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The inaugural day provided no surprises at least as for the outcome of the matches was concerned. The prize surprise, the surprise of surprises was holders Loyola's withdrawal. This must be a real blow to the tourney. Loyola's reason for crying off - not enough training and unfit players - would seem to be rather a lame excuse considering that the first leg of their annual Bertram Tournaments starts a week from now.

OAT wore a festive look today - 'brief' banners with 'vested' interests, people throwing calculated glances at the Mecom ad, some more brilliant ads and what have you!

Prof Surjit Singh, Advisor Sports, set the ball rolling with a warm welcome wpeech, laying emphasis on how the organisational capabilities of the students had surfaced. He went on to remind everyone of the fun that was in store for them over the next few days.

The di'rector' Prof P. V. Indiresan inaugurated the tournament. In a brief speech he encouraged all concerned to go ahead and have a good time this week in a sporting and friendly manner. He quickly wound up so that the first match could start not more than 15 min. late.

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STELLA beat KV IIT 93-44.

Stellas, previous winners of the KR trophy, cruised past the diminutive KV girls without much ado. Kavita Nathan (ex-Churchpark) scored 34 points, Elizabeth Joseph (ex-KV IIT) scored 27 points, and they were well supported by their skipper Banu Vasan. Anu Murugan was strong in defence. Shobana shone for the losers with eleven points. On the basis of their absolute and dedicated approach Stella should be a strong favourite for the KR trophy. Time alone will tell.

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Stella beat KV IIT 93-44. KV IIT beat IIT(M) 65-4 in a practice match. Now with some quick relative grading, one can conclude that....

ST. JOSEPH'S TRICHY beat GOVT. COLLEGE KOLAR 106-81.

The Joseph's team swung into action like a well oiled machine to outmanoeuvre Govt. College, Kolar in a very fast high scoring match. Joseph's were comfortably placed at 54-29 at half time. Govt. College, Kolar pulled up their socks in the second half and narrowed the margin. But towards the end, Joseph's again demonstrated their superiority and took the match. Vincent Sagayaraj (32) and K. Palaniappan (28) demonstrated their speed and dexterity for Joseph's, while Adinarayana had a fantastic tally of 47 points for Kolar to his credit, although in vain.

NEW COLLEGE beat PAUT 83-65.

The two teams were neck to neck right through the first half. The half time score was 40-39 in favour of New College, with skipper Nazar of New College and Raman of PAUT dominating the proceedings. PAUT got jinxed on 49 and failed repeatedly to score while New College rapidly climbed up to a lead of about 10 baskets. At one stage both Raman and Nazar were on four fouls. While Nazar continued to play his regular game, Raman was apprehensive about being fouled a fifth time.

This was a match in which many long shots were tried, and they paid off more often than not. All in all, it was a very engrossing match.

IIT Bombay landed up today with Navyman George in their fleet. IIT-B were just rarin' to go and got down to practise to get a feel of our courts in right earnest this morning.

Most girls wear shorts while playing basketball. The rest prefer to skirt the issue.

National College beat PAUT 113-92.

A very sparse crowd watched this match. There were more organisers than spectators - a pity, since it was a good match. This was the only match of the morning. National College, Bangalore outscored PAUT in a high scoring match. Heading the scorers list were the two interNATIONAL stars Sanath Kumar (24) and Ganesh (37). Raghavendra (a member of the victorious Karnataka State Junior team) fed his pivots well and dextrously controlled the game. Raman with 40 points salvaged some prestige for PAUT. Ilango and Rathnakar scored 16 each.

With so much enthu for basketball, all the other sports fields are dormant. Therefore, what we need is 'Wakefield'.

The 'high lights' of this year's tournament are the floodlights.

Outstation teams may be interested in our 1,87,852 story building. The Central Library is near Gajendra Circle.

The Poddar team is brimming with confidence - it has been winning consistently in Maharashtra. The team is overflowing with University players. In fact, they were rather disappointed when Loyola withdrew from the tournament. Stocky Jeetu is back, as the Taramani and Velacheri chai sellers will tell you. S. Venkatesh, a Maharashtra state player, is very much around.

"Ring ring telephone ring." RAX 558 will get you the control room at the "control room end" of DAT. Contact them for any help needed.

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