

17th JANUARY 1982

SPECTATOR

MADRAS DETHRONED



XVIII th
INTER IIT MEET
KHARAGPUR

Everyone has
told you what,
we'll tell you
why

DAY SIX - FINAL DAYD R A M A I N R E A L L I F E

The day began with a lot of fingers kept tightly crossed. Sithu earned yet another bronze, in triple jump. In the morning, Madras beat Kanpur in basketball and Kharagpur in badminton to claim the bronze and silver respectively. The tension was slowly building to a climax.

23 December 1981, 2.30 p.m.

The Jnan Ghosh Stadium at IIT-Kgp is packed to capacity with the young and the old, the understanding and the not-so-understanding, the officials and the volunteers, the athletes and other sportsmen, every one of them having just witnessed George smash the 5000 m record, coming in a full 12 seconds ahead of the meet timing. The next event on the card is the men's 4 x 100 m relay. The athletics gold is at stake - the prime contenders being Madras, Kanpur and Bombay. Madras, its scorekeepers reveal, needs only 8 points from the two relays to keep the athletics gold which has been theirs since donkey's years. But the scorekeepers caution, "It is not just Madras winning, but also that Bombay should not get the silver." A typical case of having the cake and waiting to eat it. The 4 x 100 m relay is about to start. The lots for the lanes have been drawn. It's Bombay in lane 1, Madras in 2, Delhi in 3, Kgp in 4 and Kanpur in 5.

The Madras quartet is Palaniswamy for quarter 1, Sithu for 2, Venkateshwar for 3 with Sridhar the anchor. The 4 x 100 m relay is off to a sensational start. The three contenders for the gold are not off to a good start. At baton exchange 1, it is Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Kanpur, Kharagpur. Sithu, running the second quarter for Madras, improves his position by one before handing over the baton to Venkateshwar. During the exchange, the Bombay lads dropps the baton. Looking on on this mishap is Bombay's star athlete Darryl, waiting for his turn at the final quarter, and he sits down on the track with a muttered profanity.

Meanwhile, Venkateshwar is running a superb race. Accelerating

steadily, he hands over the baton to Sridhar a fraction ahead of the others. Sridhar leaves the field to fight for the sundry placings. Meanwhile the drama unfolds at exchange 3. Venkateshwar, after handing over the baton to Sridhar, is continuing in lane 2. Darryl gets the baton from his third runner. A good number of Bombay athletes have gathered around lane one. Running along and cheering Darryl, many of them overflow on to the track. Darryl shifts slightly to his right. After a few yards, his right shoulder bangs against Venkateshwar, who stumbles and falls on the track, and Darryl stops in mid-stride. (Refer diagram. Da - Darryl, Ve - Venkateshwar.)

The race is over. The results are Madras 1, Delhi 2, Kgp 3, Kanpur 4 (Bombay did not complete). The Bombay guys are in dire straits - they cannot stomach this humiliating defeat. They vent their anger on Venkateshwar. They think that the whole sequence was staged. A good many Bombay guys, along with their Gymkhana President, Prof. Rao, surround Venkateshwar threateningly. Prof. Rao is on the verge of raining blows on Venkateshwar. Such behaviour from a Gymkhana President is unbecoming and deplorable. Some Professor, this! If this is the state of the teacher, God save the taught!

The Madras hockey captain, T. R. Ramesh, intervenes and pulls out Venkateshwar from that unruly mob, back to the safety of the Madras tent. Bombay protest and demand that the race be deemed null and void. The Bombay contingent squats on the track. There are many verbal exchanges between the Madras and Bombay contingents. All action is suspended. Heated discussions are on at various points in the stadium. The young and the old, the referees and the judges, the guests of honour are dumbfounded. They thought IITians were different, but....

A senior professor from IIM Calcutta expresses surprise at this behaviour and is in a mood to continue his sermon to those around him in the pavilion, till someone reminds him that most of IIM Calcutta's coming batch will consist of these boys.

