeback in the Western Conference Finals against the Portland Trailblazers team headed by Scottie Pippen, Rasheed Wallace, and Arvydas Sabonis? His 20-point performance in the gold medal match for the United States Men's Basketball Team in the Olympics in 2008 led the Americans to reclaim their title as world champion after Argentina upset them to the gold in 2004.

Kobe's career is filled with many more moments of sheer brilliance that will be hard to cover. What it meant to be a Kobe Bryant fan is something that can never be explained.



People rooted for Kobe just as much as they rooted for the Lakers. The Lakers haven't made the NBA postseason since 2013, the fourth longest active playoff drought. A big reason for this was the late-career injuries that essentially ended Kobe Bryant's career in 2016. Kobe was such an individual phenomenon in a league full of stars that people rooted for the Lakers just because he was on it. Even today, some of the biggest LeBron critics are Kobe fans and don't think that LeBron can ever be on the same level as Kobe. Kobe won five championships for the team, so can you blame the fans for holding LeBron to such a high standard?

Kobe established the bar which separates great players from the elite. His play can only be replicated by James Harden now, a former MVP and someone who has been in the top three of MVP voting for four years, excluding his possible inclusion at the end of the current season. It wasn't just who Kobe was on the field, it was who he was off the field. His spirit both on and off the court was unbelievable to see. His ability to hustle the players around him into becoming champions is what truly made him elite. This is reflected in the 5 Championships he won either as the primary threat or a part of a duo with Shaq. Be it his performance in the aforementioned game against the Portland Trailblazers or how he led the Lakers over the reigning champions Boston Celtics in 2009, Kobe has left an indomitable legacy on the court. The 2008 MVP lived a full life and most of it was in front of public scrutiny. He never let the narrative of him not being on the same

Kobe Bryant is a 5-time NBA Champion, the 2008 Most Valuable Player and ended his career as one of the top 5 highest scorers in NBA history.

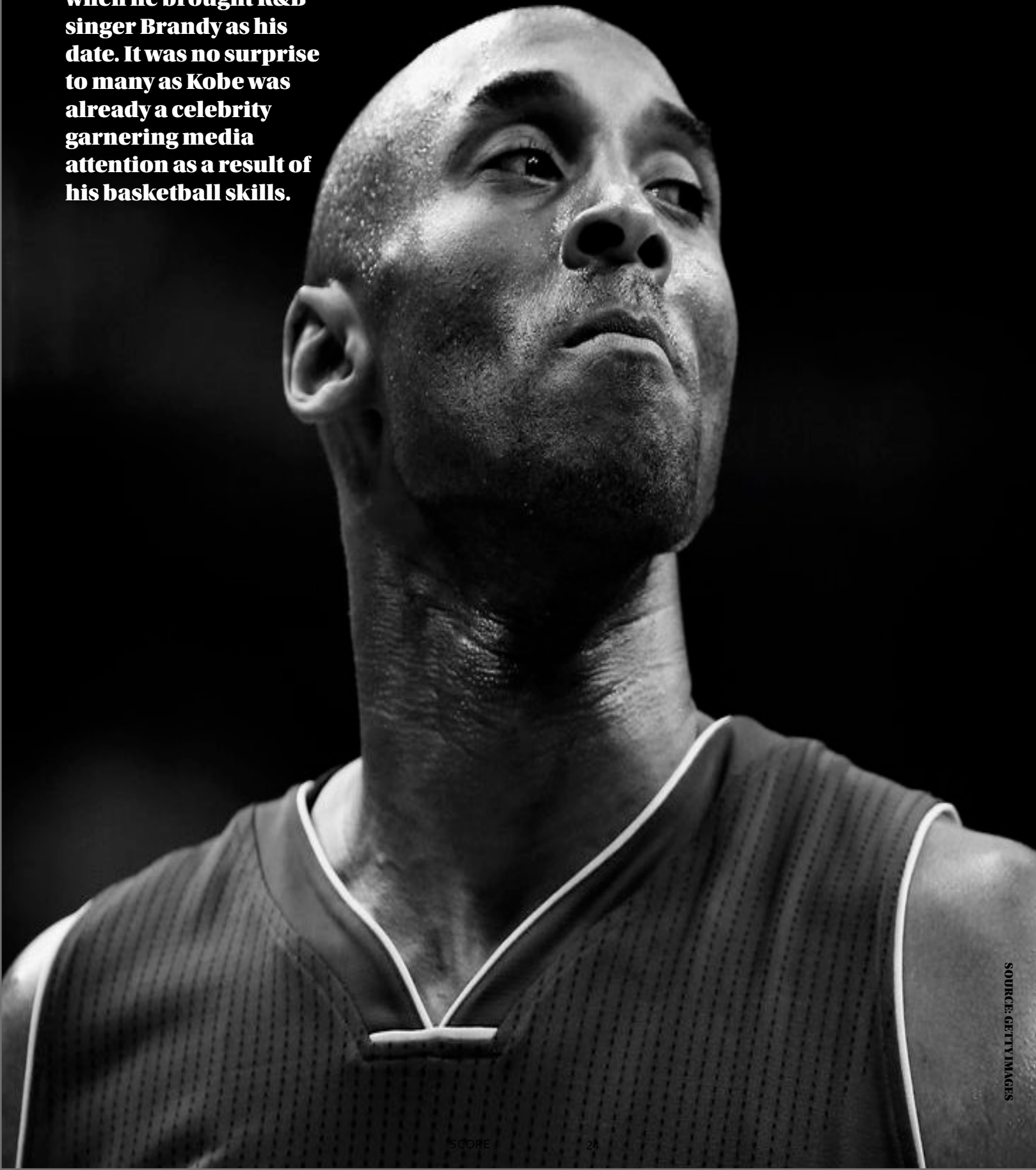
level as Shaq bother him, and proved all his doubters wrong when he won the title without Shaq in 2009 and 2010.

Kobe's death was a bittersweet one, as it allowed us to honour one of the greatest sportspeople of all time, but it also cut Kobe's redemption short. He was involved in a sexual assault case in 2003 and was found guilty. He promised to change for the better to make people, especially women, feel safer. He showed that by being a reformed husband to wife Vanessa and a terrific father to his daughters Natalia, Bianka, Capri and Gianna, his 13-year old daughter who passed away with him.

The most important thing is to try and inspire people so that they can be great at whatever they want to do. This is something that Kobe himself had said and spent 20 years on the court trying to prove it. He proved it whenever it mattered most and left a legacy for millions of young players to look up to and try and replicate his success.

R.I.P. Kobe Bryant (1978-2020)

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During his high school prom, Kobe Bryant dazzled his peers when he brought R&B singer Brandy as his date. It was no surprise to many as Kobe was already a celebrity garnering media attention as a result of his basketball skills.



SOURCE: GETTY IMAGES



IMAGES: UNSPLASH/ERIK KEMNERS

FEATURED

Against all odds: Why smaller countries are more successful in sports

ADARSH TRIPATHI

In theory, India, China, and the United States should be dominating in all sports. Combined, the three countries account for just about 40% of the world's population, and therefore it is likely that based on sheer numbers, the three countries should be at the very pinnacle. In practice, however, only the United States does; and while China does fairly well in sports, India is nowhere near the top except in cricket. It is, in fact, countries like Iceland, Jamaica, and Croatia that catch the eye when it comes to sports.

Take, for example, the Olympics. In the Summer Games, the United States reigned supreme with almost 800 more medals than second-placed Russia. In the Winter Games, however, it is trumped by Norway. The tiny Scandinavian country is ahead by over 60 medals and is a stunning example of David standing up to Goliath. For the record, Norway has fewer inhabitants than Washington DC. Another compelling example is that of Montenegro. The tiny central European nation has a population of just over 620 thousand, and reached an all-time high ranking of 25th on the FIFA World Rankings, in 2010. Why do these countries do so well against all odds?

