

Spectator

Institute open six-a-side foot ball tournament

CURTAIN RAISER

19th Feb. '82.

The Greeks called it Episkyros, the romans, Harpastum and the Chinese, Tsuchu (Fooyong should know !) - the names were different but the game was the same and it has been played for centuries now braing the kings - Edward II, Edward III, Richard II and Henry IV who forbade people from playing it. To-day soccer or Association Football as Football is more popularly known is the World's number one Spectator (no pun intended) sport. Looks like Soccer fever has gripped the country - the 14 carat Jawaharlal Nehru Gold Cup being played at Calcutta - the Mecca of Indian Soccer and our own 6 a side being played at Sangam.

Government regulations have always been a bit too hard to stomach - the 14 carat Jawaharlal Nehru Trophy cannot be taken out of the country, so if a foreign team emerges victorious, they will take home a replica. (oh my !) But the gold and silver medals at Sangam are for keeps - grab them if you can.

The FSA conducted a 7-a-side for the past 3 years. It was a very popular event of the even semester. The Gymkhana is conducting the 6-a-side this year as the regular Seetha Memorial Trophy could not be conducted.

There are as many as 30 teams in the field. The draws have been fixed (ummm !) and are up on all notice boards. The teams represent a wide cross section of the campus -- the KVIIT lads, a team comprising the faculty, a team of mess workers (hope they don't make a 'mess' of it in their 'scramble' for the ball) and the regular hostel squads.

The 6-a-side is one tourney where the refs cannot be caught off-guard -- there's no off side. So after Narmada 4-a-side, Ganga 3-a-side, Krishna 7-a-side (it's still on !) the next in line is the 6-a-side. Folks roll up your sleeves (as Prof. Surjit would say) and come, let's watch footer for the next 5 days. So on to Sangam and Lala Anarnath.

"This is Lala Anarnath welcoming you to the Football Tournament. It is unfortunate that Surinder and Mohinder are not here. Anyway -- that's all known, now I hand you over to Suresh Saraiya".

SS : Lala, one question -- what are your predictions for the tournament ?

Lala: Oh! Well, The pitch is good, the grass has been rolled (sic) and will be rolled during the course of this 5 day test. I have always maintained that goals win matches and if you score one more (one and only Lala ?) than your opponents you should win.

SS : That was excellent Lala, Now for the people who love statistics (probably) there are 10 floodlights -- each 1000W and 1000 mts. wire has been used and there are 3 commentators and one expert whom you've just heard. Next I hand you over to C.D. Gopinath.

CDS : Aah, aah, aah, I remember in Madras in 1960 when I was playing Aah, aah, we lost the match Aah, Aah Aah

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The guy who invented football must have got a kick out of it.

See you tomorrow