



P-ISSN: 2394-1685  
E-ISSN: 2394-1693  
Impact Factor (ISRA): 5.38  
IJPESH 2016; 3(6): 327-331  
© 2016 IJPESH  
www.kheljournal.com  
Received: 25-09-2016  
Accepted: 26-10-2016

**Nagaraddi B Mallanna**  
Physical Cultural Instructor  
Govt. First Grade College  
Jewargi Dist: Gulbarga,  
Karnataka, India

**Dr. Prasannakumar  
Shivasharanappa**  
Assistant Professor  
(Contact Basis) University of  
Agricultural Science Dharwad,  
Karnataka, India

## Dhyan Chand [Field hockey player]

**Nagaraddi B Mallanna and Dr. Prasannakumar Shivasharanappa**

### Abstract



**Born:** August 29, 1905, Allahabad

**Died:** December 3, 1979, Delhi

**Height:** 1.7 m

**Parents:** Sameshwar Dutt Singh

**Siblings:** Roop Singh, Mool Singh

**Children:** Ashok Kumar

Dhyan Chand was an Indian field hockey player, who is widely considered as the greatest field hockey player of all time. He is most remembered for his extraordinary goals. He is also known as "The Wizard" for his superb ball control." Dhyan Chand is in fact the magician of hockey".

**Keywords:** Dhyan Chand, hockey player, Olympic gold medal

### Introduction

**Early life:** Dhyan Chand was born in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh in a Rajput family. He was the elder brother of another player Roop Singh. His father Sameshwar Dutt Singh was in the British Indian Army, and he played hockey in the army. Dhyan Chand had two brothers - Mool Singh, and Roop Singh. Because of Sameshwar Dutt's numerous army transfers, the family had to move to different cities and as such Chand had to terminate his education after only six years of schooling. The family finally settled in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, India. Being in the military, Dhyan's father got a small piece of land for a house.

Young Chand had no serious inclination towards sports, though he loved wrestling. He stated that he did not remember whether he played any hockey worth mentioning before he joined the Army, though he said that he occasionally indulged in casual games in Jhansi with his friends. Chand joined the Indian Army at the age of 16. The Hindi word Chand literally means the moon. Since Dhyan Singh used to practice a lot during the night after his duty hours, he used to wait for the moon to come out so that the visibility in the field (during his era there were no flood lights) improved. He was hence called "Chand", by his fellow players, as his practice sessions at night invariably coincided with the coming out of the moon.

Between 1922 and 1926, Chand exclusively played army hockey tournaments and regimental games. Chand was ultimately selected for the Indian Army team.

In New Zealand tour, the team won 18 matches, drew 2 and lost only 1, receiving praise from all spectators. Following this, in the two Test matches against the New Zealand squad, the team won the first and narrowly lost the second. Returning to India, Chand was immediately promoted to Lance Naik. After successfully lobbying for reintroducing field hockey in the

**Correspondence**  
**Nagaraddi B Mallanna**  
Physical Cultural Instructor  
Govt. First Grade College  
Jewargi Dist: Gulbarga,  
Karnataka, India

Olympics, the newly formed Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) made preparations to send its best possible team for the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics. In 1925, an Inter-Provincial Tournament was held to select India's national field hockey team. Five teams participated in the inaugural nationals United-Provinces (UP) Punjab, Bengal, Rajputana and central provinces. Chand got permission from the Army to play for the United from the Army to play for the United Provinces team.

In its first game in the tournament Dhyhan Chand as the centre-forward, and Marthins, their inside-right, were particularly happy in their understanding of each other. Dhyhan Chand attracted much attention by his clever stick work. His penetrating runs and judicious passes seemed to assure for him a position in the team that is to take part in the Olympic Games.

In the 1928 Amsterdam Summer Olympics, the Indian team was put in the division a table, with Austria, Belgium, Denmark and Switzerland. On 17 May the Indian national hockey team made its Olympic debut against Austria, winning 6-0, with Chand scoring 3 goals. The next day India defeated Belgium 9-0; however Chand only scored once. On 20 May, Denmark lost to India 5-0, with Chand netting 3. Two days later, he scored 4 goals when India defeated Switzerland 6-0 in the semi-finals.

The final match took place on 26 May, with India facing the home team of the Netherlands. The Indian team's better players Feroze Khan, Ali Shaukat and Kher Singh were on the sick list and Chand himself was ill. However, even with a skeletal side, India managed to defeat the hosts 3-0 (with Singh scoring 2), and the Indian team won its country's first Olympic gold medal. Keeper Richard Allen created a unique record of not conceding a single goal. Chand was the top scorer of the tournament by a large margin, scoring 14 goals in 5 matches. A newspaper report about India's triumph said.