There are many different reasons for this, the first and most obvious of these being that smaller countries can afford to allocate more of their resources to sports. However, GDP is not the best standard when comparing the

success of countries. Countries with smaller GDP may have genuinely better athletes, as proven by Jamaica in the Summer Olympics at London in 2012. Jamaica finished third in the athletics medal tally in the Games, ahead of Russia, Great Britain and Australia, all nations with much better GDP. If GDP, population, and development were a measure for assured success, countries like Italy and Saudi Arabia would be doing much better than they are.

While we are speaking about Jamaica's success at the 2012 Olympics, we must recognize the role of chance in the success a country has in sports. Every once in a while, a country will have a Golden Generation of amazing athletes who will ensure a sustained period of glory in most sports. For example Belgium's current football team. They finished third at the 2018 FIFA World Cup, their best-ever position. Belgian players are at the core of every great football club, and icons of the game like Eden Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne and Dries Mertens are considered some of the best in the business today. Belgium has been the number one football team in the world for the last three years and has ranked in the top five for at least six years. In recent times, Germany, South Korea, and Iceland have witnessed similar golden generations of amazing athletes.

There is also the fact that in smaller countries, becoming a professional athlete is a very viable

career option, owing to the unavailability of serious competition like in hyper-populated countries like India and China. This means that it is easier to become a national level athlete in Kenya than it is in India. For example, in African countries like Kenya and Ethiopia, which are famous for producing world-class long-distance runners like Eliud Kipchoge, the first person to run the full marathon in under two hours. In such countries, people consider athletics a way out of poverty, because the best athletes get the best sponsorships and the most exposure. There is intense competition for the few spots, but with such a substantial percentage of the population wanting to get into sports, it is easier for the government to support these athletes.

Finally, there is the reason we love sports so much, because of the sheer unpredictability of it all. It equalizes all those who participate in sport. Nobody is guaranteed a victory. The United States beat England 1-0 in the 1950 World Cup Group Stage, considered to be one of the greatest upsets in tournament history. Mike Tyson was KO'd by Buster Douglas in 1990, marking his first defeat in his career. Leicester City won the Premier League in 2016 at odds of 5000/1. We can never decide with absolute certainty what the outcome of a match might be, and that is what makes sport beautiful, that regardless of age, wealth, cultural and social background, everyone is equal in sport.



SOURCE: GETTY IMAGES



SOURCE: WEBSITE TOKYO OLYMPICS

TECHNOLOGY

Tokyo Olympics to Feature Technology at its Best

RUPAL JHAJHRIA

Japan has maintained its pace in terms of technological advancements for quite a few years now, always being on the forefront. The Japanese have not left any stone unturned, be it in the sphere of technology, medicinal research or entertainment. The world has its eyes on the upcoming Olympic Games in the Japanese capital, Tokyo. The Summer Olympics are expected to be a perfect blend of Japanese traditional culture and modernity. The Organizing Committee and the Japanese government are said to be extremely vigilant about the technology to be used and featured at the games. There are quite a few fascinating developments that are expected to make an appearance, ranging from AI-driven vehicles, 3D meteor showers, to algae-based biofuel. Let's take a closer look at the different areas of technological innovation that will be put on display for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The news of self-driving vehicles has been doing the rounds for quite a while. These will serve the purpose of transporting athletes, workers, media, and people with mobility issues around the athletes village and to transport spectators from venue to venue at extremely low rates. Several designs have been on display but the most talked about is Toyota's e-Palette, which was originally announced in 2016. With an automated electric transportation system possessing multiple functionalities like ride shares and delivering goods, this will be a huge step forward. These Games will see millions of tourists in a span of a few months and thus will be an exciting opportunity for companies like Nissan and Uber to capitalize on the extra traffic if they manage to get their driverless taxi fully functional in the market by then.

The technology around self automation has been in the spotlight, with many companies already offering self-parking vehicles. The Japanese government aims to first display the technology at the Games before it gets fully commercialized.

The Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics will also feature technologically extensive Facial Recognition Systems that will be used for athletes, workers, the media and volunteers. This will not only increase the speed and efficiency of security checks but also allow people to move in and out freely without much fuss. Unlike previous years where events were carried out at venues which were close to each other, this year will feature venues from all across the city. The company in charge of developing this technology is the information technology company NEC (Nippon Electric Company). Regarded as the leaders of this technology, having a system that can adjust to various surroundings, regardless of lighting and background and a team of about three lakh people as a part of their system during the games; the effectiveness of their system will be put to test this year.

The Committee organizing The Tokyo Olympics has also made it a point to utilize AI to relay more direct and simple instructions. This will be done in a variety of ways using small tablet devices, earpieces, and user-friendly apps. The use of AI for the Tokyo Games has been on a rise over the past couple of years. One device set to be utilized at the games will come from the company Panasonic. Their device will be in the form of power suits that provide wearer support to

reduce stress on joints and muscles. Another system to be used is a guide system which helps spectators, volunteers and athletes avoid congestion in the city. This will be done by relaying messages and texts to individuals via phone apps with updates every thirty minutes or so. Two robots are also expected to make an appearance to guide tourists and translate for them. These will predominantly be at airports, stations, shops, and tourist locations. The government will also focus on cleaner sources of energy. Be it the use of current renewable energy, a prototype of new algae-based biofuel, the government is doing everything possible to make these games the cleanest games to date.

There have been several stories recently about 3-D animations, specifically the virtual pop star Miku Hatsune. Several projects have been planned to introduce the element of entertainment to the Tokyo 2020 games utilizing advancements in 3-D technology. One such project is the virtual meteor shower. The company ALE has grabbed the opportunity to create the virtual meteor shower images specifically for the 2020 Games. The images will be created via satellite, sending projections from the orbit onto the city of Tokyo. These microsatellites will cost tens of thousands of dollars each.

Everyone including the Japanese are excited to see what is in store this time. This year's Olympics in Tokyo will experience intelligence in its best forms and will feature Japan's long cultural history. Tokyo Olympics 2020 would not be anything less than a whirlwind of technology.



The Summer Olympics have long been considered the pinnacle of sports. From the days of the ancient Greeks putting on athletic competitions to see who's the toughest warrior to what it is now, a global sporting extravaganza, the Olympics are a highly anticipated event. While this year's games have been postponed to 2021 because of the Coronavirus pandemic, we do not know if the games will go ahead as planned. However, the 2020 (or 2021) Olympics might just be India's best shot at bringing home the best medal tally in our history. The most successful Olympic campaign for India came in 2012, London where we won six medals, but zero gold medals. India hasn't won a gold medal since Abhinav Bindra's win in the 2008 Olympics.

However, this time chances are that India might just claim more than one gold with several athletes having a realistic shot at winning the top prize. India has many gold medal prospects heading into Tokyo 2020, and we will be looking at it sport by sport.

Shooting

India's success in shooting over the last two years wasn't a surprise, but a moment that came after a long period of development after Abhinav Bindra's win in 2008, changed how Indians look at the sport. India has heaps of young talent in their shooting ranks who are bound to get stronger each year. Even though this will be the debut for many shooters, it might also just be the first moment of success in what could become a shooting dynasty.

India will see 15 people represent the country in shooting at the Olympics, their largest contingent ever. Only China, Russia, and the United States have more participants in shooting than India, who are tied in fourth with Australia.

Saurabh Chaudhary, a 16-year old prodigy, is the current holder of the world record in 10m air pistol (246.3). His dominance in qualifiers

has people looking at his future brightly, with many saying he is already in a position to bring a medal for the country. The same goes for 17-year-old Manu Bhaker, who has shown promising potential and is speculated to win multiple Olympic medals in her lifetime. Experienced shooters like Rahi Sarnobat and Abhishek Verma will be expected to guide this young team to the summit, while also hoping to get medals for themselves.

Wrestling

Wrestling is a category India has traditionally been competitive in, but we have never won a gold medal in the sport. India has 5 medals in wrestling, one of them being silver and the other four bronze.

