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Contribution of dronacharya awardee hockey coach sardar baldev singh in the field of hockey

Darshan Kaur and Dr. Monika Verma

Abstract

The present study purpose is to emphasize the contribution of Dronacharya Awardee Hockey Coach Sardar Baldev Singh's life, his family background, and his achievements towards promotion and coaching of sports in the country. His philosophy with regard to Sports Coaching and his trainees performance in the field of Hockey in India. The research paper will draw attention on his Biography, his coaching career, his achievements as a coach, Moreover to enlist professional leadership qualities of Dronacharya Sardar Baldev Singh.

Keywords: Contribution, dronacharya awardee, hockey coach, sardar baldev singh

Introduction

The history of hockey game has its roots well laid in the world's early civilizations. It is considered as one of the oldest known game, which is believed to be in existence about 1200 years before the Ancient Games of Olympia. The time from Arabs, Greeks, Romans, Persians to Ethiopians, everyone played a variation of the game. However, some people played it just for recreation; some thought that hockey would make them better warriors. In the 19th century, the modern game of hockey which was the field hockey, developed in the British Isles, even though many ancient civilizations played hockey in different variations before the rules set up. British Army regiments introduced a popular English school game, hockey in India and among the native Indians, the game soon found to be a favour. Spreading internationally, the popularity of the game was especially effervescent in India and Pakistan. Then, the London Hockey Association was formed and the rules for playing hockey were standardized. The history of the Hockey goes back to the Greeks perhaps even earlier and we know that they played a game using "hooked" sticks, not unlike the modern ones. Under the name of 'Hurley' and 'Shinty' a game like hockey was played in Ireland and Scotland. After many years of change during which the game grow up, it may now be assumed to settle in form, though small changes in the rule of suit changing conditions are always possible. It's interesting to note that hockey has always been and a mature game it is likely to remain same. India sportsmen have enjoyed their share of Laurels in the Asian game commonwealth Games and also in other individual contests but apart from hockey, the gold medal had eluded India in other Olympic disciplines. In India, the first hockey builds up in Calcutta in 1885-86 and soon Bombay and Punjab followed suit. At the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics Games, Indian hockey team got his first Olympic gold, without conceding a single goal. The sign of this savage mastery was the wizardry of Indian hockey legend - Dhyani Chand, who hypnotized the Amsterdam swarm with his amazing skills. Indian hockey juggernaut won six straight Olympic gold medals from the year 1928 to 1956 and winning 24 consecutive matches. At that time, India scored 178 goals conceding only 7 in the process. That time was the golden era for the Indian hockey team when India loomed large in world hockey and produced finest players, the game has ever seen. In 1974, World Cup at Mandelieu (France), Hockey India Women team participated for the first time and where they got 4th place. In the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics, the women's hockey event held for the first time in the history of Olympics, where Indian Women's team gave a breakthrough performance by standing on the 4th place in it. After 36 years, the Indian Women Hockey Team had participated in Olympics which were held at Rio De Janeiro (Brazil), in the year 2016. In 2016 Olympics team, two players were from Shahbad Markanda.

The exceptional players of Shahbad Markanda were being produced by Dronacharya Awardee coach S. Baldev Singh, who maintained his superior performance for a very long period at the international level. Highly dedicated and professionally committed sports person, coaches and administrations are required to improve the overall performance in hockey in India. The present study will highlight the contribution of S. Baldev Singh in the field of Hockey and as sports Promoter. The exemplary performance of S. Baldev Singh in the field of Hockey and different area of sports would inspire and motivate all sportspersons and coaches, irrespective of the sports.