**“This is not a game of hockey, but magic. Dhyhan Chand is in of fact the magician hockey.”**

On returning to India, the team was received by thousands of people at the Bombay harbour, compared to the three people who had seen them off.

One Los Angeles newspaper wrote, “The All-India field hockey team which G. D. Sondhi brought to Los Angeles to defend their 1928 Olympic title, was like a typhoon out of the east. They trampled under their feet and all but shoved out of the Olympic stadium the eleven players representing the United States.”

In 1933, Chand's home team, the Jhansi Heroes participated in and won the Beighton Cup. In Kolkata, the Heroes also won the Lakshmi-bilas Cup tournament, which was open only to Indian teams. In 1935, they successfully defended their Beighton Cup title, though lost the subsequent year.

In December 1934, the IHF decided to send a team to New

Zealand in the New Year. Chand and his brother were immediately selected. When the Nawab of Manavadar declined to play, Chand was appointed captain. In the subsequent tour, the team played a total of 48 matches on this tour, with 28 in New Zealand and the remainder in India, Ceylon and Australia. India won every match, scoring 584 goals and conceding only 40. Of these 48 matches, Chand played 43 and scored a total of 201 goals.

Upon returning to India, Chand resumed his duties in the barracks. In December 1935 the IHF decided to stage the Inter-Provincial tournament to select the Olympic team. Chand was again denied permission to leave his platoon, though once again he was selected without formalities.

On 5 August, India won its first match against Hungary 4-0. India won the rest of the group matches against USA (7-0, with Chand scoring 2 goals) and Japan (9-0, with Chand scoring 4). On 10 August, Ali Dara arrived. Their fourth match was the semi-final against France, whom they defeated 10-0, with Chand scoring 4 goals. Meanwhile, Germany had beaten Denmark 6-0, beaten Afghanistan 4-1 and in the play-offs, had defeated the Netherlands 3-0. Thus, India and Germany were to clash in the 1936 Berlin Olympics field hockey final on 15 August.



**Dhyhan Chand scoring a goal against Germany in the 1936 Olympics hockey final**

On the morning of the final, the entire team was nervous since they had been defeated the last time they had faced Germany. In the locker room, Pankaj Gupta produced a Congress tricolour. Reverently the team saluted it, prayed and marched onto the field. The German team was successful in restricting the India side to a single goal until the first interval. After the interval, the Indian team launched an all-out attack, easily defeating Germany 8-1, incidentally the only goal scored against India in that Olympic tournament. Chand top-scored with 3 goals, Dara scored 2 and Roop Singh, Tapsell and Jaffar one each. Describing the game, the Special Correspondent of the Hindu wrote,

“Every member of the team was feeling the strain of the defeat to the Germans in the practice match, and no one was in his usual self. I never saw a hockey team from India, where the game is definitely of a superior standard compared to the rest of the world, being so obsessed on the eve of the match. The players were nervous as to what the result of the match would be, which was heightened by the feeling that the burden of the country's honour was on their shoulders.

The game was played at a fast pace and was packed with thrilling incidents. The Germans undercut and lifted the ball, but the Indian team countered with brilliant half-volleying and amazing long shots. Twice Dara attempted to score but was declared offside. Dhyhan Chand discarded his spiked shoes and stockings and played with bare legs and rubber soles and became speedier in the second half.

The vigorous German attacks were brilliantly saved by Allen and Tapsell. The goal scored by Weiss of Germany was the only goal scored against the Indians throughout the tournament. The whole Indian team put up a splendid display. Dhyan Chand and Dara impressed by their combination, Tapsell by his reliability and Jaffar by his tremendous bursts of speed.”

There have been many erroneous [wrong] media reports over the years claiming that Dhyan Chand scored 6 goals in India's 8-1 victory over Germany in the 1936 Olympic final. However, Major Dhyan Chand in his autobiography titled “Goal!” published in 1952 by Sport & Pastime.

“When Germany was four goals down, a ball hit Allen's pad and rebounded. The Germans took full advantage of this and made a rush, netting the ball before we could stop it. That was the only goal Germany would score in the match against our eight, and incidentally the only goal scored against India in the entire Olympic tournament. India's goal-getters were Roop Singh, Tapsell and Jaffar with one each, Dara two and I three.” International Hockey Federation records also attribute only 3 of the 8 goals to Dhyan Chand in the Berlin Olympic final. The final was included in the Leni Riefenstahl film on the 1936 Olympics, Olympia. Overall, in 3 Olympic tournaments, Chand had scored 33 goals in 12 matches.



