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FOOTBALL FEVER

Saurav Sethia comments on the highs and lows, the wins and losses that were experienced during the inter-house soccer competition 2006.

The ball is lobbed toward the Tata House defence and is making its way to the goal. Pathare misjudges the save and the ball gets the crossbar, but Zain races in and buries the ball past the helpless goalkeeper. Kashmir House is up on its feet; they are leading one goal to nil. And as we approach fifty minutes of the first House XI match played in the soccer competition, Arjun Sengar gets a chance with a free-kick at the edge of the box. Sengar shoots and the ball curls into the right corner of the goal and cries of *Tata ka tempo high hai, Sengar hamara bhai hai* envelops the air around us. We are now into the sixtieth minute of the game and Zain Rehman dodges three defenders, and with a magical boom with his left foot, sees the ball finding its way to the bottom-right corner of the goal. At the end of the match, the Kashmir House team returned to their residence amidst great applause while the Tata House crowd was left aghast at their first loss; and shocked, because Tata House had easily the best House XI on paper.

Zain Rehman:

“The soccer competition was a spectator’s delight.”

Akshat Jain aptly stated, “Joy turned into despair in the blink of an eye. The inter-house soccer competition was really a crash-course in studying emotions.” Amidst much trepidation, we saw the House XI team of Tata losing two of their four matches and winning the rest with a success rate of only fifty per cent, whereas Kashmir House won three and drew one match in the entire competition in the same category. Madhav Bahadur told us, “We tackled our way to a well-deserved victory.” The introduction of the Senior Cup spelt felicity for the K House junior teams as they came last in the Junior Cup with only four points, hardly contributing to their position in the House Cup, whereas the K House seniors emerged victorious in the Senior Cup with thirty-six points to their name. The Juniors I match between Jaipur and Tata was, however, the deciding game for the House Cup, given that the results of the future matches would come out as they did. Angad Bawa scored both the goals for Jaipur House, while Aditya Sukhia tried to fight back by scoring a goal for the Warriors, but in vain.

Himmat Singh very rightly said, “It was a very close match; it’s a pity that one of them had to win.”

The House XI match between Kashmir and Jaipur was the most exciting play-off in the competition, as it ended in a dramatic draw with Zain Rehman and Siddharth

Akshat Jain:

“Joy turned into despair in the blink of an eye. The inter-house soccer competition was really a crash-course in studying emotions.”

Swarup scoring from K and J Houses respectively. The two of them, incidentally, also emerged the winner and joint runners-up in the Senior Cup. The Tata versus Jaipur House XI match had an unexpected result, as the J House Eagles emerged victorious, owing to a spectacular shot taken by Rishabh Bir Singh. The J House team played without Rohanjit Chowdhary, their House soccer captain, which struck hard at the morale of the team. Adhip Chopra commented on the match, “We definitely won a losing battle.”

The last day of the competition was anything but boring. With their loss of the Leagues I match to Hyderabad House, Tata lost all hopes of getting the House Cup, although Oberoi put up a strong defence to Jaipur’s aggressive line-up, and managed to draw the match. Akaash Pathare, the Tata House Soccer Captain remarked ruefully, “At the end of it all, we were three points too few.”

In the end, it has to be said, the game saw its fair share of talent and potential, coupled with great competition in both the junior and senior categories. The outstanding teams of Jaipur House and some teams of Hyderabad and Oberoi made the competition exciting and a pleasure to watch. Zain Rehman, the Kashmir House soccer captain said, “The soccer competition was a spectator’s delight.” It truly was! All due credit to the Jaipur House teams for winning the Junior and House Cups, while Kashmir must also be acclaimed for winning the Senior Cup. In the end, congratulations to all those who played; it takes a great deal of courage to be able to display one’s talents on the field, and an equal measure to be able to lose, and lose graciously at that.

REGULARS

TALK, TALK, TALK...

Representatives from **Harvard University** and **Princeton University** held talks for the S and Sc formers on September 23. Representatives from **Yale University**, too, held an interactive session with them on September 24.

