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Lecture Title

Hockey

Hockey is as old as Adam:

Games are probably as old as man himself, but when man first thought of organized competitive games will forever remain mystery. It is generally accepted, however, all club and ball **games** had a common origin and that the various refinement came as time passed and game developed along the line favoured in different communities and resulted in our numerous modern sports. Almost all the writers tried to pin down the origin of hockey using the writing, painting and culture of ancients as evidence, and have advanced some very plausible theories.

Hockey is a game without a birthplace or birthdate. There is however, evidence that the ancient “Persians” loved to chase a ball with sticks carved from head grew. In Persia, a game like polo was played on horseback. The older people when they were unable to climb the horse and the others, who could not afford the horse, started playing on feet with pebbles or with wooden balls and short sticks. It is understood from the facts provided by the history that hockey is eastern perfection.

The Greeks borrowed the idea from Persians and it **was transported** to Greece. As for them, fitness was second to their religion in those days. The old Olympics games had hockey in it (514-499 BC). Americans started bully also. They used to hold the stick **upside** down. **There** is a picture of this in museum in Belgium. Two men are shown bullying the ball with holding the stick **upside** down.

Hockey in turn, passed it on **Romans**. They played this game on sea-shores with human skull as ball. They used to keep their stick with them. It is believed that those people carried the game to **British** islands.

This game also went to America. In America, **Red** Indian tribes used to play hockey as part time. The ball made of wood or deer skin and sticks were made of deer legs, which had short hooks.

It then travelled to France in the 15th century. There it was called “hocquet”, which in their language means shepherd’s stick.

The history of Indian hockey consists of two parts. The second part starts with the founding of the Indian hockey federation, whereas the first part consists of origin, growth and development of hockey in the several provinces of India, and Punjab and Sind.

Punjab and Bihar claim that they had the game of hockey century back. In Bihar, it was played with bamboo sticks and wooden balls, but in Punjab , it was played with sticks made out of tree wood and the ball made out from pieces of cloth and twine called Khido Khundi.

The British in the Antwerp meet of 1920 won the Olympic hockey event for **the** second time. A fall in the general interest of the game noticeable then. Britain made an endeavour to keep alive world interest **in** this game. As the game by then was exclusively played by the British , a few in India caught the spirit to promote the game and endeavoured in the first instance to organize the game in this **sub-continent**.

Once, C.E Newhan, on the staff of the civil & Military Gazette, **wrote** to all provinces and states for **the formation of a** central organization. But there was no response from **other** side. At that time hockey was played **vigorously** in the army. After a few years, all the states took **interest** in it, especially near the cantonments.

In 1908, Calcutta association was formed and later on it spread to all big cities. Beighton **Cup**, Calcutta was the first tournament started in the country in the year 1886. It was **followed** by Aghakahn hockey tournament at Bombay **which** was started in the year 1895.

In October 1924, the Western Indian Hockey Association took initiative and wrote to Lt. Col. C.E .Luard, President of the Sports Association, Gwalior to form All Indian hockey Association. **As a** result, in a meeting of Hockey enthusiast, who assembled at Gwalior on the 22nd November 1924, ten representatives from different places accepted the proposal to form a central Association. Gwalior lost no further time and called for a meeting on 7th November 1925. this inaugural meeting of Hockey Federation was held at Gwalior with Col. Haskar, President of Gwalior association in the chair. Seven associations attended the meeting from

Bengal, **Sind**, Rajputana, Gwalior, The Western India Hockey Association, Punjab and the **Anny Sports Control Board**. Till the members should affiliate and a council be formed to take up management, it was resolved to retain the headquarters at Gwalior.

Early in 1926, the **Anny Sports Control Board** filed first of the papers of application for membership, which is landmark in the history of the federation. Just about this time Hon. Secretary of New Zealand Hockey Association sent out an invitation to the combined forces in India, or any units for a visit of the island. By the time, Sind, Rajputana and Gwalior had joined Association.

In April 1926, the Indian Anny Hockey team leaving the shores of India reached New Zealand in May and played the first match on May 13, 1926.

In 1927, it was felt by some that it was necessary to change the **headquarters** to a more central place than Gwalior. A special meeting was convened on 22nd February 1927, which was attended by Bengal, Sind, Rajputana, Gwalior, Delhi and the Anny Sports Control Board. A Council was elected with T. P. Gately, Hon. Secretary of the Delhi Association, as the first Hon. Secretary of I.H.F. Major Burn Mudoch, who had been responsible for sending out the first Indian team abroad to New Zealand, was elected the President.