### East African tour and final tournaments

After returning from Berlin, Chand joined his regiment. Between 1936 and the commencement of the War in 1939, he largely confined himself to army hockey, with one visit to Kolkata to take part in the Beighton Cup tournament in 1937. After the Beighton Cup, Chand spent four months in a military camp in Pachmarhi to attend military classes. Later, he was promoted to Lieutenant.

In 1947, the IHF [Indian Hockey Federation] was requested by the Asian Sports Association (ASA) of East Africa to send a team to play a series of matches. The ASA made a condition that Chand should be included in the team. Once again, Chand was chosen as captain.

The team assembled in Bombay on 23 November 1947, and reached Mombasa on 15 December and played 9 matches in British East Africa winning all. Chand, though now in his forties, still managed to score 61 goals in 22 matches.

After returning from the East African tour in early 1948, Chand decided to gradually phase out his involvement in 'serious hockey'. He played exhibition matches,

In India he is often referred to as “Hockey ka Jaadugar” with translates to "Magician of the game of Hockey". It is also rumoured Chand used to practice ball control by sprinting along the length of railway tracks while balancing the ball on the track rail.

Last Days: - In 1951, Captain Dhyan Chand was honoured at the National Stadium with Dhyan Chand tournament. Satinder

Mullick remembers that Dhyan Chand took him and children of Capt. Kashmir Lal, Sports secretary of Army Hockey Federation<sup>1</sup> Dhyan Chand was staying in Jodhpur Mess. He was admired by all at the National Stadium.

In 1956, at the age of 51, he retired from the army with the rank of Major. The Government of India honoured him the same year by conferring him the Padma Bhushan (India's third highest civilian honour).

After retirement, he taught at coaching camps at Mount Abu, Rajasthan. Later, he accepted the position of Chief Hockey Coach at the National Institute of Sports, Patiala, a post he held for several years. Chand spent his last days in his hometown of Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Dhyan Chand died on 3 December 1979 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi. He was cremated at the Jhansi Heroes ground in his hometown, after some initial problems in getting clearance. His regiment, the Punjab Regiment, accorded him full military honours.



Dhyan Chand statue at Sipri hill, Jhansi



Dhyan Chand Sports Stadium at Jhansi

Even today, Dhyan Chand remains a legendary figure in Indian and world hockey. His astounding skills have been glorified in various apocryphal stories and anecdotes. A number of such these revolve around the fact that Singh had a magical control over dribbling the ball. “29 August, Chand's birthday, is celebrated as National Sports Day in India.” The President gives away sport-related awards such as the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award and Dronacharya Award on this day at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, India. The Union Minister of India gives away 20th National Award 2012, namely “Gem of India, to the magician of hockey i.e. Major Dhyan Chand.”

The award was received by his son Ashok Dhyan Chand (hockey Olympian himself) on behalf of his late Hon'ble father; award was given by Journalist Association of India under the flagship of Journalists Federation of India, Sirifort Auditorium, New Delhi, India, on 22 September 2012.

India's highest award for lifetime achievement in sports is the Dhyan Chand Award which has been awarded annually from 2002 to sporting figures who not only contribute through their performance but also contribute to the sport after their retirement. The National Stadium, Delhi was renamed Dhyan Chand National Stadium in 2002 in his honour.

He scored over 400 goals in his career, from 1926 to 1948.

Astro-turf hockey pitch, at the Indian Gymkhana Club in London has been named after Indian hockey legend Dhyan Chand.

In 1956, at the age of 51, he retired from the army with the rank of Major. After he retired he coached for a while, and then settled in his beloved Jhansi. However, the last days of Dhyan Chand were not very happy, as he was short of money and was badly ignored by the nation. Once he went to a tournament in Ahmadabad and they turned him away not knowing who he was. He developed liver cancer, and was sent to a general ward at the AIIMS, New Delhi.

Once, while playing a hockey game, Major Dhyan Chand was not able to score a goal against the opposition team. After several misses, he argued with the match referee regarding the measurement of the goal post, and amazingly, it was found to not be in conformation with the official width of a goal post under international rule.

India played its first match in the 1936 Olympics; Dhyan Chand's magical stick work drew crowds from other venues to the hockey field. A German newspaper carried a banner headline: 'The Olympic complex now has a magic show too.' The next day, there were posters all over Berlin: Visit the hockey stadium to watch the Indian magician Dhyan Chand in action.

Legend has it that the Fuhrer was so impressed by Dhyan Chand's wizardry with the stick that he offered the Indian a chance to move to Germany and the post of Colonel in his army, which the Indian is said to have declined with a smile.

During a match with Germany in the 1936 Olympics, Dhyan Chand lost a tooth in a collision with the particularly aggressive Germany goalkeeper Tito Warnholtz. Returning to the field after medical attention, Dhyan Chand reportedly told the players to "teach a lesson" to the Germans by not scoring. The Indians repeatedly took the ball to the German circle only to backpedal.