While only four Indian wrestlers have qualified for the upcoming Olympics, it is a true reflection of quality over quantity. Vinesh

Phogat is the only female competitor to have qualified for the Olympic wrestling team but is one of the favourites to bring back a medal in the 53kg freestyle event. She already has two gold medals from the Commonwealth Games, including one in 2014 and the other in 2018. She also won a gold medal at Asian Games in 2018 and a bronze in the World Championships last year.

Even Bajrang Punia (65kg freestyle) stands to bring a medal for team India at the Olympics. He has not only been at the top of his game for some time now but also is physically and mentally at his best. After a successful run of winning tournaments in the international circuit, Bajrang is unlikely to falter under pressure.

Badminton

The process of qualification for badminton at the Olympics has also been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic, as a month was taken off the qualification process due to the lockdowns in multiple countries and suspension of sports. Nonetheless, we can be sure that P.V. Sindhu and B.S. Praneeth will be in the mix, come Tokyo time.

Sindhu is one of the brightest individual medal hopes that we have. Already proven on the Olympic stage, Sindhu is likely to upgrade her silver from 2016 into a gold this year. Praneeth is not a highly touted prospect

heading into the Olympics, but it wouldn't be a surprise to see him shock the world, similar to what Sindhu did in Rio 4 years ago.

With former world number one Saina Nehwal out of the badminton qualification pool and in the political one, it is time that we pin the hopes of a gold medal on the young shoulders of P.V. Sindhu.

Boxing

Boxing may not be able to yield a gold medal because there are no standout competitors in the sport anymore. Vijender Singh has embarked on a relatively successful pro career, but his absence is still felt. However, Amit Panghal might just be the answer.

Panghal has been progressing relatively quickly in his boxing career. The 24-year-old won a gold at the Asian Championships in Bangkok last year and a silver medal in last year's AIBA Boxing World Championship. These successes show that Panghal might just be the X-Factor that Indian boxing needs to come out of the bronze medal obscurity that it has been stuck in.

Along with Panghal, the women will still be led by Boxing icon Mary Kom. A former Olympic medallist in her own right, this might be the last rodeo for Kom. 'Meethoi Leima' is already 37 years old and failed to qualify for the 2016 Olympics. Considered an iconic figure in

boxing worldwide, it will be nice to see Kom try to qualify for Tokyo and hopefully cap off her career with another Olympic medal.

Hockey

Our last Olympic hope for a medal this year comes from the Men's field hockey team. India is historically the greatest hockey team in Olympic history with 8 gold medals, but this year is the best chance for us to make it a 9.

India is currently the highest they have ever been in the FIH World Rankings with the fourth position. The experienced nature of the Indian hockey team also bodes well for the upcoming Olympics. While toppling Belgium and Australia in hockey will be a tall task, the Indian team is very well equipped to leave Tokyo with a medal, hopefully, a gold one.

The women's team is also going to be formidable, but are entering the Olympics at the 9th rank. While it is a harder task for them, they have shown the capability of being the ultimate underdogs.

While both the men and women's hopes are also impacted by the postponement of the Olympics to 2021 as both men and women were riding high waves of momentum. Nonetheless, we hope that the hockey team and all other competitors can maintain their momentum even in 2021.





PHOTO: TWITTER / @HOCKEYINDIA

COVER STORY

The Tokyo Challenge: WHAT CAN THE INDIAN WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM EXPECT?

RASHI BHATTACHARYYA

Having won the FIH Series Final against Japan, qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics was the cherry on top of what had already been a great year for Indian women's hockey team. Even though losing to USA 4-1 in the second leg left them in a tough spot, their previous 5-1 victory was their saving grace and team India bagged the Olympic ticket with a 6-5 aggregate. Even with impressive performances, coach Sjoerd Marijne's team has a lot on their plate. Let's take a look at what the team can expect at the Tokyo Olympics.

To begin with, India's pool has the reigning Olympics champions and the world championship winners. Pool A: Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, India, South Africa. The defending champions Great Britain, currently fifth in the world rankings may seem a little off their game lately, but they have had a great record at the Olympics and can't be taken lightly. Currently ranked number one in the world, the Netherlands' team finished as runners-up in the 2016 Rio Games, and have won the women's World Cup in 2014 and 2018. The German team were the bronze medallists at Rio 2016, and they gained this year's ticket by conquering Italy 9-0 (aggregate) in the qualifiers. They also won a bronze in the 2019 FIH Pro League and were runners-up in the 2019 EuroHockey National Championships which was held a few months ago.

The pool also features Ireland and South Africa who have performed admirably in the past decade. Ireland even got extremely close to qualifying for Rio. Since then, they have shown immense potential, especially during the qualifiers when they beat Canada 4-3 in a penalty shootout. The Proteas have also

qualified for every edition of the Olympics for 12 years until 2016, however, they have never managed to turn it around since.

Five players from the other teams to look out for:

Eva de Goede (Netherlands):

Eva de Goede has been a constant in Netherlands' national women's team since her debut in 2006. In 2018, the midfielder was part of the team that won the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup. She led her team to victory in the inaugural FIH Hockey Pro League and then gold at the EuroHockey Championships in Antwerp, where they beat Germany in the final. In her career of 14 years, 30-year-old de Goede has played more than 230 matches for the Netherlands and has two Olympic gold medals (Beijing 2008 and London 2012), two World Cup gold medals and three Champions Trophy gold medals to her name.

Nike Lorenz (Germany)

An excellent drag-flicker. Lorenz has 24 goals to her name in just over 100 appearances. She has also been nominated for the FIH Rising Star of the Year award this season for her brilliant performances in the FIH Pro League.

Laura Unsworth (Great Britain):

With Tough tackling, ball focus and an outstanding game sense, Laura is a central figure in the team and all-rounder on the pitch. After making her debut in 2008, Laura has established herself as one of the finest players this country has ever seen. Alongside Alex Danson and Nic White, Laura boasts of two Olympic medals to her name having won bronze at London 2012 and a gold at Rio 2016.

If the team pulls off another win in Tokyo, Laura could become the first-ever British player to win three Olympic hockey medals.

Lidewij Welten (Netherlands):

With five goals in the EuroHockey Nations Championship last year, Welten is someone who can wreak havoc for team India. She was a part of the Olympic winning squad of 2008 and 2012 and was recently nominated for the FIH Player of the Year award.

Ayeisha McFerran (Ireland)

One of the world's best goalkeepers, McFerran has been a part of the Irish team since 2014. She was a member of the Ireland team that played in the 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup final where she was also named Goalkeeper of the Tournament. She has been instrumental in every victory and is definitely someone to keep an eye out for.

Talking about India's strategy for the upcoming games, captain Rani Rampal is expected to lead offensively along with Navneet Kaur and Vandana Katariya. Lalremsiami can be the dark horse after having proved herself as the rising star of the team. However in the defence, after Sunita Lakara announced her retirement, the responsibility is on Deep grace Ekka, Reena Khokar and Gurjit Kaur. Experienced midfielders Neha Goyal, Lilima Minz, Sushila Chanu and Sonika are expected to bring their top performances to the game. But the final lineup is up to Marijne's discretion. Training for the Olympics has already started and just like their performances in recent years, there are high hopes for the team.



PHOTO: TWITTER / @HOCKEYINDIA

MEET THE MASCOTS!

RASHI BHATTACHARYA & ADITI PARIDA



Schuss, 1968 — Grenoble Games

Meet the first ever Olympic mascot, Schuss, a little man on skis, designed in an abstract form and painted in the colors of France: blue, red and white.

Waldi, 1972 — Munich Games

Inspired by a Dachshund dog, Waldi represented the attributes required for athletes – resistance, tenacity and agility.

Amik, 1976 — Montreal Summer Games

In Algonquian, a language of the North American Indians, Amik means ‘Beaver’, one of Canada’s national symbols.