Around this time it was known that the Olympic organizers, who had dropped Hockey from the programme, in the Paris meet, were disinclined to resume it at the forthcoming Amsterdam meet. Major Burn Mudrok took up the matter with the Olympic Committee urging them to restore Hockey in the games.

On the Olympic Committee **acceding** to India's request by including Hockey in the Olympic Programme of 1928, it became necessary for India to start preparing **at** once to participate in it. Two things stood against them. One was finance to send a team to distance Europe, and the second was the raising of a truly representative Indian team, with just a few Provinces only on its membership list.

The federation decided to hold an Inter-Provincial Hockey tournament in Calcutta early in 1928, which should serve as trail games to **enable** selection of the best available side. At the same time, public interest in the game being very high, the Federation hoped a substantial gate could be raised to pay towards expenses of the tour.

The Punjab, U.P., Bengal, Rajputana, and the Central Provinces were the five teams that participated in this Championship. The Western Indian Hockey **Association**, which had taken such a keen interest in the **foundation** of the Federation kept out as also Madras from **the** south that had not organized itself into an Association. There were however enough talents available for consideration by the selectors. The public of Bengal **responded** splendidly in large numbers and a sizable contribution having been raised and with further augmentation of funds from the Association, sending out the team became possible, **though** limited funds restricted the team to just thirteen players. The first national championship were the United Provinces who beat Rajputana in the final.

On **March** 10th 1928, the Indian hockey team in quest of Olympic honors, set sail by the P & O Kaiser Hind. Prior to leaving for Amsterdam, 11 matches were played in England of which one was lost, another **draw**, the rest having been won. In the Olympic tournament India beat Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland, and Holland.

On 26th May 1928, India was acknowledged the world champions in Hockey.

In the year 1929, the Railway Sports **Control** Board **affiliated** itself to the Federation. The next Inter-Provincial tournament was conducted in 1930 at Lahore, the number of entries being four only. This year's championship was won by the combined Railways with Punjab, runner-up. Preparations were now **afoot** for next Olympic event at Los Angeles, U.S.A.

The question of finance and more of it on this occasion stood in the way. There was a certain amount of **indecision** on participation. In fact there were, in this series just three entries including the home country U.S.A. Japan was the other besides India to participate, all others having ruled out participation for financial reasons. **Around** this time the administration of hockey in India was transferred entirely into civilian hands. The newly elected Mr. Hayman, the President and Mr. Pankaja Gupta, the Hon. Secretary were so determined that they on their own personal credit raised funds to meet the deficit in the estimated budget in the tour cost. Not only did they manage **to take** the circuitous route on the return journey touring Europe involving more of funds, playing everywhere they gained for themselves an experience even the **Olympic** series could not give.

For this tour of 1932, the federation caused a declaration to be signed, by each of selected members of this team that he is an Indian and prescribed further that he should wear the

ceremonial dress given to him on **occasions**. The team assembled in Bhopal, reached U.S.A, playing the first **Olympic** game against Japan & USA and India were again Champion

With the German Hockey **Association** making a generous offer to meet all their expenses and with members of the side volunteering to sacrifice the **pocket** allowances and play sufficient number of matches the return journey through Europe and **playing** in the continent became financially possible.

Hockey by now had awakened in **India**, a provincial association having come at all the administrative units.

In 1934, India organized the western Asiatic **Games** which in fact was a miniature Olympic at the Irwin Amphitheatre, New Delhi.

In 1935, the Indian team was sent to New Zealand, this being the second of the tours to that country. All the 48 matches were won which was played in the tour.

The federation decided to defend in the Berlin Olympic of 1936 and resume the Inter-provincial as trial games for selection of team. Bengal's offer, if called upon, to stage the inter-provincial and hand over the profits to the funds of Federation naturally weighted very much in favour of selection of Calcutta again for the nationals. Thirteen teams entered, Bengal ultimately winning, engraving her name first on the 'Maori Shield'. In the Olympic contest, matches were played against five countries in all, which were comfortably won by India.

The years following the return of the Indian team from Berlin were featureless in the sense that there was nothing of International importance, particularly so because of the intervention of Second World War. The national were however, played in 1938,40,44, after which it was decided by the Federation that in future the National Championship of India should be played for annually instead of once in two years.

Bombay which had staged the nationals earlier, staged again the 1947 Nationals which helped the selection of the Indian team to participate in the **Wembly** Olympics, 16 teams participated in the tournament which was won by Bhopal.

