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A CASE STUDY OF LEGENDARY NAMDHARI HOCKEY PLAYER SARDAR SINGH

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ABSTRACT

Hockey is one of the many games derived from primeval man's happiness in stick and ball games. It is a game played between two teams on a field with curved sticks and a small hard ball. Hockey, India's national game has provided the nation with many proud occasions. Unrivalled brilliance and unmatched skill brought India glory at international level as well as a string of Olympic gold medals. The contribution of any hockey player in terms of elevated performance and achievements at National and International level plays a crucial role in the endorsement of hockey game. The contribution of the Namdhari Sports Academy and the stars the academy has produced in terms of high performance and achievements at National/International level plays a very significant role in the promotion of hockey game in states like Punjab and Haryana and India in general.

Introduction

In India among various sports, hockey occupies a significant place. It is the national game of India. It is a game of skill, deception, anticipation, concentration and character. Like all other sports, hockey also has its basic skills. To be on the top in any game, it is necessary to have mastery over its fundamental skills. The fundamental skills of a game are based on the motor moments of human being. Hockey is the National Game of India and has been played in India from ancient times. There was a golden epoch of Indian hockey when India ruled the game. On the International scene, there were no competitors to match the miraculous hands of Indian hockey players. Eight time Olympic champions, once world champions, twice Asian champions, Indian hockey team will always provoke interest wherever they play. A number of academies are functioning to promote national game such as Maharaja Ranjeet Singh Hockey Academy, Surjeet Hockey Academy, Punjab and Sind Bank Academy, Ramesh Academy, Karam Chand Thapar Hockey Academy Sansarpur, SAI (Sports Authority of India) Centre of Excellence, Netaji Subash National Institute of Sports, Sports Academy in Jarkhar, RCF (Rail Coach Factory) academy in Kapurthala and an unending list and among these academies Namdhari Sports Academy is one of them. This academy has produced Olympians, international, national, university and outstanding hockey players for different outstanding teams who have given Indian hockey a prestigious place on the national and international scene. Among the many players of Namdhari Sports Academy Sardar Singh is one of them who makes India proud.

Statement of the Problem: The problem formulated for the present study is "A CASE STUDY OF LEGENDARY NAMDHARI HOCKEY PLAYER SARDAR SINGH".

Purpose of the study: The purpose of the study is to assess the contributions and achievements of Namdhari Hockey player Sardar Singh, who represented India at International level by making his complete profile.

Objectives of the study:

- To find out the contribution of Namdhari Hockey player Sardar Singh to Indian Hockey in the form of performance and achievements at International level.
- To make a profile of Sardar Singh, who represented India at International level.

Hypotheses of the study: Sardar Singh, the Namdhari Hockey player would have contributed to Indian Hockey in the form of performance and achievements at National and International level.

Significance of the study:

- This study assumes great significance given to its comprehensive study to delineate the contribution of Sardar Singh, the Namdhari Hockey player to Indian Hockey.
- It reveals his contributions to Indian Hockey at International Hockey matches in the form of performance.
- The study further contributes and explores the role of Namdhari Hockey player to Indian Hockey and also making the profile of the hockey player is the record of information for further research studies as well as very helpful to coaches, trainers and state hockey federations of India.
- The profile of hockey player contributes as a motivational factor for the upcoming young hockey players of Namdhari Academy and India in general.

METHODOLOGY

A present study was designed to investigate the contributions and achievements of the Namdhari Hockey player towards the promotion of Hockey game in the State of Haryana and Punjab and India in general and also to study their philosophy with regard to sports as a profession in India, their quality as a player and their contribution to the game of hockey at the national and international level.

Data for this investigation was derived from the Primary sources i.e. Direct observation, Questionnaires, Personal records, Archival records, Documents, Pictorial records and Secondary sources. Based on the objectives laid down in the present the following methods were used to obtain the data.

Design of the Study

Sources of Data and Information: The different sources and methods used by the researcher to gather data and information about the contribution of a Namdhari Hockey player to Indian Hockey. There are four major sources and methods that have been identified by researcher to obtain the information and data are Direct observation, Documents, Archival records and Participation. It is further divided into primary and secondary resources.

Primary Resources: The original data, material and information is collected from the following primary resources.

(a) Direct Observation: The researcher himself is a Namdhari and he knows some of the history and profile of the Namdhari Hockey players. His direct involvement with the hockey players enables him to get the first hand information.

(b) Documents: Researcher visited various sports institutions such as Namdhari Sports Academy, Sri Bhaini Sahib, Punjab and Sri Jiwan Nagar, Haryana to get the related data and information of the study in the form of Photos, News Papers, Articles, Books and Administrative records etc. Pictorial records from a large collection of photographs available with different sources such as personal albums, official photographs that were found relevant to different junctures have been chosen as documents for the study. The published materials in the News Papers, Sports Magazines and Books,

etc. also have been used. These are studied and information retained as documents for the investigation.

- (c) Archival Records: The official records in the sports websites of the Namdhari Sports Academy, survey records, etc. were searched and studied and information and data are retained for the study.

Secondary Resources: To get deeper insight into the study the survey method is used for the further study.