Biography of Sardar Baldev Singh

Sardar Baldev Singh was born on November 15, 1950, Sulhar village Patiala, Punjab. His father is Sardar Pritam Singh and mother Rajwant Kaur. They were six siblings. His spouse name is Mrs Jagdeep Kaur, with no issue. He adopted his brother's daughter named Punninder Kaur. During his childhood, he feels that the initial days of his life was very crucial because he suffered a lot for the money and for his livelihood. His father and forefather were migrated from Pakistan. His family outlive was totally depended on agriculture. They all did very hard work. After spending six years in Patiala, his family shifted to Ludhiana (Punjab). Here he took education in a government school named Kundanpuri. He was only six years when his parents took him for admission in school. But the school management committee refused to give him admission because that time he was only six. According to school rules one can take admission in school when he or she is for seven years. Baldev's parents requested to the school administration and management that is there any other option by doing so, our child can get admission in school. Then his parents did some documentary work by writing his age one year elder in his documents to take admission in school. During his schooling, he was very naughty and had very less interest in studies. He used to play games in his childhood period. His parents did a lot of struggle in their life for fulfilling the basic needs of their children welfare. The agriculture land they got after ten years when they were migrated from Pakistan. The land allotted in Ludhiana was very poor quality for agriculture. His parents used to sell cow dung for their livelihood. He himself feels bad in the absence of money. Sometimes he even cries for money. Because that time he suffered from poor financial conditions. When he became teen or mature then he realized that what kind of life he is spending, looking and waiting for the money and how bad it is. His life was full of struggle and challenging at that time. He himself did all kind of agriculture work like cart pulling, harvesting, fertilizing and so one. During schooling, he started hockey playing and his team won Under - 19 Punjab School State Tournament. It was his first Tournament. Afterwards, he went to G.G.M. Khalsa College, Ludhiana for further studies. He was an outstanding sportsman and also assigned as the best sportsman in his College. He himself played as a right fullback in his team. In 1975 he represented Patiala in the National Tournament. He did Masters in History by correspondence mode. He did NIS Coaching diploma in 1979-80 from Patiala, Punjab.

Dronacharya Sardar Baldev Singh Coaching Career

A NIS diploma in 1979-80 paved his way to coaching but prior to that, he trained Arya College Hockey Team. Mr Thal Singh was Principal of that college. He offered him 1200 rupees for training his college team. He accepted that offer

and started training with new students and gave his services from 1975 to 1978. In Ludhiana, there were outstanding Hockey teams in various colleges, for instance, Government College, Sudhar College, P.A.U. and many more. Arya College team dominated for the next 10 years, started many sports wings and hosted many Inter college tournaments as well as many other sports activities. He gave the best training to the players. It was under his tutelage players showed their best performance in International arena. His training methods found instant recognition and he was approached by the Punjab State Electricity Board to train their team. He was virtually forced to take up the assignment and he guided the team to win the title Inter Board Tournament, he revealed while concealing the fact that all this while he did not accept any salary. During that time he got many offers from many other sports academies and institutions. Namdhari hockey academy was also offered him a job for training their team. Namdhari hockey academy which is situated in Shri Bhaini Sahib, Ludhiana (Punjab). He refused to accept this offer. In 1970-80 he did NIS diploma course from Patiala and July 1980 he again got a job offer from Namdhari Hockey Academy but this time he accepted this job offer. He started giving training to the Namdhari's Men Hockey Team. The Namdhari community was very fond of Hockey. They were true hockey lovers. Namdhari's Guru Shri Satguru Jagjeet Singh Ji used to supervise the training sessions of the players. He always made a bird's eye view of the sportsperson.

He was a sports lover. He used to play games with the players. Satguru Jagjeet Singh ji provided each and every facility to the players. Free boarding, lodging, sports kit and healthy diet was given by the Academy. He got hockey Astroturf on the very first day of his joining at the academy. After one year Baldev's team became joint winner of Junior Nehru Hockey Tournament which was held at Shivaji Stadium, New Delhi. There were more than 10,000 spectators. In toss, his team won and D.A.V Meerut College was playing opposite to his team. In which most of the players were senior from his team. But still, his team dominated. The match disturbed by the external sources and then light objection took place and both the teams became joint winner of the tournament. Moreover, S. Baldev Singh was adjudged as the best coach award in that tournament. In 1981 he got appointed in Haryana Sports Department. He posted in Shahbad Markanda, Kurukshetra till 1986. In Shahbad, Baldev trained boys only he had no interest in Women's Hockey. So he gave stress to train boys rather than girls. He produced Olympians like Sanjeev Kumar Dang, Sandeep Singh. He also made international players like Gagandeep Singh, Gurdeep Singh. During that time some girls were also showed interest in learning hockey and they performed well at the international arena. In 1986 he did a tie-up with Namdhari Hockey Team and he got transferred in Sirsa, Haryana. He revived Namdhari's Hockey Team which was in village Jeevan Nagar in District Sirsa. There was a Hockey Nursury for hockey players. All the players were from one village Jeevan Nagar and Didar Singh and Harpal Singh represented India in Olympics.