Schneemandl, 1976 — Innsbruck Winter Games:

‘Snowman’ in English, Schneemandl wore a red Tyrolean hat typical of the region that hosted the Winter Games for the second time.

Roni, 1980 — Lake Placid Winter Games:

Roni comes from the word “raccoon” in Iroquoian, the language of the native people from the region of the State of New York and Lake Placid. The racoon’s facial features and the black and white mask around his eyes were a nod to the sunglasses and hat worn by some of the competitors.

Misha, 1980 — Moscow Summer Games

Full name: Mikhail Potapych Toptygin; Misha the bear wore a striped belt around his waist made up of five bands in the colours of the Olympic rings.

Vučko, 1984 — Sarajevo Winter Games

The 1984 Winter Games mascot came in the guise of a wolf, an animal typically found in the forests of the Dinaric Alps region.

Sam, 1984 — Los Angeles Summer Games

With his hat featuring the design of the national flag, Sam was a symbol of American culture and embodied the optimism of the Olympic spirit.

Hodori, 1988 — Seoul Summer Games

The “Ho” of Hodori comes from the Korean word meaning tiger, while “Dori” is a common masculine diminutive.

Hidy and Howdy, 1988 — Calgary Winter Games

Two Polar bears, Hidy is an extension of “hi”, and Howdy is short for “how do you do”, a typical western American greeting.

Cobi, 1992 — Barcelona Summer Games

Cobi was a humanised Pyrenean mountain dog, in a “Cubist” style. The name Cobi was an allusion to COOB’92, an abbreviation of the Barcelona’92 Olympic Organising Committee.

Magique, 1992 — Albertville Winter Games

A star and a cube, Magique was the first mascot since the Innsbruck 1976 games that was not an animal. His star shape signified dreams and imagination.

Hakon and Kristin, 1994 — Lillehammer Winter Games

This was the first time the mascots were, well, real people. The names Hakon and Kristin refer to historical figures from the 13th century in Norway.

Izzy, 1996 — Atlanta Summer Games

Originally called ‘Whatizit’, the name Izzy was chosen by 32 American children. Izzy is an unusual mascot as he was not an animal, nor a human figure, nor an object.

The Snowlets, 1998 — Nagano Winter Games

The Snowlets, the official owl mascots of the Nagano Olympics, were meant to symbolize peace, harmony and goodwill.

Syd, Olly and Millie, 2000 — Sydney Summer Games

Syd was a duck-billed platypus, Olly was a kookaburra and Millie was a spiny anteater. They symbolized water, air and earth. Syd was a reference to Sydney, Olly to the Olympics and Millie to the new millennium.

Powder, Copper and Coal, 2002 — Salt lake City Winter Games

The names Powder, Copper and Coal were inspired by Utah’s natural resources: mainly, its snow and land.

Athena and Phevos, 2004 — Athens Summer Games

Athena and Phevos’s creation was inspired by an ancient Greek doll and their names were linked to ancient Greece, yet the two siblings were children of modern times.

Neve and Gliz, 2006 — Turin Winter Olympics

These mascots were certainly on theme for the winter games: Neve was a snowball and Gliz was an ice cube.

The Fuwa, 2008 — Beijing Summer Games

These mascots are known as the Fuwa, which means good luck in Chinese. Linking all five of their names: Beibei, Jingjing, Huanhuan, Yingying and Nini, forms the sentence, “Welcome to Beijing.”

Miga, Quatchi, Sumi, 2010 — Vancouver Winter Games

Miga, Quatchi, and Sumi were the mascots for the 2010 Winter Olympics. Miga was a mythical sea bear, Quatchi a sasquatch and Sumi was a animal guardian spirit.

Wenlock and Mandeville, 2012 — London Summer Olympics

Wenlock and Mandeville, the official mascots for the 2012 Summer Olympics and Paralympics in London, were meant to resemble the Olympic stadium itself. They each had one large eye, and the yellow lights on their heads symbolized London’s taxi cabs.

Bely Mishka, Snow Leopard, Zaika, 2014 — Sochi Winter Olympics

The Sochi Olympics had three mascots: a hare, a polar bear and a leopard. They represented the three spaces on the Olympic podium.

Vinicius and Tom, 2016 — Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Summer Olympics

Rio’s Olympics mascot was a yellow cat-like creature named Vinnicus, and the mascot for the Paralympic games was Tom, a blue-and-green figure whose head was covered with leaves. They represented Brazil’s rich fauna and wildlife, and their names were chosen to honor musicians Vinicius de Moraes and Tom Jobim.

Soohorang and Bandabi, 2018 — Pyeongchang Winter Games

Soohorang, a white tiger, was the official mascot of the 2018 Winter Olympics, and Bandabi, a black bear, was the official mascot of the 2018 Winter Paralympics.

Miraitowa, 2021 — Tokyo Summer Olympics

A robot with blue chequered patterns from the official emblem, Miraitowa is a superhero-inspired character that embodies both old tradition and new innovation.



KHELO INDIA GAMES:

A NEW DAWN
IN INDIAN SPORTS

RASHI BHATTACHARYYA



At 9 pm, everyone in the media room was hooked onto the TV screen. It was the Chandigarh Vs Tamil Nadu Kabaddi final and no one was ready to leave the arena making it the most thrilling match of the event. The match had the audience on the edge of their seats with neither Chandigarh nor Tamil Nadu refusing to take their foot off the pedal for a second. Chandigarh got off to a good start and even inflicted an All-out on their opponents in the eighth minute of the game. Tamil Nadu fought back valiantly, inspired by a brilliant super raid by Radha Krishnan, as the first half ended at 17-17. Tamil Nadu led for most of the second half but it was Chandigarh's turn to fight back who hung on at 36-36 at the end of the second half. The match then had to be decided by two extra halves. At 40-39 in the second half of extra time, Tamil Nadu finally thought they had come through, but there was one final plot twist as Chandigarh was awarded a technical point after Tamil Nadu's substitutes jumped onto the court before the final whistle. Chandigarh snatched the win out of their opponent's hands and edged out Tamil Nadu with a 'Golden Raid' which is used to break ties after extra time. Chandigarh finally prevailed 41-40 through a Golden Raid to win in one of the most enthralling games of kabaddi in recent times.

The year was 2019. And this was not a pro-kabaddi league match.

In January, I joined the content team for the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG). There was nothing specific on the website but I knew that the team consisted of India's best sports journalists. I was really curious about why such

an extensive team was called to cover something like school games. It was the second edition of the games, an extension of the School Games Federation of India's annual tournaments. Given the almost pathetic condition of sports in India, I made up my mind that this is no different from the previous attempts. But I was stumped by what I saw every day including the final I just described.

Pune hosted the games in the Balewadi Stadium and the sheer amount of detail put into the event took me by surprise. Every arena, hockey, gymnastics, weightlifting or shooting, was at par with international standards. The various teams working for the event were in sync with each other. The stadium, along with all its buildings, was spick and span at all times. There was a big medical team stationed at the venue for injuries. But what surprised me the most was the sheer amount of talent that was on display.

These games took place in two categories Under-17 and Under-21 in 16 disciplines; Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Judo, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Shooting, Swimming, Volleyball, Weightlifting, and Wrestling. Each of these disciplines showed new stars who no one knew about. I met Bavleen Kaur, a then 16-year-old gymnast from Jammu & Kashmir who won medals in every category she participated in, without any proper infrastructure in her home state and there were many others like her. To award these exceptional players from every discipline, talent scouts including national sports committees came from all over the country in an attempt to recognise and help





the future medallists of the country. In every edition since the first 2018 Delhi games, the best talents were and still are provided with an annual financial assistance of INR 5 lakh per annum for 8 years.

