

Gentlemen,

I am very thankful to the authorities of the Karnataka Hockey-
 State Hockey Association for asking me to participate in this Seminar,
 and specially to Mr. Sri Ram ~~who has been kind enough to fer his kind~~
~~forethought.~~ Next to Mathematics I have loved Hockey most. To the major-
 ity of laymen Mathematics is a dull science, but this is far from the
 truth. It is an art like painting, music, architecture and literature, and
 excels in weaving ~~patter~~ beautiful and intricate patterns of reasoning.
 Similarly those of you who have seen beautiful Hockey as played by men
 like Dhyanchand and Rop Singh ^{with agree} that this game is also one of great artist
^{weaving patterns of its own kind} try. I am afraid, however, that I may not be of any great help to you in
 drawing up a master plan for the development of the game in our State,
 This may well be left in the hands of younger men like our Hon'ble
 Minister Mr. Gundu Rao. I shall content myself by sharing with you a few
 reminiscences of Hockey in the State, without repeating what I have
 already said in the Silver Jubilee Souvenir of 1955. ^{The deep reminiscen}
^{for too long a time since} I shall take you back 60 years i.e. 1915 when I joined the
 Mss } Central College as a student of the Intermediate classes then affiliated
 to the Madras University. Mr. J.G. Tait was the Principal of the College
 at the time, and he was a great lover of sports, and encouraged students
 to take to playing games. He suggested my playing Hockey, and helped me
 to get into touch with some Englishmen in the Cantt. who played this
 game. I used to play with boys of the St. Josephs College, with the Tele-
 graphs, and, thanks to the recommendation of a distant relative ^{of mine} who was in
 in the Army, also with the Sappers team. The starting of the Bangalore
 Indians team in 1916 was a great fillip to the game. But, what really fired
 my imagination was watching the famous Western Railway Hockey team which
 competed in a local Hockey tournament ^{in 1917}, and won the finals. These four years
 from 1915 to 1919 (when I was just 19 years old) were formative years, and
 I felt I was not a bad Centre Forward.

From 1919 to 1921 I was in Calcutta doing my M.Sc. since there
 were no M.Sc. classes in the Mysore University at that time. I went to
 study Mathematics, but Hockey would not leave me. I remember very well how
 the Mohan Bagan who had a formidable Hockey wing at the time used to
 utilise my services to play for them in the semi-finals and finals of
 important tournaments in which they competed. It was the time of my final
 examination during May 1921, and one evening I was unexpectedly summoned

to play in a final match against the Kidderpore Sports Club. The next morning, I had to take ^{the} ~~my~~ fourth paper of my ~~examination~~ ^{exam}, and I protested ~~to~~ ^{it} expressing my inability to participate in the match, but ^{it was} of no avail. I played the match, scored the only winning goal, and was given a great ovation. But the result was that the next morning I could answer only four questions out of the six to be taken in that difficult fourth ~~paper~~ paper, and the consequence was that in the final examination, I got the second rank and not the first. The only consolation was ^{that} the chap who stood first, known by the name of Bookworm Bhattacharya, did not ~~not~~ know whether a Hockey stick was straight or curved!

Almost immediately after return from Calcutta, I joined the Central College Staff as a lecturer, but started playing Hockey regularly. I shall not trouble ^{you} by giving details of the development of Hockey in the Central College during the years 1922-1955 when I retired as Principal of the College. I only wish to say that I did my best to improve the game by enlisting scores of players ^{and also} playing with them, helped ^{getting} in the formation of the City Hockey Club, ^{got} a Hockey ground prepared in time to enable the ^{of} coaching players competing in the Inter-University tournament of 1954, in which our University were the runners-up. I remember, when I was a lecturer in the Engineering College, the students of some classes who had actually been ^{my} ~~some~~ classmates at the Central College had arranged to have my classes in the last period, with the sole mischievous intention of having the class let off very ^{early} ~~soon~~ so that we could all go and ^{to} play. I need hardly say that I was myself a willing partner in this nefarious plot!