After a protracted debate, the Inter-IIT Meet Committee decides to rerun the race - without Madras. The decision is a shocker but the committee takes shelter behind some framed (!) rules.

POSITION HERE

- 1 DELHI
- 2 BOMBAY
- 3 MADRAS
- 4 KANPUR
- 5 KHARAGPUR

baton exchange one

Bo Ma De Kg Kp

baton exchange two

POSITION HERE

- 1 DELHI
- 2 MADRAS
- 3 KHARAGPUR
- 4 KANPUR
- 5 BOMBAY

baton exchange three

Ve
Do

(X)
(X)
(X) (X)

Bombay drops baton)

Position

- 1 Madras
- 2 Delhi
- 3 Khargpur
- 4 Kanpur
- 5 Bombay

NAN GHOSH STADIUM KGP

The race is rerun and Bombay come third - in a field of four.

The ladies' 4 x 100 m does not provide the excitement and the fever that the men's generated. Our quartet of Mike, Usha, Shanti and Gowri came third behind Kgp and Delhi. Bombay came last.

The last race, the 4 x 400 m relay, is about to commence. The GC as well as the athletic silver haven't been decided as yet. The race is on and Sridhar will start for Madras. Our start and baton exchange weren't up to our satisfaction. The results: 1. Delhi, 2. Bombay, 3. Kanpur, 4. Madras, 5. Kgp.

The race is over and both warring camps are silent. The Bombay guys look sheepish. The Madras contingent thinks Bombay won the GC. The scorekeepers along with Mr. Joga Rao and Prof. Surjit Singh get to work. Yeah! we've done it again! Delhi, with golds in both relays, have made it to second spot in athletics. The Madras contingent then proceed on a victory lap and are given a good ovation by the capacity crowd. Cries of "Who won?" - "We won!" rent the air.

But the joy is shortlived. The official scorers declare that Madras hasn't won it. Their contention is that relays carry points 10-6-4-2 and not 10-6-2 as assumed by almost everyone. Madras protest. The GC will be decided later in the night by the Inter-III Meet Committee.

Madras boycott the prize distribution, a decision which did not exactly please some. But the boys were in no state to reason it out. They had toiled for not just days but weeks, and to have victory snatched away from them in the last possible moment was something they could not reconcile with.

Flash ** 24th morning

The GC was officially handed over to Bombay.

It is really surprising that none present in the stadium, right from the athletes to the PTIs and everyone else, was aware of the 10-6-4-2 rule. the official scorers shocked them all.

MEDAL TALLY

GOLD	:	Volleyball
		Table tennis
		Gymnastics
		Athletics
SILVER	:	Women's Table tennis
		Men's badminton
		Weightlifting
BRONZE	:	Tennis
		Hockey
		Kabaddi
		Basketball
		Football (shared)

HOCUS FOCUS

Sir,

I am forced to write this letter to you in my capacity as the Sports Secretary to remove any wrong notions that a naive reader of FOCUS (dated 11.1.1982) might gather about the inter-IIT meet and contingent. My reply to Mr. Ahobala Rao's letter was 'suitably' edited and a mild, defensive rejoinder was published. I am attaching the text of the unabridged rejoinder given to FOCUS along with this letter.

I asked the editors the reasons for 'editing' my letter. The reasons they gave me were:

- (1) It was a personal tirade against Mr. Ahobala Rao. (Then how about Mr. Ahobala Rao's letter itself?)
- (2) The important quote was considered too Shakespearean.
- (3) Lack of space.

I feel that many important points of my letter have been

skipped; please try to put them in your inter-IIT issue verbatim.

Thanking you,

yours truly,

(Sd/-)

S. BALACHANDRAN
Sports Secretary.

To
The Editors, SPECTATOR
15 January, 1982.