In the Pune games, a total of 1,312 medals (403 Golds, 403 Silvers, and 506 Bronze) were at stake across all disciplines. The Balewadi stadium hosted about 10,000 participants from all over the country. A massive team of 893 Technical Officials, 1,500 Officials, 1,096 Support Staff, 36 Chef-de-missions and 1,010 Volunteers supported the effort on the ground. The Khelo India platform also brought in different arms of Indian sports including the Indian Olympic Association (IOC), Sports Authority of India (SAI), National Sports Federations, Association of Indian Universities and School Games Federation of India.

The Khelo India programme was introduced by the then Sports minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore in 2018 to revive the sports culture in India at the grassroots by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country. This was a step towards creating an ecosystem for the U-17 age group as well as investing in them to reap future benefits. The event has also done something which was never done effectively in previous attempts; efficient digital marketing. The social media engagement has been phenomenal as compared to earlier attempts since the participants themselves hold a big demographic of the active group on all platforms.

Another thing which I noticed was a camera crew from Star Sports, the result of a masterstroke to engage the channel in broadcasting the games rather than asking the state-run Doordarshan. In 2018, the platform reached out to about 100 million viewers across the country and the following year, Star Sports doubled both promotion and broadcast

time with coverage in five languages including live telecast of nine sports disciplines. The games also have big stars promoting it, proper anti-doping policies in place, proper qualification criteria as well as performances.

That year Maharashtra emerged on the top with a total medal haul of 227 including 85 Golds. And the effort has continued since then. This year's KIYG were held in Guwahati, with more disciplines, and a much bigger success rate than the last one. A great spinoff from the initiative is are recently concluded Khelo India University Games, Bhubaneswar. The success of the Khelo India Youth Games has prompted the government to launch a nationwide university-level talent hunt to identify next-gen athletes. India sprinter, Dutee Chand was the biggest name to feature in the inaugural edition of the Khelo India University Games, representing Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), also the host for the event. Over 4,000 athletes from 176 universities from across the nation participated in the games with many new records being made.

The initiative is a natural progression for athletes after the Khelo India Youth Games, and a government-supported system will ensure they are in the running for future Olympic berths.

The inaugural edition of the Khelo India University Games witnessed 17 disciplines. Most of the disciplines are the same as those seen in the Khelo India Youth Games, with fencing and rugby added to the mix while gymnastics, kho-kho, shooting, cycling and lawn bowls have been excluded. And similar to the youth games, this was broadcasted on Star Sports and Hotstar.

This was undoubtedly one of the best initiatives towards sports in India and will increase medal potential for our country.

10 SPORTS SHOWS AND FILMS YOU MUST WATCH

ROOP SAWHNEY



ALL OR NOTHING

All Or Nothing is a sports docu-series that has already had 6 seasons following teams from different sports. They have covered American football through the Michigan Wolverines of the American college circuit. The Arizona Cardinals, Carolina Panthers and an upcoming season on the Philadelphia Eagles from the NFL have also been covered. Its true crowning achievement is covering Manchester City's historic season where they ended as Premier League Champions in 2018. They have also done a series on the Brazilian National Football team's quest to win Copa America 2019. Their next edition will see them cover London based football club Tottenham Hotspur.



ANDY MURRAY: RESURFACING

This sports documentary chronicles the journey of tennis ace, Andy Murray as he navigated his way through a potentially career-ending injury from 2017-2019. Director Olivia Cappuccini gives her viewers an exclusive insight into the otherwise extremely private life

Sports can sometimes be one of the most moving things one can watch. The feelings it espouses like team work, spirit, dedication and unity are easy traits to admire. Add basic storytelling to it, and you can have something just as gripping as a well written film. We are looking at when the world of film meets the world of sport. These are 10 sports films and shows you need to watch.

of Andy Murray. The film documents how he recovered from months of surgery and rehab to get back on the court and portrays the more vulnerable side of the tennis star. What started out as a simple idea to document the player's journey from the surgery table to rehab and then back on court transformed into a candid piece about Andy Murray's life and much more.



SENNA

This 2010 film documents the life of Brazilian moto racing champion Ayrton Senna. The documentary focuses on his prime years in formula one from when he debuted in the 1984 Brazilian Grand Prix to his death at the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix where he met with an accident. The documentary also focuses on his consistent rivalry with fellow f1 racer Alain Prost and his clashes with the higher-ups. The film also offers a brief glimpse into the personal life of the much-celebrated Brazilian F1 champion. Directed by Asif Kapadia, the film won the BAFTA award for the best documentary film and also bagged the audience award for best documentary at the Adelaide Film festival.



SCORE

FORD V FERRARI

This 2019 film follows the story of Henry Ford II and Lee Iacocca of Ford motor company in a quest to potentially defeat the dominating presence of the Ferrari racing team at the 1966 24 Hours of Le Mans race in France. Ford and Iacocca hire a team of engineers and designers led by Carroll Shelby and British driver Ken Miles to build the Ford GT40, the race car that will bring victory to the Ford motor company. Directed by James Mangold, the film won the Academy Award for best editing and was nominated for best picture.



THE TEST: A NEW ERA FOR AUSTRALIA'S TEAM

The 8 part docuseries chronicles the journey of the Australian cricket team and their fall from grace after the Cape Town sandpaper scandal and their chance at rebuilding and reclamation. The series not only focuses on how the Australian had to build their team and image from the ground up after the scandal but also provides a glimpse into the dynamic world of international cricket. Released in March 2020 the docuseries is directed by Adrian Brown.



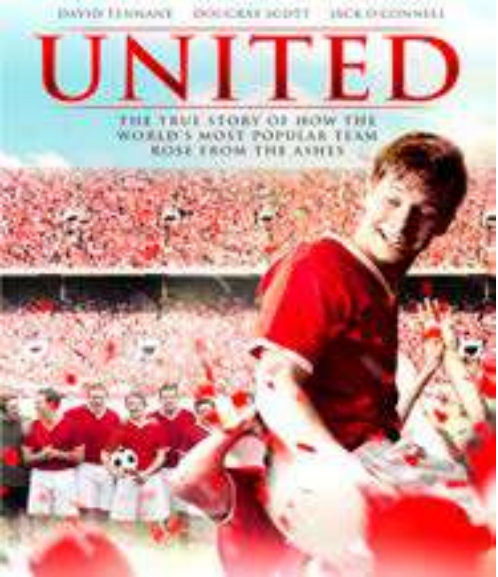
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SCORE

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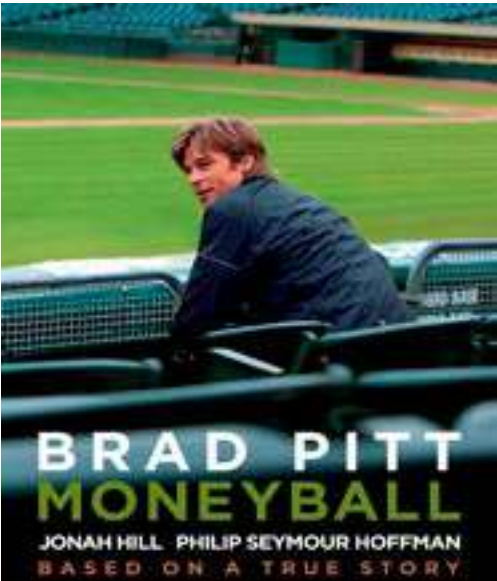
MAKE US DREAM

Liverpool Stalwart, Steven Gerrard joined the Liverpool FC Academy when he was 8 and 26 years later emerged as the only footballer to score in an FA Cup, Champions League, League Cup, and UEFA Cup final. Make Us Dream gives the viewers an up-close and personal look at the life of the football legend, Steven Gerrard. The film gives a comprehensive insight into the world of elite football and dissects the journey of one of the most celebrated football personalities. The documentary released in 2018, was directed by Sam Blair.



UNITED

Munich air disaster of 1958 was devastating for Manchester United's 'Busby Babes' when they lost some of their most important players. This 2011, chronicles the aftermath of the plane crash and focuses primarily on the relationship between and the experiences of Jimmy Murphy and Bobby Charlton. Directed by James Strong, the movie is often described as a real tearjerker and has left an indelible mark in the history of football.