- (a) Survey: The survey of the Namdhari Sports Academy is done to get the data and information about the contributions of Sardar Singh, the Namdhari Hockey player who represented India at the international level.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

A present study was designed to investigate the contributions and achievements of Sardar Singh, Namdhari Hockey players to Indian Hockey towards the promotion and development of hockey game in India and also to study sports motivation with regard to sports as a profession in India, his quality as a player, his professional leadership qualities, and his contribution to the game of hockey at National and International level. Based on the findings the analysis of data and interpretation of results are presented in the following way.

Sardar Singh

Early Life: Sardar Singh, born on 15 July 1986 in a village Santnagar, Rania situated in Haryana is an Indian professional field hockey player. He has completed his senior secondary education from his village's school, Shri Guru Hari Singh School. This village has produced many hockey players. At an early age he picked up his first hockey stick and began to play the game for Namdhari Sports Academy. He played for the Namdhari Sports Academy for eight years. He learns the basic and essential skills of the hockey from this academy. Sardar Singh belongs to a hockey family, so playing hockey was not a problem in Sardar's family. Sardar Singh's elder brother Didar Singh, who is a drag flick specialist also represented the National and international team.

Hockey Career: Sardar Singh is an International level hockey player. He is currently playing for the Senior Men's Indian hockey team. Sardar Singh covers the central midfield position which can be called the nub of the team. Sardar Singh engenders speed, skill & strategic game play, which is best mixed with each other to form him as a formidable player. He was the youngest ever player to lead the senior Indian Hockey men's team when he played in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in 2008. He was awarded the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award of India, in 2015 for his distinction in the field of hockey.

Sardar Singh began his career as a debut for India in the junior team in 2003-2004, Poland. Sardar Singh was about to leave the game during his junior career. He was very shy to play in front of the huge crowd. Sometimes he didn't even touch the ball during the full seventy minute match. At that time he felt he was not an essential fit in the team. But then a miracle happens and he got a call for the senior men's team. Then he made his senior debut against Pakistan in 2006. He is a Deputy Superintendent Police Officer with the Haryana Police and plays for their team. In 2005, Sardar played for Chandigarh Dynamos in the opening season of the premier Hockey League. He played for Hyderabad Sultans for the next three years till 2008 as captaining the team. In 2010, he was included in the eighteen-men FIH All-Star team. In the same year, he was signed by the Belgian club to play in the Belgian Hockey League. He made an remarkable show at the 2013 Asia cup that leads to signing of Dutch club, HC Bloemendaal as a replacement to Teun de Nooijer. Sardar Singh became the highest-paid marquee player as the Delhi franchise brought him for USD 78,000. The team was named as Delhi Waveriders. He was the captain by his side to a second place finish in its inaugural season and awarded as the 'Player of the Tournament'.

Sardar wishes that there is no bigger dream than winning an Olympic medal and bringing back the glorious epoch of Hockey. Sardar was appointed as the captain of the Indian Hockey team in

the Sultan Azlan Shah cup and became the youngest Indian player to be at the helm of affairs on the field. As India failed to qualify for the last Olympics, all the seniors faced the darkest moments in Indian hockey, Sardar built up a new, younger and energetic team which made winning the Commonwealth and Asian Games gold. Under his captaincy Indian team became the first team to qualify for the Rio Olympics. Sardar Singh is a renowned player in the Indian midfield, respected by the younger players who look forward to his wisdom on the field.

Award: He was awarded the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award of India, in 2015 and an Arjun Award in 2012. He was also recommended by the Indian Hockey for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratan Award in 2015.

- Achievements: Awarded 'layer of Tournament' in the 2012 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, where India won the Bronze.
- He was adjudged the Player of the Tournament in the 2012 Summer Olympics Qualifiers, where India won the Gold.
- He was adjudged the Player of the Tournament in the 2010 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, where India won the Gold.
- He participated in Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament in Malaysia in the year 2006 and the team won Bronze Medal.
- He participated in SAF Games at Colombo in the year 2006 and the team scored 2nd position.
- He participated in 7th Junior Challenge Open Men's in Poland 2006 and scored 2nd position.
- He participated in the BDO Hockey Champions Challenge at Belgium 2007 and got Bronze Medal.
- He participated in Commonwealth Games 2006 in Melbourne.
- He participated in INDO-PAK series 2006.
- He participated in Four Nations International Tournament in Germany and the team scored Bronze Medal.
- He also participated in Four Nations Hockey Tournament in Lahore and the team win Silver Medal.
- He participated in the Hockey Asia Cup in Chennai 2007 and the team grabbed Gold Medal.
- He participated for India in Canada for the 7 game Test Series against the Canadian National Field Hockey Team

AWARDS	
Arjun Award	2012
Padma Shri	2015



CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, it is clearly evident Namdhari Hockey Player Sardar Singh, who has immensely contributed to the cause of upliftment of national game hockey and thus played a pivotal role in reviving the glorious past of hockey in the country once again. Being the role model, the Namdhari hockey player was being religiously emulated by the younger generation of sports. Recognizing the everlasting efforts and valuable contributions and achievements rendered to sports

by him, the Government of Haryana has appointed him DSP in Haryana. Finally, it is concluded that Sardar Singh, a Namdhari Hockey player made a very significant and tremendous contribution to Indian hockey in the form of achievements in the field of hockey game at National and International level.

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