

Prithvi Shaw versus Sachin Tendulkar A comparison on their feats as teenage batsmen in domestic cricket

NEW DELHI, SEP 26 /- Prithvi Shaw may be only three matches old in first-class cricket but he is already drawing comparisons with Sachin Tendulkar no less. The reason being some of the feats that Shaw has achieved, in the process also breaking Tendulkar's record of being the youngest player to score a ton in a Duleep Trophy final. 17-year-old Shaw, born on November 9, 1999, now holds four remarkable records in his young career. He is the youngest to not only score a ton in a Duleep Trophy final but also the youngest to have a century on Duleep Trophy and the youngest to score a half-century in both the Duleep Trophy fi-



nal, as well as the Ranji Trophy final. Tendulkar meanwhile still has some daddy records in domestic cricket and remains till date the youngest centurion in Duleep Trophy overall. He is also the only man to get tons in all of the three premier domestic tournaments, Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy and Irani Trophy, before turning 18. While Shaw has got tons in Duleep Trophy and Ranji Trophy, he is yet to get one in the Irani Trophy. Meanwhile, Shaw's ton in the Duleep Trophy final in Lucknow on Monday made sure that India Red ended Day 1 versus India Blue in a good position. They were 317 for five at stumps as Shaw slammed 154.

Harendra Singh eyeing 2018 Asiad gold with Indian eyes

BENGALURU, SEP 26 /- Newly-appointed women's hockey team coach Harendra Singh has already set his goals and sights on the next Indian Games and seal a direct berth to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. "We have already set short-term and long-term goals for the team. While the short-term goal is to win the Asia Cup and directly qualify for the World Cup next year, my mission for 2018 is to win the Asian Games and qualify for the Tokyo Olympics," he said on Tuesday. "I believe this is a realistic target." Harendra, who has never coached a women's team before. Harendra, known for his taskmaster approach, said discipline and result-oriented performances will be his priority areas. "This is the first time in my career that I would be coaching a women's side and I see this as a new challenge. Discipline and 100 per cent commitment will remain top priorities. I have followed this group of girls for a while now and they have a good base, they are focused and understand each other's

Wenger fumes over gruelling schedule

LONDON, SEP 26 /- Arsene Wenger has criticised the gruelling schedule that forces Arsenal to play three games in the space of just seven days. Wenger's side eased to a 2-0 win over West Bromwich Albion in the Premier League on Monday thanks to Alexandre Lacazette's brace at the Emirates Stadium in London. But Wenger and his players had little time to reflect on that success before they boarded a flight to Belarus for Thursday's Europa League clash with Bate Borisov. Once that draining trip is out of the way, Arsenal have been given only 48 hours to recover before they are due to host Brighton in another important Premier League fixture early on Sunday afternoon. Wenger said: "I have a decision to make. At the moment I would say the schedule for us is a bit cruel. We play Monday night, replay his hefty price tag. He's not only a goal scorer, his link up play is good, he fights as well." Wenger said: "He's not fazed by the physical challenges West Brom gave us. Overall he adapts very well." The turning point in the game was referee Bobby Madley's decision not to award a penalty when Jay Rodriguez appeared to



be fouled in the first half. Even Wenger conceded it could have been given. "The referee gave the advantage but the decision is defendable from both sides," he said. "Obviously we believe it's a penalty, but we haven't had a penalty for over a year." Pulis complained. "It's not fair. The great thing is that everybody has seen it. He still wanted to score but once he missed the referee should pull it back. It could be a penalty and they could have a player set off so we not only score but are against a team down to 10 players." Having enjoyed a stroke of luck with the penalty, Arsenal eventually eased to a win that extended their unbeaten run to five games in all competitions since their thrashing at Liverpool. Wenger believes establishing a powerful presence in home games is especially important for their title chances. "What is important is we are strong at home," he said. "We have had those difficult away games. It's important to keep our home strength, we will make results away. It was important to take three points tonight because everyone else, so you feel under pressure. We are in a different mental aspect since the Liverpool defeat. We believe in our game. (AFP)