REJOINDER TO MR. AHOBALA RAO'S LETTER

(AS GIVEN TO FOCUS)

omitted portions

At 11.30 p.m. on the 23rd of December 1981 the Inter-IIT Meet Committee deemed IIT Bombay overall champions. This, apparently, has provided fertile ground for 'discerning' people with fertile imaginations. Mr. Ahobala Rao's article appears to have been written 'in the heat of the moment'. Reason took a back seat and sentiment coloured the writer's assessment. This seems to be the only plausible explanation to the wild, baseless accusations and so-called 'facts' presented.

This year's contingent was as talented, as motivated and as determined as any other contingent of the past three or four years that has left this campus in quest of inter-IIT honours. If I remember right, this year's contingent earned more points than last year's. The very short notice given to me for this rejoinder coupled with the fact that the gymkhana office is closed on Saturdays and Sundays does not permit me to go through last year's records and present the exact figures right now. (This year we earned 76.5 points as against 74 last year - Eds.)

The article alleges that my classmates and I who were members of the contingent were away on an evitable training tour. I am in 5/5 B.Tech. Metallurgy. For the past 15 years, students of final year Met. have been sent on an in-plant training stint to Tata Iron and Ste. (TISCO), Jamshedpur

training is an integral part of the metallurgy curriculum and is a 4-credit core course. Ditching this training would mean loss of a year for the student. Moreover, finalising the dates of the training is the prerogative of TISCO. In fact, at one stage, we feared that TISCO might schedule the training such that it clashed with or overlapped the inter-IIT meet dates. Luckily, this did not happen. The number of days of training is fixed.

We did our best by convincing the rest of the class - with great difficulty - and advancing our semester exams subject to constraints laid down by the Dean of Academic Courses. This resulted in cases where individuals had to write three sem. exams on consecutive days. We left for Jamshedpur the day after our sem exams were over. All this enabled us to squeeze in five days of training at the camp - the best we could do under the circumstances. It is unfortunate that the 'discerning' writer did not verify these facts before going to the press. During my absence, I delegated responsibility to a particular captain and he did a good job.

Mr. Ahobala Rao would also be aware of the fact that an entire class will not alter its tour programme to suit the convenience of one or two classmates who happen to be members of the inter-IIT contingent. In fact, one of the classes on industrial tours was that of Mr. Ahobala Rao; and he is in a better position than I am to talk about whether the tour could have been postponed or cancelled for the sake of a microscopic minority of the class who were members of the contingent. One of the students of this class joined the team at Kharagpur and turned in a good performance.

Last semester the PTIs of city colleges went on strike and, consequently, no inter-collegiate tournaments were conducted in the city. It is for this reason that we were not able to hold the Sriram Memorial and Seetha Memorial tournaments. Incidentally, with Mardi Gras '82, the Bertram tournaments, the Stanley sports festival, St. Joseph's (Trichy) centenary tournaments, IIT Open House and the university exams (which commence in March), I wonder whether we can conduct the tournaments this year. To say that practice matches were not organised for our teams is an utter falsehood, to say the least. Practice matches were organised not only during the camp but also for two months preceding it. Mr Ahobala

Rao is advised to go through issues of SPECTATOR which reported most of these matches. - This is besides the cases like that of the basketball and volleyball teams which took part in city tournaments as clubs. The basketball team took part in a tourney in Calicut too. We brought a team from even Chingleput to provide match-practice to our kabaddi outfit. Every year the kabaddi selections are held rather haphazardly. The inter-hostel kabaddi matches are held only in the even semester. This time, unlike in the past, early rounds of the inter-hostel kabaddi competition were held in the odd semester, and this helped us spot talent and mould a team sufficiently early. After the team was formed, practice matches were arranged. The result of all this was the team bettering the performance of all previous IIT(M) kabaddi outfits at the meet. With a little luck with the draw (the draws are made by lots) and fewer injuries, the team could have done much better.