MONETARY QUIZZING

Ashish Mitter, Chetan Aggarwal and Gaurav Sood represented the school in the **Inter-School Financial Studies Quiz** held at Welham Boys' School on September 21. They were placed third.

SHARP SHOOTER

In the **16th All-India GV Mavlankar Shooting Championship**, 2006, held at New Delhi from September 19-24, Karanbir Dhariwal won a silver medal in the Junior Trap Event. Well done!

DEBATING NEWS

Shikhar Singh and Ashish Mitter represented the school in the final round of the **All-India Frank Antony Memorial Debates** 2006 held at Kolkata.

Akash Maheshwari, Aditya Ajmani, Bharat Ganju and Arnav Sahoo participated in an Inter-School Debate conducted by **St. George's School, Mussoorie**, on September 23. The Doon School was placed first in the Junior Section. Bharat Ganju was adjudged the **Best Speaker** and also won the award for the **Best Rebuttal** in the Junior Section.

IPSC TENNIS NEWS

In the **IPSC Tennis Championship**, 2006, held at YPS Patiala, between September 25-28, the following are the results:

Under-18: Arjun Anjaria, Kinshuk Kocher and Karam Naresh lost to Modern School in the semi-finals.

Under-16: Abhimanyu Chandra, Shantanu Garg, Tanveer Angad Singh and Rituraj Raizada were defeated by LK Singhania School in the quarter-finals.

In the Individual Under-16 Category: Shantanu Garg reached the quarter-finals.

Under-14: Kanav Mehra, Abhishek Gupta and Divij Budhraj lost to DPS, RK Puram in the semi-finals. In the Individual Under-14 Category: Kanav Mehra and Abhishek Gupta reached the quarter-finals.

BRONZE STROKES

In the **IPSC Swimming Competition** held at RIMC, Dehradun, held from September 29 - October 1, Pratham Mittal won bronze medals in the 50m and 100m backstroke events. Chirag Nangia won a bronze medal in the 400m freestyle event.

Good effort!

INTER-HOUSE SOCCER

The results of the Inter-House Soccer Competition, 2006, are as follows:

Junior Cup: 5th: Kashmir ; 4th: Hyderabad; 3rd: Oberoi; 2nd: Tata; **1st: Jaipur**

Senior Cup: 5th: Hyderabad; 4th: Oberoi; 2nd: Tata & Jaipur; **1st: Kashmir**

House Cup: 5th: Hyderabad; 4th: Oberoi; 3rd: Kashmir; 2nd: Tata; **1st: Jaipur**

Vasuki Tal: On the Pilgrim Trail

Ashish Mitter reports on his midterm excursion

I returned from Kolkata where I was participating in a debate, two days before midterms, not having the faintest clue about what our party was going to be doing, except for the fact that we were headed for a place called Vasuki Tal, high above Kedarnath. I sat back happily and watched as the other members of my party frantically ran to and fro arranging for transport, food items and the like, and before I knew it, I was sitting in the front seat of a Toyota Qualis, on my way to Gaurikund.

Gaurikund is 14 kilometres away from Kedarnath and is as far as the metalled road reaches. The journey from Dehradun to Gaurikund normally takes 7-8 hours. Unfortunately, we were forced to spend over 9 hours on the road, as many of us fell victim to attacks of motion sickness. We arrived at our destination as darkness set in, and headed wearily for the nearest hotel, Sunil Lodge. As we settled into our rooms, we received a major surprise as we saw a group of 45 A and C formers escorted by VNP, PKJ, MTS and KLA trudging up the steps to our hotel. The scene was set for an interesting midterm!