Anand VS: Software engineers take time off to play cricket in Thiruvananthapuram

No country for old women: China refuses visa to elderly India runner

NEW DELHI, SEP 26 /- A 101-year-old Indian runner said on Tuesday that China has refused to grant her a visa to participate in the Asian Masters Athletics Championships, robbing her of a potential medal. Man Kaur, dubbed the 'miracle from Chandigarh' after winning the 100-metres gold at the World Masters Games in Auckland in April, had been training hard for the competition at home in Punjab state. "I felt very bad when my visa was rejected," she said. "Whenever we used to go we would come back winners and even this time around I was confident of victory." But it's not the end of the road. I will continue training and look forward to competing in future events," she added. Kaur, who took up athletics eight years ago at the tender age of 93, was looking to compete in the 100m, 200m, shot put and javelin categories in the China Masters in Rugao. She has had no running experience before her 79-year-old son Gurdeep Singh, who said his Chinese visa was also refused, suggested she join him in competing on the international masters games circuit. "We have travelled all over the world, from England to America to New Zealand but never has our visa been rejected," Singh, a permanent resident of Canada, said. "The Chinese Embassy said we don't have a personal invite but we carried a letter from the Indian Masters Athletics Association which should have been enough. Don't people go to China as tourists, do they need some invite? What problem can a 101-year-old and a 79-year-old create? China apart from competing in the event," he added. Singh and his mother will be travelling to Toronto next month where Kaur will be bestowed with the 'Lifetime achievement award' during a function. Kaur is one of the nominees for the coveted Laureus World Sports Awards 2017 in the new category 'Best Sporting Moment of the Year.' Singh said "a healthy diet and strict training regimen" kept the mother-son duo in good shape as they eye medals in next year's World Masters Athletics Championships in Spain. "Our body is God's gift and if we don't preserve this, our next generation will be weak," he said. The Chinese embassy in New Delhi did not comment on the case.

Swiss court KOs amateur boxing chief's rivals

LAUSANNE, SEP 26 /- A Swiss court dismissed an attempt by opponents to amateur boxing chief Wu Ching-Ko to seize control of governing body the AIBA. Wu's position was challenged by the AIBA's executive committee, who claimed the Taiwanese had led the sport to the brink of bankruptcy. An AIBA statement announced that the Lausanne court's verdict confirmed Wu as amateur boxing's president. Wu's executive committee had passed a motion of no-confidence against his leadership and had turned to Swiss courts in July to approve a temporary administration, accusing the president of financial mismanagement. But that bid for urgent provisional control of the AIBA was rejected, with Monday's ruling also coming down in favour of the organisation's current boss. Wu's rivals had claimed that AIBA had racked up Swiss franc 15 million Swiss francs (15 million, 13.1 million euros). (AFP)

Strong reasons behind Davinder's exclusion from TOPS: Injeti Srinivas

NEW DELHI, SEP 26 /- Sports Secretary Injeti Srinivas made it clear that merit is the sole criteria for including individual athletes in the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) and there were strong reasons behind Jang's exclusion. Davinder Singh Kang's exclusion from the 1st. Davinder, who became the first Indian javelin thrower to make the final of the World Championships in London last month, expressed his disappointment over his exclusion from the TOPS list and had even considered moving abroad. But Injeti, who is also the Director General of Sports Authority of India (SAI), refused to pay attention to Davinder's agitations. "The decision of individual athlete's inclusion in TOPS is decided purely on merit," he said on Tuesday on the sidelines of National Workshop on Sports for All. "There is bound to be a strong and concrete reason behind his exclusion despite qualifying for the final of the World Championships." Injeti said without divulging anything further.