I have been to four previous inter-IIT meets. To the best of my knowledge, nothing like calling a meeting of the entire contingent and discussing publicly the training of each team was done before the start of the camp. As in previous years, the training of each team was left to the respective captains. All possible help (arranging practice matches, procuring materials, getting coaches, etc.) was offered. I have complete faith in all my captains and firmly believe that they are more than competent to decide on the training methods. Before the camp, I had discussed with each one of them their plans for the camp.

I had excellent rapport with the team captains and other members of the contingent. Any 'communication gap' is only a figment of Mr. Ahobala Rao's imagination.

Mr. Ahobala Rao will concede that the onward train journey was the most comfortable one, at least in the past four years. Every year, 95 to 100 sportsmen are packed into a bogie (meant for 75) like sardines. This would mean that about 20 to 25 people have to sleep on the bogie floor. This time we had not only an entire bogie but also 40 additional berths in another compartment - this meant that virtually everyone got a berth and there was enough elbow room. The return journey too would have been equally comfortable, but for bungling by the railways. Research scholars' guides have always proved

mighty stumbling blocks in the path of getting a research-scholar-sportsman's services.

This year's contingent was a bit raw because it contained quite a few guys who were having their first taste of inter-IIT. It is true that some of them were a bit despondent after the first two days and felt that Madras were out of the running; of course, the experienced members of the contingent knew only too well that we have often surmounted such initial setbacks before. After reassurance at a formal contingent meeting and several informal ones thereafter, there wasn't a trace of despondency. The good performance of our teams thereafter and enthusiastic cheering with horn, bugle, tambourines, etc. - Madras was one of the most vociferous contingents - gave enough evidence of the high morale of the contingent to the discerning.

As at the 1978 Bombay meet, everything hinged on the last two events of the meet - the two relays. In Bombay we wouldn't have won the GC if the Bombay runner Ambrose hadn't dropped the baton. It was just pure ill luck for Bombay and Dame Luck's benevolence for us that helped us retain the GC. This year it was not to be. The track judges and the meet committee decreed that the 4 x 100 m relay be rerun sans Madras. This was a terrible blow. The coup de grace was delivered through an 'understanding' between Bombay and Kanpur for the next race. The last Kanpur runner virtually stopped about 10 m from the finish line, allowed the Bombay runner to overtake him and finish, and then completed the race. It was this that enabled Bombay to pip Delhi by 1.5 points to the second spot in track and field and win the overall championship. Even if we were aware of the pointing system, there was nothing we could have done under the circumstances. Of course, if we had known the pointing system we would not have gone on a 'victory lap'. It was all just because we weren't lucky enough to win this time.

Of course, Mr. Ahobala Rao would not know what transpired on the final day, for he was not there; he was on the Coromandel Express, speeding towards Madras - some discerning sportsman, this!

Dear Mr. Ahobala Rao, discerning minds do not mistake quiet confidence and cautious optimism for lack of confidence, and take brash, bombastic utterances for confidence.

It would be really thrilling to win back the GC - if at all there is a GC - at the next inter-IIT, to which we will be the hosts.

Reading the article, one is reminded of Philip Mericault's famous quote:

"THE ABSENT ARE ALWAYS IN THE WRONG."

S. Balachandran (Bucket)
Sports Secretary.

Please note: Parallel lines indicate portions deleted in the Focus version.

Deft Definition -

G. C. : Goodhal Championship.

I
E C I A
S P E C T A T O R
S P E C T A T O R

E D I T O R I A L

Is it the best of times or is it the worst of times? Times have changed - the General Championship, which was ours for the last ten years, finds a new keeper - Bombay. After a glorious decade, Madras have finally been dethroned.

What makes the defeat particularly tough on Madras is that so much of their history is tied to the GC. A really great saga of sweat and triumph. The strain is not honourable. It would have been honourable if there had been no ambiguity about the system. Alas, the system failed us.