Cricket world's legend Don Bradman and Hockey's greatest player Dhyan Chand once came face to face at Adelaide in 1935, when the Indian hockey team was in Australia. After watching Dhyan Chand in action, Don Bradman remarked "He scores goals like runs in cricket".

Residents of Vienna, Austria, honoured him by setting up a statue of him with four hands and four sticks, depicting his control and mastery over the ball.

A tube station has been named after him in London, along with 358 other past and present Olympic heroes, in the run-up to the Games, starting on 27 July 2012. The Transport for London has brought out a special 'Olympic Legends Map', detailing all 361 tube stations. Only six stops have been named after hockey players, with the three Indians - Dhyan Chand, Roop Singh and Leslie Claudius - cornering the majority.

In the Netherlands, the authorities broke his hockey stick to check if there was a magnet inside.

Dhyan Chand was among the nominees considered for India's highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna for 2014 and there was support for it. The award was then given to Sachin Tendulkar and C.N. Rao. The family members of Dhyan Chand were disappointed with government decision. The RTI was filed which suggested that the Prime

Minister's Office had ignored the recommendation from sports ministry on giving the award over Sachin Tendulkar

India's highest award for lifetime achievement in sports is the Dhyan Chand Award which has been awarded annually from 2002 to sporting figures who not only contribute through their performance but also contribute to the sport after their retirement. "The National Stadium, Delhi was renamed Dhyan Chand National Stadium in 2002 in his honour."

He scored over 400 goals in his career, from 1926 to 1948.

"Astro-turf hockey pitch, at the Indian Gymkhana Club in London has been named after Indian hockey legend Dhyan Chand."

10 interesting facts about Dhyan Chand

Dhyan Chand is widely considered to be the best hockey player of all time. His goal scoring ability was phenomenal and the opposition defenders were often made to look like sitting ducks in front of this wizard from India.

Chand played a pivotal role in India winning three consecutive Olympic gold medals in 1928, 1932 and 1936. His birthday, 29th August, is celebrated as the National Sports Day in India and the President gives away awards such as Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna and Dronacharya awards on this day. The hockey wizard.

On his 110th birth anniversary, let us look at a few interesting facts about the legend.

1. Chand joined the Indian Army at the age of 16 and took up hockey while he was still enrolled. Since Dhyan Singh used to practice a lot during the night, he was given the nickname "Chand" by his fellow players; his practice sessions at night invariably coincided with the coming out of the moon. 'Chand' means moon in Hindi.
2. Dhyan Chand was the leading goal-scorer at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics with 14 goals. A news report about India's victory said "This is not a game of hockey, but magic. Dhyan Chand is, in fact, the magician of hockey."
3. Even though Dhyan Chand was involved in many memorable matches, he considers a particular hockey match to be his best. "If anybody asked me which the best match that I played in was, I will unhesitatingly say that it was the 1933 Beighton Cup final between Calcutta Customs and Jhansi Heroes."
4. In the 1932 Summer Olympics, India beat USA 24-1 and Japan 11-1. Dhyan Chand scored 12 goals while his brother Roop Singh netted 13 out of the 35 goals India scored. This led to them being dubbed the 'hockey twins'.
5. Once, when Dhyan Chand was unable to score in a match, he argued with the match referee about the measurement of the goal post. To everybody's amazement, he was right; the goal post was found to be in contravention of the official minimum width prescribed under international rules.
6. After India's first match at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, people watching other sporting events thronged to the hockey stadium. A German newspaper carried a banner headline: 'The Olympic complex now has a magic show too.' The whole city of Berlin had posters: "Visit the hockey stadium to watch the Indian magician Dhyan Chand in action."
7. According to widespread reports, German dictator Adolf Hitler offered Dhyan Chand German citizenship and a position in the German Military, after an impressive showing at the Berlin Olympics. The offer was declined by the Indian magician.
8. Australian great Don Bradman met Dhyan Chand at Adelaide in 1935. After watching him play, Bradman

remarked, "He scores goals like runs in cricket".

9. Dhyan Chand has scored over 400 goals in his career spanning 22 years (1926-48).
10. Hockey authorities in the Netherlands once broke his hockey stick to check if there was a magnet inside.

### **References**

1. En wikipedia org
2. [www.sportskeeda.com](http://www.sportskeeda.com)
3. [www.mapsofindia.com](http://www.mapsofindia.com)
4. [www.iloveindia.com](http://www.iloveindia.com)
5. Major Dhyanchand blogspot.in
6. [www.thefamouspeople.com](http://www.thefamouspeople.com).