In the year 1926 I went to Delhi to attend a Mathematical Conference, and on my way back got down at Bhopal to play a match for the Bhopal Wanderers in the finals of a tournament against their arch enemies the Gwalior Blues. We won the match thanks to two goals scored by me in the last few minutes of the game, but ~~was~~ I remember this match not because of the goals scored by me, but because after the match, a young man or rather boy came running towards me and actually hugged me. I later found that this boy was ^{none other} the famous Dhyanchand when he himself ^{mentioned this incident to} ~~told~~ me in 1935 when the winning Olympic Hockey team visited Bangalore.

After retirement from the Mysore University in 1955,

I went to Poona and joined the Institute of Armament Studies at Kirkee. Of course being 55, I played no Hockey there, but all the military Officers ~~there~~ knew me quite well since I was the Champion of- in the Institute in Tennis for four ^{years}, and ^{they also} knew that I was a certified Hockey Umpire, ~~and~~ I was therefore once asked to referee a match ^{between} ~~between~~ our Institute and the Military College at Kirkee. The Captain of the latter team protested ^{that as} ~~at~~ a member of the Staff of the Institute, ^I ~~she~~ should not umpire a match in which the Institute team itself was playing. But later on some of the authorities of the College intervened, and allowed me to umpire since I was a popular figure there. ~~The same~~ Military College had a miserable team and I was sure they would lose, ^{So to take a revenge} ~~but~~ ^{against them} instead of umpiring absolutely strictly, I showed a little latitude in allowing five penalty corners in their favour out of which not one was converted. I wonder what Mr. B. S. Gundu Rao thinks of this umpiring!

In 1959 I was at Allahabad to preside over ~~the Conference~~ ~~ce~~ of the Indian Mathematical Society, and the Conference was inaugurated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. During the Conference in addition to my ~~inflicting~~ ^{an half-hour address} ~~him with my hour long Presidential Address~~, I had an occasion to talk to him during a tea party for nearly a quarter of an hour. He wanted to know from me the performances of our Olympic teams in all matches played so far, and I was happy to give him a graphic and a little exaggerated account of all this. In the end I told him that I ~~could~~ not vouch for the complete ~~correctnesses~~ ^{correctness of} of the results of all the matches, but he immediately set me right by saying that he was not so so much interested about ~~the~~ ^{correctness of} results at all, but in my description of the exploits of the several teams.

Coming now to the agenda before the seminar, I might ~~men~~ mention that when ^I showed the agenda to my youngest daughter who is very keen on sports, ^{who} has played for ~~the~~ the State and the South Zone in Cricket, and played Soft Ball for the team which ^{recently} won the National championship for the State in the recent Lucknow meet, ^{pointed} ~~she remarked~~ that the omission of the steps to be taken for the improvements of Women's Hockey in our State ~~was glaring~~, specially during ^{the} present International Women's Year. ^{Perhaps this topic lies outside the jurisdiction of the State Hockey Association, but} I shall just leave this ~~remark~~ for the consideration of the Seminar.

Lastly I wish to say a few words to the youth of our ^{State}

who aspire to become great Hockey players, and represent India in future Olympics.

Firstly, gradualness, gradualness, gradualness. Learn by hard work and constant application the essentials of the game. School yourself to severe gradualness in the accumulation of this knowledge.

School yourself to demureness and patience. Learn to inure yourselves to drudgery in learning the game. But do not merely learn the obvious things. Go deep and absorb the finer points of the game by watching the great players.

Secondly, modesty. Never think that you ^{know} all about Hockey. However highly you are appraised, always have the courage to say of yourself. I am still ignorant .

Do not allow ~~te~~ haughtiness to take you in possession. Do not refuse advice and friendly help.

Thirdly, passion. Cultivate a passion for the game. Be passionate in your training, and your attempts to learn more.

Lastly, learn to lose. This, in my opinion, is the greatest contribution that participation in sports teaches one in life. Do not gloat over your successes, and get dejected by your failures.

I must, finally, beg your pardon for not mentioning the names of the hosts of personalities who have contributed their might to improve the game in our State so far. I wish ^{Mr. Saini State Hockey Ass'n and} the Seminar all success.