The stigma of defeat involves more than just a lowering of prestige; "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing," said Vince Lombardy, and he couldn't have put it better. In societies from ancient Greece where the Olympic Games began, down to the aristocracy in the 18th century and the dictatorship at the Berlin games, a win has always been a matter of utmost pride. In casual conversations, two questions asked of any contingent member are "How was it?" and "Did we win?"

"We lost in winning" - there were some outstanding performances. George and H. S. S. Mani were the most outstanding. They held attention in whatever they did. George broke records in the 800s, 1500s and 5000 m races, the only races he took part in. The broken 1500 m record was set by him last year. George must be a firm believer in Cae and his words - "My idea was to do what everybody else was going to, but do it a bit quicker."

HSS Mani single-handedly got us the gymnastics gold, claiming the best gymnast trophy in the process. With this year's experience, we could do well to have a qualified protest committee to arbitrate on debatable issues. At present, the Inter-IIT Meet Committee, consisting of one professor, one senior PTI and the students' sports secretaries from each of the five IITs, is technically unfit to judge. The present committee is riddled with members with definite partisan views.

The pleasantness (!?) that the GC breeds should not be overlooked. The inter-IIT spirit is some sort of a ghost that

makes its customary appearance in the various speeches and sometimes on the eve of the last supper. On the other hand, scrapping the GC would rob the meet of all the glamour and the excitement that it holds. All said and done, a very ticklish problem to solve, as ticklish as that of the split meet.

Kgp broke tradition this year - a change for the better. The umpiring, though ignorant in some cases, was definitely impartial. Thank you, Kgp, for providing us with some healthy enjoyment.

Tho' much is taken, much abides;
 and tho'
 We are not now that strength which
 in old days
 Moved earth and heaven, that which
 we are, we are....

Kudos to Bombay, for taking home the GC. A few weeks back, Geoff Boycott surpassed Sir Garfield Sobers' aggregate of 8032 runs in tests. Speaking at a felicitation ceremony that evening, Gavaskar said, "Enjoy it, Geoff, while it lasts."

It's a beautiful feeling
 To be back on our feet,
 And it makes me feel good
 To be back at the meet.

What a beautiful noise
 Coming up from the street;
 Got a beautiful sound,
 Got a beautiful beat.

It's a beautiful noise
 Going on everywhere;
 Like the flickering flack
 Of a train on the track,
 It's got rythm to spare.

It's the sound of the night;
 A meet of joy and strife,
 Like a symphony played
 By a passing parade
 It's the ...

THE END

(Sorry, that's modern poetry.)

DAY ZERO

The XVIII Inter-IIT Meet started a day early due to the inclusion of cricket in the schedule. The cricket match was a thriller all the way as holders Madras held back Bombay's challenge and won by 13 runs. Put in to bat we scored 163 runs. Kripa and Munavar proved to be our stars with both the willow and the ball.

All the other teams got down to the serious business of familiarising themselves with the ground conditions. The Kgp campus was a total hive of activity. Banners, shamianas, podiums being erected gave it a festive look for the ensuing carnival.

In the match against Bombay, Kripa scored the only fifty (he made 53) by our team during the meet.

DAY ONE

The meet formally kicked off to a good start. There was a marchpast with the band providing some fine music. Hordes of spectators had landed up to watch the proceedings, and a general feeling of expectancy was in the air.

The marchpast was never, is not and will never be our cup of joy. This is one trophy that hasn't seen our shelves. At least in the future we should have a serious go at it.

Prof. Sengupto, ex-director, IIT Kgp was the chief guest, and he spoke briefly on sportsmanship, a 'meeting meet', etc. The athletic events began with 100s and a gold for us via Sridhar.

There was music and a marchpast; the music was fine and the band provided the marchpast.

Incidentally, IIT Kanpur won the marchpast.

The 800 m race saw George set our on his record breaking spree. He took a full 5 seconds off the old record. George's new timing - 1 min 59 sec.