In 1992 he came back again in Shahbad Markanda town, in the State's Sports Department. Looking for a good Hockey ground, he found one school named Guru Nanak Pritam Girl's Senior Secondary School. Since accessing the ground meant allowing the girls to play as well Baldev Singh took on the challenge because it was Haryana and the school was so conservative. Even an accidental slipping off a dupatta was unacceptable. The school administration did not want boys

and girls to play together. Reluctantly and under pressure from the relentless Baldev Singh, the school allowed the girls to play. But each player on the ground had to struggle against the social abression. Shahbad was a small town, the mentality of the people was very narrow. According to their philosophy girls should not play hockey, not to wear t-shirts and shorts. Girls should stay in their homes. But still girls started playing hockey, people pass silly comments when the girls went for practice, choriya hai kuch nhi kar sakti. The girls had an inner urge to play. During their initial time, they played with wearing salvar kameez later on which was replaced by a t-shirt and long skirt and afterwards a t-shirt and shorts. The school management committee was very conservative. They did not allow for an open environment. S. Manmohan Singh helped him a lot, who was senior vice president of the school management committee. School Principal and staff members helped and cooperated with him in every situation. They always supported him for his work and helped him for fulfilling basic requirements like ground maintaining and sports equipment. Later, that ground became one of the best grassy ground in Haryana. S. Baldev Singh worked against all odds with only positive thinking of making the star players or a star squad team for Nation. He produced Olympians and his players got honoured by Arjuna and Bhim Awards.

Table 1: Arjuna Awardees produced by Dronacharya Sardar Baldev Singh

S. No.	Name	Year
1.	Suriender kaur	2009
2.	Sandeep Singh	2010
3.	Jasjeet Kaur Handa	2010
4.	Rani Rampal	2016

Table 2: Bhim Awardees produced by Dronacharya Sardar Baldev Singh

S. No.	Name	Year
1.	Sandeep kaur	1994-1995
2.	Sanjeev Dang	1995-1996
3.	Suriender Kaur	1999-2000
4.	Balwinder Kaur	2000-2001
5.	Gurpreet Kaur	2001-2002
6.	Simarjeet Kaur	2002-2003
7.	Suman Bala	2004-2005
8.	Jasjeet Kaur	2005-2006
9.	Rajwinder Kaur	2006-2007
10.	Joydeep Kaur	2007-2008
11.	Ritu Rani	2013-2014
12.	Rani Rampal	2017

Table 3: International Players produced by S. Baldev Singh till 30-6-2019

S. No	Name	Level
1.	Didar Singh	Olympian
2.	Gurdeep Singh Bhullar	International
3.	Hardeep Singh (Neeta)	International
4.	Jagdeep Singh	International
5.	Bhupinder Kaur	International
6.	Sanjeev Kumar Dang	Olympian
7.	Gagandeep Singh	International
8.	Sonia Pal	International
9.	Harpal Singh	Olympian
10.	Sandeep Kaur (Former Indian Captain)	International
11.	Suriender Kaur	International
12.	Simarjeet Kaur	International
13.	Rajwinder Kaur	International
14.	Balwinder Kaur	International
15.	Kiran Bala	International
16.	Rajni Bala	International
17.	Nuttan	International
18.	Gurpreet Kaur	International
19.	Ritu Rani (G.K)	International
20.	Suman Bala	International
21.	Jasjeet Kaur	International
22.	Joydeep Kaur	International
23.	Ramneek Kaur	International
24.	Gagandeep Kaur	International
25.	Kanupriya	International
26.	Karamjeet Kaur	International
27.	Ritu Rani (Former Indian Team Captain)	International
28.	Harjinder Kaur	International
29.	Bikramjeet Singh	International
30.	Sandeep Singh	Olympian
31.	Harpreet kaur	International
32.	Rani Rampal (Indian Team Captain)	Olympian
33.	Meenakshi Saini	International
34.	Monika	International
35.	Navjot Kaur	Olympian
36.	Manjeet kaur	International
37.	Anju Dhiman	International
38.	Jaspreet Kaur	International
39.	Meenakshi	International
40.	Nariender Saini	International

41.	Hardeep Kaur	International
42.	Gagandeep Kaur (Jr.)	International
43.	Ritu (Jr.)	International
44.	Manpreet Kaur	International
45.	Priyanka	International
46.	Reet Kaur	International
47.	Pooja	International
48.	Nidhi	International
49.	Neha	International

Table 4: National Level Players produced by S. Baldev Singh till 30-6-2019.

