

GEN X

Targeting the blue jersey

Watching cricket on television inspired 13-year-old Samarth Nagpal to take the game as a career. His passion for the sport grew gradually and he recently participated in a tournament held in South Africa.

ARPIT GUPTA

A student of Sun City World School, Samarth got fascinated by cricket after watching India versus Pakistan T20 Cricket World Cup final match in 2007. "I began playing cricket in 2006 but the world cup final match made me follow cricket even more," says the cricketer.

Samarth, as an all rounder, played five matches from YSCE Pathways team at under-16 Budget International School Cricket Tournament in South Africa. In this tournament, teams of different schools from various nations participated. His best performance was 38 runs in batting and in bowling, three wickets in five overs. "We won two matches, one against King Edward School and other against St David School. However, we lost other three matches against St Stithians College, St Albans School and St David School. Overall, it was a nice experience," he corroborates.

"I was very proud when our school team won two matches back-to-back in an inter-school tournament," he recalls.

Training and inspiration

Samarth is currently undergoing training at Yuvraj Singh Centre of Excellence Cricket Academy under the guidance of coaches Amit Sharma and Pankaj Thakur. He practises for two to three hours daily in his verandah and for four hours every

Saturday at his academy. He also practises in the school field regularly.

He considers Indian cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni as his role model and aspires to play cricket along with him one day. In future, he wants to compete with the right-hand batsman Virat Kohli.

Family support

Samarth's father Pankaj Nagpal also encourages him. "My father always keeps suggesting me tips to improve my game," Samarth added.

However, Samarth's mother remains a little worried about his studies and career. But she encourages him in every match he plays.

Winning accolades

His obsession towards the game has made him the captain of his school's team.

His performance was appreciated in many district and state tournaments by different sports clubs. Samarth, right arm spinner was adjudged best bowler in a district championship held in Rohini. He claimed four wickets. However, in a state championship held in Bangalore, the middle order batsman batted well in all three matches.

His school and cricket academy has also honoured and encouraged him by conferring medals.



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Hobbies and future plans

"If not cricket, I would love to be an army man," expresses the passionate cricketer. Apart from this, he has interest in other sports like badminton, swimming, cycling and tennis. He also likes to watch television and surf social networking websites.

The rising star is looking forward to play an under-19 tournament scheduled for December in Australia. "As of now, I am concentrating on my physical fitness and stamina for a cricket tournament to be held in mid-October," signs off the cricket player.

ON FIRM GROUND:
Samarth Nagpal



A heartening performance

KINDER Plume Pre-school held a yoga and rhyme recitation programme. The tiny tots gave a heartening performance and won the hearts of their parents and teachers.

The little ones demonstrated their skills at yoga and rhyme recitation. Parents were pleased to see their little ones singing rhymes in English and Hindi and the National Anthem as well.

The emphasis was laid on both languages to help the children boost up their confidence. Divya J Bawa, director, Kinder Plume Pre-schools said, "It is important for the overall development of children."



MEMORABLE MOMENT: Tiny tots gave wonderful performance



Going the green way

STUDENTS of Scottish High International School are making efforts to save 'Mother Earth' and doing their bit by planting and nurturing saplings. Under an initiative taken by the school, a 'green corner' has been set up in the classes to encourage children for the same. Kids are responsible for looking after

the plants. Besides, children are advised to use newspapers to wrap gifts for birthday parties and other occasions. The young ones are trying to make a difference in the environment.

Principal of the school says it is surely a step towards becoming compassionate and caring global citizens.