In games, it was a total Delhi-Madras day in the sense that their teams clashed in as many as four matches, with honours remaining even. Tennis was a cakewalk as we beat Kgp 3-0. Christie beat old rival GS Rao in straight sets. Cricket was a surprising loss as we went down fighting to Delhi. We made 172 for 9 and Delhi managed the score with an over and 2 wickets to spare. This was one match that Madras could have won if the umpires had been conversant with the rules.

Table tennis saw Vaidy making his debut and impressing almost everyone with his fluid flicks and loops as we beat Delhi 5-0. Volleyball was a no-nonsense affair. Our team just took Delhi apart and away. Hockey saw an interesting tussle and a solitary goal win for us over Bombay. Ding scored the lone goal and King saved the lone stroke against us.

Football, and we went down by a goal to Bombay. It was a close match. Girls baddy saw our team succumb to smashes from Smashing Reena of Delhi. Basketball in the wintry night proved to be close till around half time and then our team pulled ahead for a 64-48 win. Venu, Chandu and Gadi found the basket.

An almost break-even day. Except for the cricket defeat the other results were definitely on the cards.

DAY TWO

Athletics saw poor performances. Our boys, who had won medals in previous meets, could not, to the dismay of their supporters, hold on to the medal. Shyam earned the 4th place in broad jump. The girls' events also proved to be a washout as 'Mike' Mythili alone qualified for the 200s.

Today we were Bomb(ay)ed in all games except volleyball. Tennis and it was superb tennis all the way. Bombay, aided by junior national star Kharandikar squeezed past Madras 3-2. The Christie-Kharandikar tie produced brilliant tennis; and Kharandikar, aided by his experience, emerged victorious.

HSE Mani started his campaign for the best gymnast as he vaulted away with a gold in vaulting horse, and none could parallel his performance at parallel bars.

Bombay fell prey to our volleyball team as we spiked from the court to the hostel in straight games. Kabaddi proved that the training had helped our boys as we went down 3 - 11 to Bombay in a defence oriented match. The Bombay guys were pretty good and our boys did well to fight it to the end.

Bhoopalan and Shekar lifted the gold and silver in the 55 - 60 weight class.

Badminton , 1 - 3 in favour of Bombay. The draw was definitely to our advantage but we couldn't cash on it. The veterans Ravi and Raman played some thrilling Badminton but Raman finally prevailed over Ravi. Ashok and Ravi won their doubles to register our only win.

Bombay girls proved to be too good as they beat Madras 3-0 in women's TT. In the men's section we beat Kanpur 5-2. Vaidy again provided the star turn by winning his 3 matches without dropping a game. In a match of balanced teams we drew with Delhi 1-1. The Delhi team equalised via a stroke which was awarded against us when the ball lodged itself in King's pad. It was rank bad luck. Ding scored for us.

Bombay put a final egg in today's basket with a 70-56 coal basketball victory over us. This game saw Madras fielding Rama-

nujam in the second half. Our team played superbly with him.

Like Madras had SPECTATOR, other contingents also got out their own mags.

- (1) 'Alankar' of Kgp.
- (2) 'Daily Noise' of Bombay (noise definitely, but not daily).
- (3) 'Thaat's OK' of Kanpur (it waasn't OK).
- (4) 'Pulse' of Delhi (it stopped beating quite regularly).

DAY THREE

George took 3 seconds off the 1500 record that he had set last year. V³ and Sundar came in behind him. Sithu pulled in a bronze and Satyapal a place in the 110 m hurdles. Burman threw the javelin for a bronze. 'Mike' Mythili won the bronze in the girls' 200 m. HSS Mani added a gold and a bronze to his tally with a gold in pommelled horse and a bronze in Roman rings. His gold in pommelled horse is really creditable as he scored 7.0 while all the other participants 'ducked'.