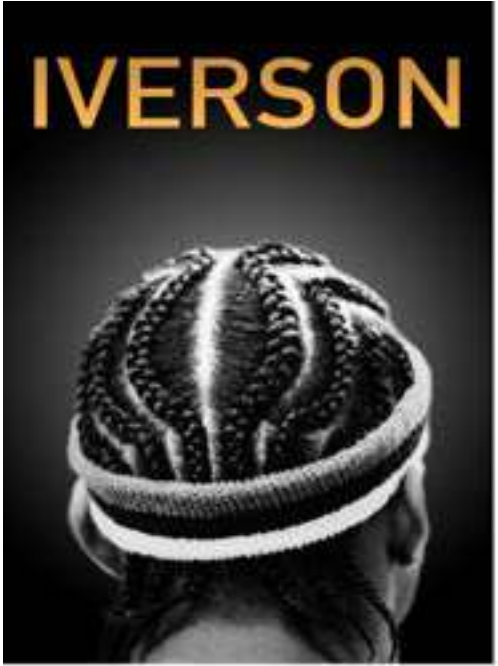
MONEYBALL

Moneyball, a biographical sports drama, is an account of how the baseball team Oakland Athletics rose through the ranks with the help of the general manager, Billy Beane, and assistant general manager, Peter Brand. Beane is tasked with assembling a baseball team on Oakland's lean budget, so he hires Yale graduate Peter Brand to scout for some of the more undervalued players through sabermetrics. Battling consistent hostility and scepticism from the authorities, Beane and Brand formed a legendary baseball team that went on to get record-breaking wins.



MILLION DOLLAR ARM

Based on a true story, Million Dollar Arm follows the journey of J.B. Bernstein, a big-time sports agent, as he makes his way to India in search of the ultimate baseball talent. The movie further explores how Rinku Singh and Dinesh Patel went from living a life of poverty to signing a contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates, navigating their way through a new, strange city.



IVERSON

This documentary is an account of the life of 11-time NBA All-Star Allen Iverson. The movie follows his journey from rags to riches as he rose from crippling poverty and went on to become one of the best of his generation. The film maps the highs and lows of his career, his outright dismissal of the conservative NBA norms and how he integrated hip hop culture in the world of basketball. The film directed by Zlatella Beatty released in 2014 and was a fitting tribute to one of the most proficient players in the sport.

IMAGES: IMDB, WIKI, AMAZON, TWITTER @GABDA_CHARUL

NEW CULTURE OR SHEER CRAZINESS?
HYBRID SPORTS

MITALI DHAR

Sports have undergone a lot of changes since the prehistoric era and are ever-evolving. This evolution of sports has made them more exciting than before with an increase in participation, diversity, and competition. In recent times, 'hybrid sports' have gained a lot of importance. Hybrid sports are a combination of two or more similar sports to make something new and focus on the player being the jack of all trades. They are not only physical activities but also a great form of entertainment, social interaction. The following are the most popular hybrid sports all across the world, played with great joy and enthusiasm:



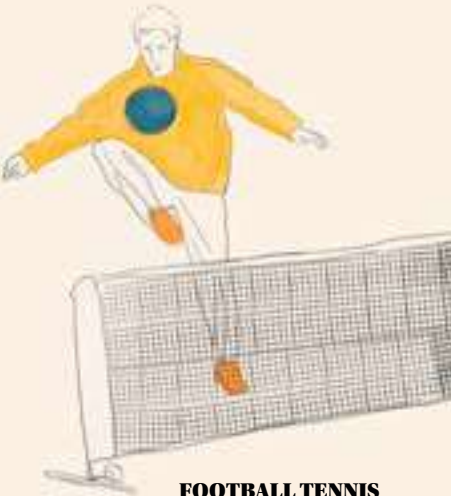
FOOTVOLLEY

Footvolley is a wonderful hybrid of football and volleyball but without the use of arms and hands. The game was first played in Brazil on a beach volleyball court because they were not allowed to play football near the beach. One plays the ball with the head, chest, thighs, and feet. The idea is to get the ball to the other side of the court in a maximum of 3 passes. The sport is played in teams of two, barefoot in the sand, on a beach and a volleyball court of 8 x 16 meters. This sport requires great control of the ball; the balance of the body, focus, quick reflexes and of course endurance.



KORFBALL

The only mixed team sport that is similar to netball and basketball. Korfbal is played in approximately 70 countries. In Korfbal, teams consist of an equal number of male and female players. It is a ball game that is played by passing and quick movements of players to shoot the ball through a Korf (basket). This sport is more about cooperation between players by dribbling and running. Korfbal is a contact sport.



FOOTBALL TENNIS

Football tennis, also known as Futnet is played with a football and can be played either indoors or outdoors. The game is played in teams of three, where players have to score by hitting the ball with any part of the body except the hands. This sport has three disciplines which are single, double and triple and in all the three disciplines of this sport a set will finish when a team scores 11 points with a two-point difference.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY:
PRISHITA DAS
BATCH 2019-22



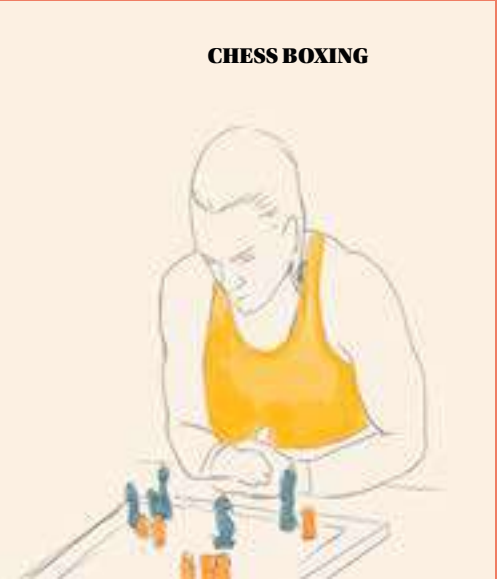
POLOCROSSE

Polocrosse is a combination of polo and lacrosse where the rider uses a racquet with a loose, thread net in which the ball is carried. The aim is to score goals by throwing the ball between the opponent's goalposts. The ball is made of sponge rubber and is approximately 4" across. This sport largely tests the riding ability and agility of the players.



WIFE CARRYING

A combination of endurance and entertainment, wife-carrying originated in Finland, it is a contest of men carrying their wives. It is a race through an obstacle course that includes sand, water, and fences. The prize for winning the race is the wife's weight in beers. The length of the official track is 277 yards. Carriers are allowed to use a belt and a helmet. The minimum weight of the wife to be carried is 49kgs and if the weight is less, a hefty rucksack is added to increase the weight.