The next day we woke up early and began our trek to Kedarnath. As Kedarnath is a major pilgrim destination, the entire path was paved and bounded by railings, making the trek somewhat easier. Moreover, there were a number of benches, toilets and small *dhabas* on the way, making sure that the average tourist was in no way inconvenienced. A direct result of these amenities was the sheer number of people on the trek – we encountered saffron-clad sadhus with sunglasses on, heading up to Kedarnath in palanquins, old men and women driven by faith, walking slowly with the help of cudgels, and hundreds of ordinary people from all over the country (but particularly West Bengal) chanting *Har Har Mahadev*, or *Jai Kedar*, pushing forward to wash away their sins. Of course, in the hills, where there are hundreds of people, there are also hundreds of mules, or *khachchars*, and the path was littered with truck-loads of smelly dung. There was a stench in the air, almost palpable in its intensity.

We reached Kedarnath around three in the afternoon, and once again checked into the nearest hotel. After resting for a short time, we decided to explore the tiny settlement that is Kedarnath. I was personally a little disappointed with the town: the people were not exactly forthcoming. Commodities (including the services of the priest in the temple) were sold at exorbitant prices and nobody was remotely interested in lowering their rates, despite our very vocal protests. One thing that struck me as being exceedingly strange was the almost complete absence of women in Kedarnath-everyone from the shopkeepers to the hoteliers were men. This gave the town a decidedly eerie feel.

Our trek to Vasuki Tal almost didn't take place. We had decided that as it was a tough trek (KLA warned us that we would have to climb up on all fours!), only five of us would attempt it and the other four (who were

(Continued on page 4)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Drama with a message

The Kamla Jeevan Inter-School Hindi debate were held in the Kilachand Library a couple of Saturdays ago. The usually impatient and restive Dosco audience was taken by surprise when they were informed that they would also be audience to a dramatized stage reading, rather than to the expected stultifying lectures or summings- up of the judges. Technically speaking, that Saturday, history was made. For the first time, a monologue was prepared and presented in front of the waiting audience when the final scores were being tabulated. *Bhediya*, written by Bhuneshwar, designed and directed by Mr. Farooqui and performed by Alok Arora, was the highlight of the evening.

Alok, wearing a kurta with the 'Gandhiji' lathi (borrowed from the library), appeared carrying a chair, and started what many called 'entertainment.' It would have been recreation and 'time-pass' for some, but the performance had a concealed and arcane meaning of its own, a recondite message sent to society, the eclipsed truth.

The basic storyline was quite simple and easy to understand. A father and his son are taking a group of dancing girls to the town in their bullock cart and were attacked by a pack of hungry wolves who were not ready to give up the chase. The old man tried everything and anything to survive and was successful in finding a way, at the cost of his own life. This is the crux of the story, but little did we know that this story actually operates at two levels.

The first is the clear-cut violence, obvious to everyone; the other is veiled. This is a story of becoming insensitive due to the prevalent profit-oriented market economy. It shows the greed that is being bred in man today, that the market economy driven by profit and consumerism is killing human relations.

The story also highlights the fact that women and artistes are objects pushed to the periphery of society today. This is evident from the story where, in order to distract the charging wolves, the dancing girls were the first to be thrown in their path. The bullocks, necessary for the survival and sustenance of the father and the son, were of primary concern.

But the performance did, however, end on an optimistic note, where the element of hope and the will to fight back, came into play. The father does sacrifice his own life in order to save his son's, and the son does stand firmly, planning to fight back and retaliate. '*Mashal jalao, Mukabla karo,*' the son incites us to have the spirit to stand up and face the storm, and fight back. He did not give up, even after all was lost.

I think Alok's versatility and amazing modulation, the apt use of space in its simplicity, has been successful in conveying the message to the audience. If we remember, something of the same sort was done last term as well. Alok Arora and Kshitij Paliwal performed Premchand's *Gilli-Danda* during Assembly on a Saturday. I hope this soon becomes a tradition, firstly because it's more entertaining than a Saturday morning talk (all Doscos would agree), and secondly, it tells us, in its own way, some things that a piece of writing, no matter how well read out, never can.