We lifted the silver in weightlifting as Rao and Pavithran threw their weight around to grab a silver and bronze in the above 65 kg class. The weightlifting team was worth its weight in silver. We out-lonaed Kanpur 43-5 in kabaddi. Ramaswamy, Mariappan and Srinath shone. We lost 0-2 to Kgp in girls' baddy. Usha played a tense three setter.

It was a 3-0 win over Delhi in ladies' TT. The firm of Amma and Akka proved to be too good. With this they were just one match away from the women's TT silver.

Kgp were the next team to face the wrath of our volleyball team. Kgp spiked well but were soon sent helter skelter as our boys moved into top gear. Everything went right for us on the footer field except that the ball did not get into the Delhi goal. Delhi surprised us with a goal in the second half. Our kicks repeatedly found the crosspiece. The footer team was really disheartened after this match.

DAY FOUR

HSS Mani crowned himself and Madras with glory by winning the best gymnast award by virtue of which Madras lapped up the gymnastics gold.

Ranganathan 'hammered' home the bronze in the only achievement in athletics today.

After some anxious moments Madras, playing below par, beat Kanpur 3-2 in tennis. The Madras girls won the TT silver by taking Kgp 3-1. Kudos to them for a good performance.

Kgp, with footer in their blood, beat us 3-1. Burman scored for us off a corner kick. A large and pretty knowledgeable crowd turned up to watch almost all footer matches.

In girls' baddy, we lost love-two to Bombay. Usha played another good three-setter, but in vain. The Bombay girls were too good. On the other hand, the men had a relatively easy 3-0 win over Delhi. In a blitz of raids, the hockey field saw Madras beat Kanpur 4-1. Kanpur went into the lead in the second minute, and thereafter the Madras forwards took over. Supported excellently by a good defence, the forwards GS, V³, Ding and Kumar scored.

Kanpur turned the tables on fancied Madras in cricket. This match was again marred by some ignorant umpiring. This defeat was a blow to the cricket team's morale.

A lot of credit for the silver in women's TT goes to Nehru Isaac for having coached them. He was more than fair to the fairer sex. He was the chap-around-(d).

Some of our teams were definitely high in spirits.

There were many cribs about the basketball court, but Navyman George (Bombay) declared it shipshape.

DAY FIVE

Boudha shared the fourth place in the pole vault. Sithu seems to specialise in bronze medals - he got one in the 400 m hurdles. The shock of the day was Sridhar coming second in the 200 m. Sandy, Kanpur's star athlete, beat him to the tape. Hard luck, Sridhar.

Delhi, playing man to man from the word go, beat us 70-53 to clinch the basketball gold. This makes it a hat-trick of golds for Delhi, and avenges their defeat at the hands of Madras last year.

The volleyball team convincingly got back the gold by beating holders Kanpur in a thrilling match. They gave away their only game during the tournament during this match. No one can doubt they are the ultimate champs. Venu and Moses were in top form throughout the tournament.

We beat Kgp 24-14 in kabaddi. Though we ended up with a bronze, one feels the team definitely deserved better. What pulled down the team was the shocking reversal in the Delhi match, after we led by a good margin at half time.

In men's badminton, we beat Kgp 3-0. Ravi came back from a one-game deficit to win hands down.

In a superlative TT tie, Madras got the better of Bombay 5-4. Madras led 2-0, Bombay equalled at 2-2, Madras led 3-2, Bombay pulled ahead 4-3, and Madras clinched the issue at 5-4. Vaidy lost his only match of the tournament to the Bombay stalwart Mogi. A cool, calculating, TM-fresh Sriram did not succumb to the tense excitement in the air and beat Ashish Vengasarkar in straight games.

Ashok D'sa scored from the penalty spot to record our first win in footer. We tied for the bronze in footer. Kgp got us 1-0 in a hockey match in which chances went abegging. We missed and missed and they seized a defence lapse and scored.

Delhi shocked holders Madras 3-0 in tennis. Our boys played well below par. We were in fact leading in the first sets of all the three matches but somehow could not hold on. With this we got the bronze.