By now India having attained an independent status, the tricolor flag fluttered proudly for the first time in victory rostrum at Wembly. In the Olympic series India beat Austria, Argentina, **Spain**, Holland and Britain and thus winning the championship for the 14th time succession.

When the championship of 1951 was staged at **Madras**, it was the very first occasion a southern State had been accorded the opportunity and honour of conducting the Nationals. The discerning Madras at once saw the emptiness in the emblematic recognition of the championship and address the parent organization whether it would consider the presentation of a cup to the winners the suggestion having been welcomed by the Federation the association approached the proprietors of the Hindu & Sports & pastime, who have been doing a great deal for the promotion of sport and games in India. They willingly donated a cup and appropriately named it after one of their former editors, S. Rangaswami, a brilliant hockey player during the first and second decade of this century.

The next event of interest in Indian hockey was the visit of Japanese team to India, when in the International match, India won.

The 1952 Olympics in Helsinki was another triumph to India, who beat Austria, Britain, and Holland. In 1955, the Delhi District Association got up a scratch team to tour New Zealand, Australia, Singapore and Ceylon and it was yet another success to Indian hockey.

The Melbourne Olympics of 1956 was yet another triumph to India, but by now it had become evident, that the standard of hockey had been more evenly distributed in the world. India played five matches, the first three resulting in thumping victories. **But** in the next two, **India** could just scrape through Germany and Pakistan by the barest of margins.

From now on, international matches have been more frequent, with hockey having grown tremendously in popularity **all over**. The intervening years between the Olympics came to be utilized for visits and returns by **many** countries.

In 1960, Rome Olympics India lost to Pakistan for Silver medal. It was in 1964 Tokyo, India again won the gold medal. It is very sad to say that after 1964 the performance of Indian hockey goes down in the Olympics and India never been in last two except winning 1980 Moscow Olympics, which was boycotted by several hockey playing countries. In between this period India won only bronze Medals at 1968 Mexico and 1972 Munich Olympics.

The Asian games of 1958, at Tokyo, practically broke the long monopoly of Indian supremacy in Hockey. India, in spite of not losing a match was relegated to second place. India drew with Pakistan and the winner of the series was determined to be Pakistan, on the goal average, whether this reckoning is good otherwise, it can hardly be an excuse for a

champion country. India first won the gold medal in Asian Games at Bangkok in 1966 and after a gap of 32 years India won the gold medal again in 1998 Asian games at Bangkok.

When the 1960 team prepared for the Olympic at Rome, the **setback** on reverse were considered just passing events and with a determination India took the field. After winning the first place in the pool series comfortably, India managed Australia in quarterfinals and Great Britain in semi-finals. Pakistan, the other finalist beat India in the final by 1 love. Thus ended a **reigning** glory, which had lasted for 32 years in the history of hockey, an achievement without parallel. It is in a way good for the game of hockey that the fight for honours should be more even and open with a view to keep a sustained interest all over. There is no more complacency in Indian camps and there is a firm determination to regain the title. Coaching camps and organization and conduct of tournaments have come and hockey has grown tremendously important in India now.

In connection with world congress to be held in India during this year (1962), it ~~is~~ but right and proper India should have organized the International Hockey tournament, to give back little to some at least, the hospitality she has had, all the 32 years from many countries in the world against whom she had hitherto played and enjoyed this game.

In the history of world cup , India won the bronze medal in the very first world cup held at Madrid in 1971 and silver medal in the 2nd world cup 1973 at Amsterdam. India becomes world champion in the 1975 Kuala Lumpur world cup by winning the gold medal. After that India failed to reach in last four till today.

At last it is very happy to say that after 1998 performance, Indian hockey once again comes up by winning gold medal for the first time in Asia Cup Hockey championship, but recent performances from world cup 2006 at Germany and Doha Asian Games 2006, where Indian Men hockey team could not make **it** to semi-final, first time ever in the history of Asian Games are discouraging performance for both, people of India and the people of Hockey. It is also a very big setback for Indian hockey when Ministry of Sports, Govt. of India eliminated hockey from the priority game list and put into general game category.

The biggest setback came in **the** history of Indian hockey, when Indian hockey team first time ever failed for the Olympics, losing in qualifying tournament by British team followed by coming on 8th place in the recent Men World Cup 2010 on our own soil at New Delhi. In **the meantime** though rebuild up process was going on under the difficult circumstances by

the federation. By winning Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey tournament in Malaysia, senior in the Jr. World Cup, even they performed very well. Recently women team showed good performance by winning four national tournaments and even after a big controversial issue on coach behaviour with the women players women team won the 3rd place in Asia Cup, which was recently held.