

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 also 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 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 to win the next Indian Games and to win next year's Asian Games and to seek 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 great 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... could have been a penalty," he said. Albion manager Tony Pulis was livid with the decision and still hadn't cooled down by the time he spoke to the media after the match. "Obviously we believe it's a penalty, but we haven't had a penalty for over a year," Pulis complained. "The great thing is that everybody has said 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 sent 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 played three 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)

penalty awarded for Allan Nyom's foul on Aaron Ramsey. With four goals since his close-season move from Lyon, the France striker is starting to regain 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



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-metre 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 prior running experience before her 79-year-old son Gurdev 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 Award 2017 in the new category - 'Best Sporting Moment of the Year'. Singh said "a healthy diet and strict training regime" kept the mother-son duo in good shape as they eye more 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 KO's 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 francs 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 there were strong reasons behind individual athletes 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, said NSFs should be held accountable for the performance of their athletes. The federations will have to 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."

WOMEN CAMPERS

Coolkeepers: Savita, Rajani Elmarpu, Swati Devedans: Deep Grace Ekka, P Sushila Chanu, Sunita Lakra, Gurji Kaur, Hniluam Lal Raut Feli, 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, Pooman Ravi, Navneel Kaur, Navpreet Kaur.

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 football move from last season over racial discrimination to African-Americans. The NFL players, including 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 not 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 medalist, skiing champion Ashley Wagner, a 2016 world runner-up and 2014 Olympic bronze medalist, proudly supported the song she wants to hear on medal podium. "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

standing up or kneeling for their rights and using their voice," she said. "Part of me would be a little bit heartbroken that we're being torn as a nation and we're doing these actions that make us seem we're not one anymore." US men's Olympic hockey coach Troy Granato, whose team for Pyeongchang will not include NHL players, noted the Olympic ban on protests and the disruptive nature of protests to team focus, saying, "Any situation like that, I don't foresee it happening." "I've always stood for the national anthem. And I always will," said African-American Jordan Greenway, a Boston University forward and likely US Olympic hockey player. Troy Terry, a forward for US college champion Denver and likely Olympian, won't be following the NFL lead either. "You won't see me taking a knee for the national anthem or anything like that," Terry said. "We'll be so worried about the hockey that we won't be worried about things like that." (AFP)

Olympics: US athletes fears over Russian dope cheats

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 sprint 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 their own success 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' concerns were compounded by Russian track and field competitors from the Rio Olympics and Bailey said. "The IAAF outcome is about as elegant a solution as you could come up with." That would include allowing clean athletes to compete under a neutral flag. "Allowing clean athletes to prove they're clean and compete under a neutral flag is an elegant solution," he said. Dunklee wants 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.