(Manuj Vyas)

forza azzuri
Vivan Rai

Find eighteen football stars who helped
Italy lift the World Cup '06

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# Lost in Translation

*Shikhar Singh writes about the Social Service Project held in Fatehpur Village during the midterm break*

A narrow road branches off from a busy highway, entering into a hamlet. The ladies of the *basti* have woken up, and wet clothes hang like hoardings across the streets. The *halvais* have heated the oil and the first samosas and jalebis being fried can be seen and smelt by all. The smooth metal road gives way to a bumpy and stony cart-track that cuts through the sugarcane fields. The midterm destination is not new to Doscocs and for more than a year many have visited the remote village of Fatehpur for social service.

This community was adopted by the school and has been the site for most of our social service activities. This is apparent in the fact that the area has its own flour-mill, a water turbine that provides uninterrupted power supply, canalized fresh-water and sewage systems and brick housing for the local inhabitants. This, along with a fish-pond has been the accomplishments of our social service programme over the past year. In my maiden trip to the site, our task was to lay the foundation for a community centre that would accommodate a hall, office-space for local authorities, a kitchen and a bathroom.

The five-days' work concluded with the filling of the foundation trenches with concrete. This involved a hectic work-schedule interspersed with regular water breaks (owing partly to the stringent labour laws of the country and Doscocs who were easily distracted by honey bees and the entertaining *sarpanch's* brother). However, on one of my attempts to escape work, I ended up having an interesting conversation with the locals. This, in fact, formed the basis of my views on social service in general and our attempts in Fatehpur in particular.

It may not be surprising to learn that most of the community in Fatehpur is landless and supported by feudal systems of tenancy and *aadhi* to live on a day-to-day basis. In fact, the main cause for poverty in the area is subsistence farming, as almost half the produce is taken away by the land-owners. This economic dependence also affects the democratic behaviour of the local population – a panchayat controlled by the landed gentry, failing health systems (a closed *Anganbari* maternal health centre being a good example) and limited education of the girl-child. Deeply worrisome is the fact that local people, especially the politically wise, often talk along caste and religious lines. This, it seems, is the case with most of rural India today.

Having said this, I wonder to what extent 'social service' will truly lead to the upliftment of society when it is driven by medieval economic systems, caste-based social interactions and politicized local self-governments. Though I deeply appreciate our efforts to mobilize some of our resources to cater to and serve the society, coupled

with our personal efforts to provide physical help in the planned task, I feel the impact of most of our projects is lessened by this prevalent social malaise.

We often condemn initiatives based on our assessments of their outcome. However, most of the time, these initiatives are practical and revolutionary on paper and 'lost in translation'. The economic development of the country, truly remarkable in the quantum and time-frame it is achieved in, is superficial when juxtaposed with basic social failures. It is true that our service to the Fatehpur community has changed their lives for the better, that from an excluded backward area, our initiatives have pushed it into motion and on the track of economic progress. However, a changed social mindset would greatly catalyze this process. And somewhere along the way I feel, in our dynamic social service programmes, this aspect needs to be urgently needs to be acted-upon for social service to be not just meaningful but effective.



*(continued from page 2)*

all suffering from headaches due to a shortage of oxygen) would head to Gandhi Sarovar, a comparatively easier trek. We began our search for a guide, but everyone we met demanded huge payments. Finally we decided to pool in with the escorted party, and split the cost. However, by the time we reached this decision, it was 9 o'clock in the morning, and most people we had talked to earlier refused to take us, saying it was already too late. We had all but given up hope when we encountered a man who was willing to act as a guide. At the time, it seemed like divine intervention. We hurriedly gathered up our water bottles and set off. The trek was tough, but extremely beautiful. For much of the way, we were walking through low clouds, and our visibility was reduced to a few metres. Nevertheless, four of us reached the destination, and the mere sight of the sparkling turquoise lake surrounded by huge granite boulders was enough to make the entire trip worthwhile.

At a height of over 13000 feet, many people had told us that Vasuki Tal would be too difficult to reach. This made our ascent all the more satisfactory. By the time we returned to Kedarnath, our heads were splitting, and our legs aching, but we didn't mind. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

## CAREER CALL

The careers' notice board in the coming week will focus on various **scholarship examination** dates and other related information.

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