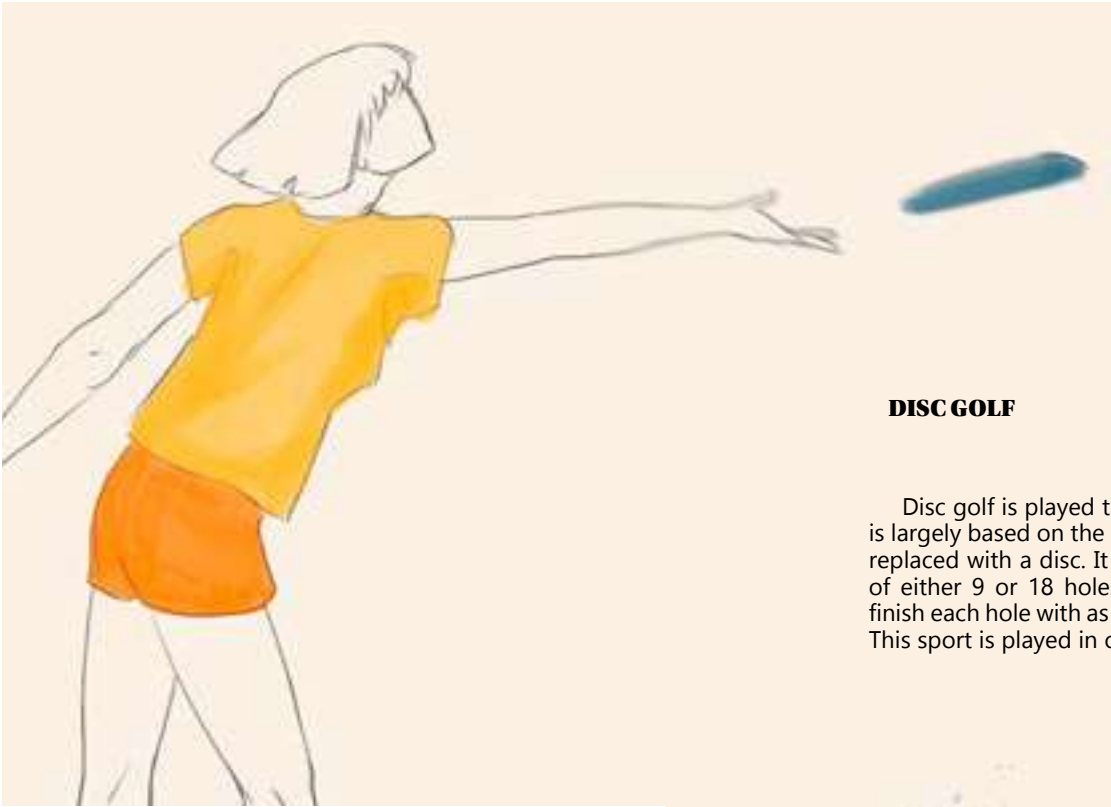
CHESS BOXING

Chess boxing is a very unique combination of chess and boxing where a fight consists of a maximum of 11 rounds, 6 rounds of chess alternate with 5 rounds of boxing with a one minute break between the rounds. Each player has 9 minutes on the chess timer. One wins by checkmate or knockout, whichever comes first or if the opponent gets disqualified, or exceeds the chess time limit. The sport has managed to grow into a competitive sport and is mainly popular in Germany, the UK, India, and Russia.



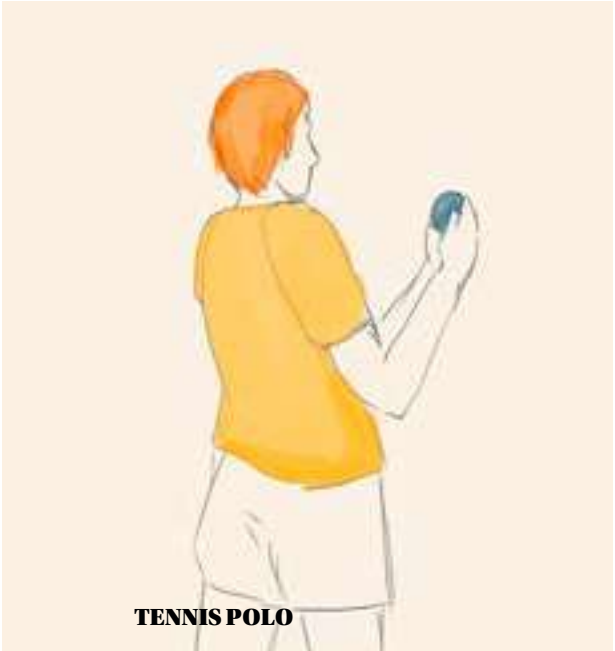
AUSTUS

The objective of Austus is to score points by kicking and/or throwing the oval-shaped ball into the Y-shaped goalposts at the end of the field. The game is played in teams of 11, with the players running with the ball, kicking the ball and passing the ball in all directions. Tackling is allowed. Blocking from any direction is not allowed in this sport.



DISC GOLF

Disc golf is played the same way golf is played. It is largely based on the game of golf where the ball is replaced with a disc. It is usually played on a course of either 9 or 18 holes. To win each player has to finish each hole with as few throws as possible to win. This sport is played in over 40 countries worldwide.



TENNIS POLO

A combination of handball, football, and hurling, Tennis polo is also called Toccer. It is an outdoor non-contact team sport, which is played in two teams of ten players each. The aim is to move the ball towards the opponent's goalposts and score a goal. The ball can be moved by throwing, kicking, or running with the ball with a restriction of 3 steps. It is very similar to the soccer field, which can also be used for this sport.



UNDERWATER HOCKEY

Initially introduced in England, Underwater Hockey is also called Octopush and is played all over the world. As the name suggests, the game is played underwater and players must remain underwater until a goal is scored. There are mainly two teams with ten members each that go underwater. The puck is placed in the center of the pool at the beginning of the game. The players swim with their hockey sticks and try to get a goal by pushing the puck. Only when there is a break in play when a goal is scored or the referee calls a foul, are the players allowed to resurface.

IN TRUE SPIRIT
Aditi Parida



Over the years, the annual intra-college sports tournament, In True Spirit (ITS) has symbolized sportsmanship and batch unity in SCMC. Every batch has its own stories and countless memories of the sports fest which makes it immensely popular and sentimental at the same time. And this year, with an undefeated streak, the batch of 2020 won the annual sports tournament for the third consecutive year.

Spread across four days at three different campuses, this year ITS saw intense competition between the batches of 2020, 2021 and 2022. Every batch participated in various sports which included- volleyball, football, throwball, athletics, tennis, badminton, swimming, basketball, football, and table tennis. However, with the immense talent shown by each player on the field, everyone was a winner.

All three batches left no stone unturned to generate hype off the field by creating content for the social media accounts of ITS. Hashtags such as #FierceComesFirst, #ZiddiHaiHum, and #HaarNahiManenge were continuously seen trending across Instagram pages. With content that included spoofs of famous film scenes and a twist on memes, the batches managed to create a lot of buzz even before the fest started.

