

ALUMNI OF TOP FOUR BOARDING SCHOOLS MEET



■ (Above) Charu Sharma (L). (Right) The Doon School old boys' team on Saturday. HT PHOTO



Bonding over cricket: Yesterday once more at The Doon School

Neha Pant

neha.pant@htlive.com

DEHRADUN : It's yesterday once more at The Doon School where former students of top four boarding schools of the country have gathered for the Alumni Cricket Bash, one of the most prestigious school-based cricketing events of India.

Bonding over cricket, over 80 former students of Mayo College, Ajmer, Daly College, Indore, Scindia School, Gwalior and The Doon School, Dehradun have converged from around the country for the Old Boys' Quadrangular Cricket Tournament, marking a perfect rendezvous for the alumni as well as their accompanying families.

In the first two matches played on Saturday, Mayo and Doon won over Daly and Scindia,

LOVE FOR CRICKET BRINGS TOGETHER ALUMNI OF TOP FOUR BOARDING SCHOOLS OF INDIA

respectively.

Organised by the Doon School Old Boys' Society, the sporting gala played on the T20 format, will conclude on Sunday.

Besides The Doon School, matches are also being played out at the Abhimanyu Cricket Academy in Dehradun.

Noted commentator Charu Sharma, who played at The Doon School for his alma mater Mayo College, revealed how the rendezvous was a much-awaited event for all the former students.

"You think this is only some

Old Boys' kind of tournament, but there's so much energy and zest involved - it's an incredibly tough, tight competition," Sharma told HT while gearing up for his team's next match against Scindia.

Pointing to how each team had at least two players over 50 and four players under 30 years of age and rest somewhere in between, he said, "A lot of generations (of Old Boys) from schools are playing together and cheering for each other.

"On the face of it, I've got to say this there's intense rivalry, but after the match, there's a lot of camaraderie and goodwill."

He hopes to "be fitter and come back stronger next year".

Instituted in 2014 by Raghavendra 'Donny' Singh, a 1982-batch alumnus of The Doon School, as a triangular event, the

alumni tourney is now a "bigger family of like-minded people from the leading boarding schools of India" with four schools on board.

Singh, a Delhi-based businessman, said, "Back in school, there was a lot more animosity and we used to play like there were daggers drawn. "We're still very competitive on the field...it's serious cricket (on the field) but off the field you won't make out which team is what, this is what the whole tournament is about."

Delhi-based businessman Vir Vikram Yadav, captain of the Mayo College team, noted how besides the cricketing reunion, the former students and their families bond over drinks and dinner once the day's game was over. "Off field we're very close friends."