Misgovernance in NSFs won't be tolerated:

Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore

NEW DELHI, SEP 26 /- Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore issued a stern warning to National Sports Federations (NSFs), saying there would be zero tolerance for misgovernance. Rathore said there cannot be any alternative to the core principles of governance in sports. "65 per cent of India's population is below 35. It is our Prime Minister's double tap silver medal initiative to promote sporting culture in the country. So there would be zero tolerance in terms of misgovernance in sports," Rathore said in his address while inaugurating the National Workshop on Sports for All on Tuesday. The federations will have to think beyond their turfs. There would be massive amount of transparency in terms of team selection, results. Everything has to be open and sharing," he added. Rathore, 47, is India's double tap silver medalist in the 2004 Athens Olympics, said from now on the ministry will only take policy decisions on sports, the execution of which will be left to professionals. "Ministry will make policies and the operational responsibility will lie with professionals," he said. "We are in the process of CEOs to look after all the programmes," the Sports Minister said. "We are creating an IT-based structure where Khelo India programme and TOPS will be monitored 24x7 and 365 days. The performances of High Performance Managers and coaches will also be monitored." Rathore, who is the first athlete to become the Sports Minister, further said the entire sporting system of the country needs a complete overhaul. "We need to change our thought process. We need to build more playing arenas at low cost. In India when someone decides to build any stadium he thinks of an Olympic like stadium," he said. "The ministry is working on a coaching programme. Our coaches need to upgrade their knowledge from time to time. From now on, we will be assessing the coaches every year."

American football: US Olympians divided on flag protests

PARK CITY (USA), SEP 26 /- US Winter Olympic athletes were as divided as the nation on NFL player protests during the US national anthem in the wake of comments by Donald Trump. Remarks and tweets by Trump insulted NFL players who knelt during pre-game renditions of "The Star-Spangled Banner" to protest Colin Kaepernick's protest move from last season over racial discrimination to African-Americans. "We led to meet NFL players locking arms with each other and owners on Sunday in protest of Trump's free speech put-down more players than ever electing to kneel after Trump said players should be fired for insulting the nation. US Olympic Committee chief executive Scott Blackmun backed the protests and supported athletes' freedom of expression. "I think the athletes you see protesting are protesting because they love their country, not because they don't," Blackmun said. "We fully support the right of our athletes and

everybody else to express themselves." While noting the Olympics ban all forms of demonstrations, he added, "we certainly recognize the importance of athletes being able to express themselves." Blackmun mentioned Tommie Smith and John Carlos raising their fists from the medal podium during the US anthem at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, calling it "a seminal moment not only for the Olympic movement but for the US Olympic team." Three-time Olympic bronze medalist, proudly sported the song she wants to hear on medal podium. "I think that anthem means I've had a really great day and I have nothing but great things to say about it," Wagner said. Wagner, 26, is the daughter of a US Army colonel and was born on a base in Germany, one of 10 places she called home as a child and self-described "Army brat." "To me it represents all the men and women who

have fought for the flag when it waves," Wagner said of the US anthem. "I also recognize not everybody has that experience when they are hearing the anthem. Freedom of speech is one of those rights they are fighting for. If you choose to use it, more power to you. I have nothing but respect for that." But also added, "I don't think the opinion of a figure skater matters that much." Julia Mancuso whose US women's Alpine ski record haul of four Olympic medals included 2006 giant slalom gold, also backed those who had the courage to take action. "One of the proudest points of being an American is freedom of speech and I'm really proud of our athletes speaking up for what they believe in," Mancuso said. But she also said that "when it comes to the Olympics, I would like to think it's a special event, not like pro sports teams that compete every weekend." And teammate Laurene Ross said a protest move in a ski event wouldn't shock her. "Part of me would be proud of that person for

Olympics: US athletes fears over Russian dope cheats

ingful outcomes" are needed if the 2015 McLaren report's detailing of state-sponsored doping in Russia at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics is true. "I don't think you can let that go without a penalty. To do so would be to embolden those actors that think doping is a means to achieve success on the Olympic stage," Bailey said. "It needs to be a harsh enough penalty to let the world know doping is not acceptable." Athletes' union president US Olympic Committee, said that would include allowing clean athletes to compete under a neutral flag. "Allowing clean athletes to prove their innocence and compete under a neutral flag is an elegant solution," he said. Dunklee was a stiff punishment for Russia as well. "If we don't set the precedent, it will be very valid," she said. "And that kills the spirit of sport."