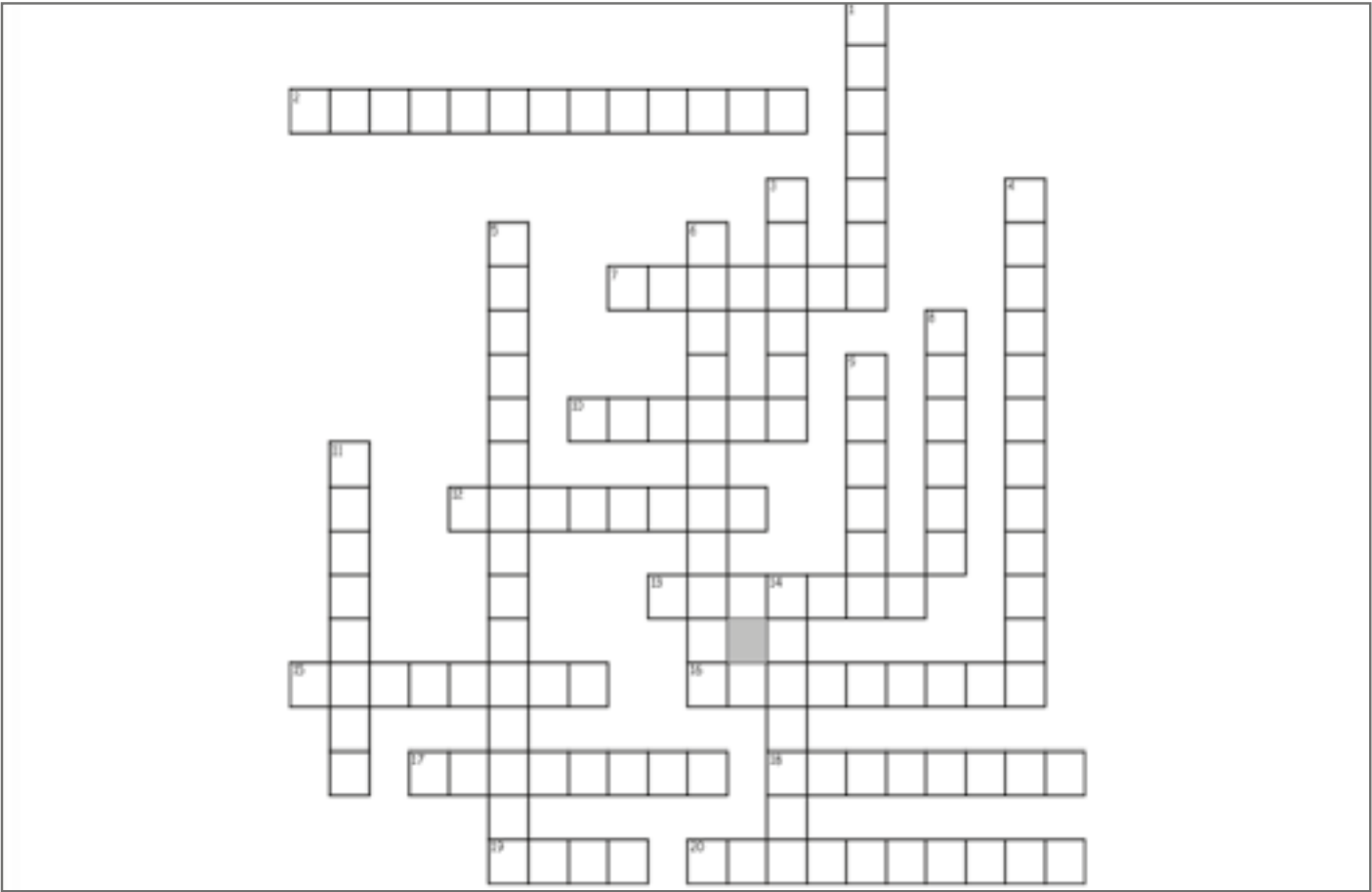
The first couple of days, however, proved to be extremely difficult for the defending champions. The table tennis matches took place on

16th January in the Symbiosis A Wing Girls Hostel where batch 2021 emerged victorious. On the following day, the teams went to the Lavale campus for the badminton matches where batch 2022 won. But as always, 2020's swimming came to the rescue and managed a spectacular win.

The rest of the matches took place in the Symbiosis New Viman Nagar campus where the teams were cheered on by their respective batches. Amidst slogans and chants, all matches took place according to the schedule. 2020's football, throwball and volleyball team maintained their winning streak and triumphed again. 2021's basketball teams showed some extraordinary skills and swept out their opponents. The first-timers, 2022 also showed a lot of promise on-field, especially in cricket. All third-year teams were given guards of honour after their matches with the junior batches as a mark of respect. The final day also witnessed a cricket match between the faculty and the students which was won by faculty.

The felicitation ceremony took place on 27th January where the best player from each batch was announced and so was the overall winner. Tanaya More from batch 2022, Riya Rohatgi from batch 2021 and Raghvendra Chouhan from batch 2022 were the best players. After tallying the points, batch 2020 secured the first position by a margin of 2 points from batch 2021 who were the runners up.

SPORTS CROSSWORD



SPORTS QUIZ!

1. Who has won the La Liga most number of times?
a) Real Madrid b) FC Barcelona
c) Sevilla d) Valencia

2. The term "Butterfly Stroke" is used in which sport?
a) Swimming b) Volleyball
c) Tennis d) Wrestling

3. Where is the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee Located?
a) Italy b) France
c) Belgium d) Switzerland

4. Nine time Wimbledon Champion of Women's Singles Match in Tennis is:
a) Iva Majoli b) Jana Novotna
c) Martina Navratilova d) Mary Joe Fernandez

5. Who is the first Indian Cricketer to take a hat-trick of wickets in a test?
a) B.S Bedi b) B.S Chandrasekhar
c) Harbhajan Singh d) E.A.S Prasanna

6. The word "Jump Ball" is associated with
a) Softball b) Basketball
c) Netball d) Baseball

7. Ace Against Odds is the autobiography of
a) Mahesh Bhupathi b) Sania Mirza
c) Mary Kom d) Leander Paes

8. These are the colors in the Olympic Ring
a) Blue, yellow, black, green, red
b) Blue, yellow, white, green, orange
c) Yellow, white, green, orange, red
d) Blue, yellow, black, white, red

9. Who among the following won the FIFA player of the year 2019?
a) Virgil Van Dijk b) Christiano Ronaldo
c) Lionel Messi d) Neymar

10. At the Close of Play is the autobiography of
a) Gary Kristen b) Yuvraj Singh
c) Rahul Dravid d) Ricky Ponting

11. Beighton Cup is related to which of these sports?
a) Football b) Hockey
c) Badminton d) Cricket

12. Coach Bishweshwar Nandi is associated with
a) Gymnastics b) Football
c) Badminton d) Cricket

13. First Indian Woman cricketer honoured with an MCC life membership is
a) Mithali Raj
b) Neetu David
c) Anjum Chopra
d) Jhulan Goswami

14. "Triples" is a new format of
a) Boxing b) Judo
c) Chess d) Badminton

15. The first Indian woman to win a gold medal in Paralympic Games 2016 is
a) Varuna Bhati b) Alka Grace
c) Sakshi Malik d) Deepa Malik

16. How many players are there in a water polo team?
a) 5 b) 6 c) 7 d) 8

17. Circuit de catalunya for formula one race is located in
a) Barcelona (Spain) b) Seoul (South Korea)
c) London (UK) d) Rome (Italy)

18. Who amongst the following is the Indian player to make the fastest century in T20
a) Rohit Sharma b) Rishabh Pant
c) Yusuf Pathan d) K.L Rahul

19. En Passant Is related to which game?
a) Billiards b) Snooker
c) Carrom d) Chess

20. Who was the first recipient of the Dronacharya Award in 1985
a) O.M Nambiar b) Om Prakash Bhardwaj
c) B.B Bhagwat d) All of them

ACROSS

2. A SPORT WHERE YOU DANCE ON ICE
7. THIS SPORT TAKES PLACE ON ICE AND YOU MOVE AROUND ON THE ICE
10. THIS SPORT IS WHERE YOU RACE IN A BOAT
12. IN THIS GAME, YOU CAN SCORE SOMETHING CALLED A HOMERUN
13. A SPORT WHERE YOU SHOOT A BOW AND ARROW AT A TARGET
15. AN ACTIVITY THAT REQUIRES A BOAT AND PADDLES
16. A SPORT WHERE YOU RUN ON A TRACK
17. A SPORT WHERE YOU RACE IN WATER
18. A SPORT WHERE YOU JUMP AS FAR AS YOU CAN
19. YOU USE A CLUB TO HIT THE BALL INTO A HOLE
20. A GAME WHERE YOU HAVE TO DRIBBLE AND SHOOT THE BALL INTO A NET

DOWN

1. YOU USE A HEAVY BALL TO KNOCK DOWN PINS IN AN ALLEY
3. YOU SLIDE ON A SNOW HILL ON TWO BOARDS ON YOUR FEET
4. AN ACTIVITY WHERE YOU GO DOWN A SNOWY HILL ON ONE BOARD
5. AN ACTIVITY WHERE YOU RIDE ON A HORSE'S BACK
6. A SPORT WHERE YOU FIGHT OTHERS, OFTEN REFERRED AS TAEKWONDO
8. YOU USE STICKS AND A PUCK TO PLAY THIS SPORT
9. THIS SPORT IS REFERRED AS FOOTBALL IN ENGLAND
11. IS AN AMERICAN SPORT, TO SCORE YOU HAVE TO TOUCHDOWN
14. THIS SPORT REQUIRES YOU TO JUMP OVER FENCES WHILE RUNNING

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SYMBIOSIS CENTRE FOR MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION 2020