S. No.	Name	Level
1.	Gurcharan Singh (Pappu)	National
2.	Balwinder Singh	National
3.	Gurmej Singh Moli	National
4.	Gurcharan Singh	National
5.	Lt. Gurnam Singh	National
6.	Bagga Singh	National
7.	Savinder Singh Bhindar	National
8.	Gurdeep Singh Bai	National
9.	Harminder Singh Pappu	National
10.	Dhyan Singh Mukta	National
11.	Baldev Singh Attari	National
12.	Sonia Pal	National
13.	Sarita	National
14.	Ranjana	National
15.	Meenakshi Garg	National
16.	Suman Rani	National
17.	Sarika	National
18.	Reetu Rani	National
19.	Anju Bala	National
20.	Lukhwinder Kaur	National
21.	Jatinder Kaur	National
22.	Harpreet Kaur	National
23.	Arti Sharma	National
24.	Prem	National
25.	Supreet Kaur	National
26.	Gurwinder Kaur	National
27.	Ramandeep Kaur	National
28.	Bharti	National
29.	Anmol	National
30.	Nancy	National
31.	Reena Rani	National
32.	Jyoti	National
33.	Pooja Rani	National
34.	Neetu	National
35.	Sukhmani	National
36.	Harmanjot Kaur	National
37.	Amrinder Kaur	National
38.	Harjeet kaur	National
39.	Navpreet Kaur	National
40.	Harpreet kaur	National

Conclusion

The present study purpose was to emphasize the contribution and achievement of Dronacharya Awardee Hockey Coach Sardar Baldev Singh towards promotion and coaching of Hockey in the country. He started working against all odds. He worked so hard to produce best players in the field of Hockey. The collected data/information for this investigation was from the primary and secondary sources. Sardar Baldev Singh started his coaching career in the year 1975. He not only produced the players for National and International arena, but also he produced Olympians like Didar Singh, Sanjeev Kumar Dang, Harpal Singh, Sandeep Singh, Rani Rampal and Navjot Kaur. His 4 players namely Suriender Kaur, Sandeep Singh, Jasjeet kaur Handa, Rani Rampal were

honoured by Arjuna Award. His 12 players, namely Sandeep Kaur, Sanjeev Kumar Dang, Suriender Kaur, Balwinder Kaur, Gurpreet Kaur, Simarjeet Kaur, Suman Bala, Jasjeet Kaur, Rajwinder kaur, Joydeep Kaur, Ritu Rani and Rani Rampal got Honour of Bhim Award which is given by the state government of Haryana. Moreover, his trainees were Captains and Vice Captain of the Team India when they represented India in International Arena. Rani Rampal is his trainee and currently she is captain of team India, She was honored as best young player of the tournament in 2010 Hockey world Cup, in 2013 Junior World cup she got award of player of the tournament. Rani Rampal awarded as "Top Goal Scorer" and "Young Player of the tournament" in the Champions Challenge Tournament, Russia. When S. Baldev Singh started working on the women's hockey the position of women's hockey in international arena was very low. After 1980 Olympics, Indian Women Hockey Team got entry in Rio Olympics in the year 2016 and the main squad was from Shahbad. He produced 49 International Level players which is very big contribution of any coach in the field of Hockey. He was supposed to retire from his services in the year 2008. But Haryana Government gave him extension to continue his services. He got eight times extension for services; but he accepted their offer for seven times, eighth time he refused to take extension for some reason. In the year 2015 November he was retired from services. After his retirement, he did not stop coaching. He started working in the Hockey Academy of S.G.P.C Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab. Nowadays, he is training hockey players in G.N.D.U. Amritsar and he is also a member of Olympics Task Force which is created by President Shri Nariender Modi to uplift the standard and promotion of Sports in the country.

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