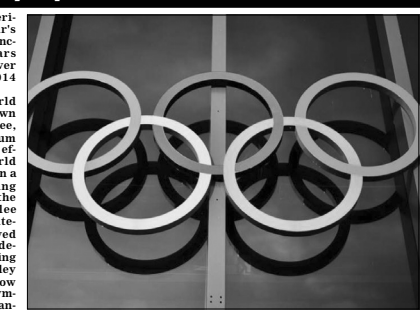
Bailey, who plans to have his wife and daughter join him in South Korea, said he was confident in safety measures even with harsh insults between US and North Korean leaders and the February 9-25 event only 80km (50 miles) from North Korea. "I'm encouraged by what the security brings to the Olympics (the US) Olympic Committee. They have done a good job of letting the athletes know what's going on," he said. "The proximity is close but the Olympics is a strong and concrete reason behind his exclusion despite qualifying for the final of the World Championships." Injeti said without divulging anything further.

WOMEN CAMPERS

Goalkeepers: Savita, Rajani Elmarpu, Swati Delfans: Deep Grace Ekka, P Sushila Chanu, Sunita Lakra, Gurji Kaur, Hnilum Lal Raut Felli, Navdeep Kaur, Rashmita Minz, Neelu Dadiya
Midfielders: Namita Toppo, Nikki Pradhan, Desipko, Karishma Yadav, Renuka Yadav, Manoj Kaur, Monika, Lillima Minz, Neha Goyal, Udita, M Lilly Chanu, Nilanjali Rai
Forwards: Rani, Vandana Katariva, Preeti Dubey, Reena Khokhar, Anupa Barla, Sonika, Lalremsiami, Poomran, Rani, Navneel Kaur, Navpreet Kaur.

strengths and weaknesses after having played together for three to four years," he said. "I would like to see them go into every tournament as tough contenders for a medal," added the Dronacharya awardee coach, who guided India to the Junior World Cup title last year. The Asia Cup will be the Indian eyes' first big tournament under Harendra, and High Performance Director David John has high hopes from the team. "I believe the team has shown improvement. The Asia Cup is an important tournament for the women to win a direct berth for next year's World Cup. In my opinion, they go into Asia Cup as no. 1 side and I definitely expect them to finish in the final," said John. A total of 33 players reported at the Sports Authority of India for a four-week national camp that will conclude on October 24. During the course of the camp, selection trials will be conducted under the purview of national selectors, John, chief coach Harendra Singh. The trials will be for the 18-member squad will be held on October 4 and 5 here. The women's Asia Cup will be held in Kakamigahara, Japan from October 28 to November 5.

PARK CITY (USA), SEP 26 /- American athletes preparing for next year's Winter Olympics called for tough sanctions against Russia, voicing fears cheats could escape punishment over the doping scandal from the 2014 Games. Lowell Bailey, the first US world biathlon champion with a 20km crown earlier this year, and Susan Dunklee, the first US woman on a world podium with a 12.5km start running up effort, were outspoken as the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) began a visit to evaluate Russian anti-doping efforts. "Maintaining integrity is our path we have to stand on," Dunklee said. "Russia has taken part in state-sponsored doping. They've destroyed our faith in the Olympics and because they destroyed all the evidence they're getting away with everything they did. Bailey said he was "discouraged" by the slow pace of WADA and International Olympic Committee probes and said "mean-



ingful outcomes" are needed if the 2015 McLaren report's detailing of state-sponsored doping in Russia at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics is true. "I don't think you can let that go without a penalty. To do so would be to embolden those actors that think doping is a means to achieve success on the Olympic stage," Bailey said. "It needs to be a harsh enough penalty to let the world know doping is not acceptable." Athletes' union president US Olympic Committee, said that would include allowing clean athletes to compete under a neutral flag. "Allowing clean athletes to prove their innocence and compete under a neutral flag is an elegant solution," he said. Dunklee was a stiff punishment for Russia as well. "If we don't set the precedent, it will be very valid," she said. "And that kills the spirit of sport."