

HLCC thrash GCC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: HL College of Commerce (HLCC) defeated Government Commerce College (GCC), Gandhinagar 4-1 in the JG Cup All-Gujarat Inter-College Football Tournament played at the KASA Ground and organised jointly by the Gujarat State Football Association and JG Commerce College.

Yunus Syed opened the account in the 7th minute of the game which Ajay Raj Singh doubled three minutes later. Atul Gatad added one



Action from the match between MBP Rashtrabhasha College of Commerce and New LG College of Commerce in Ahmedabad on Wednesday

JG CUP FOOTBALL

more in the 16th minute and HL went into the breather with a 3-0 lead. They came back and pumped one more in the 27th minute through Akash Shah. Towards the close, Satish Pillai pulled one back for the Gandhinagar team but the show was all over by then.

Vadodara team's domination in football continues as MSU Baroda blanked LD Arts 5-0 in an one-sided encounter. Austrin scored the second hat-trick of the tournament in the space of three minutes and Brandon B netted twice to complete the humiliation. The winners led 2-0 at half-time.

A strong contender for the title St Xavier's College too showed their prowess by defeating HLBBA 5-0 in another one-sided encounter.

Vijay Rathva scored twice (14 and 65th min), Nehal Ganeshan scored twice (22nd and 42nd) and Sanjay Martin pumped in one in the 25th minute to complete the tally.

Other results: St Xavier's College bt HLBBA 5-3 (Vijay Rathva 14' 65', Nehal Ganeshan 22', 42', Sanjay Martin 25'); MBP Rashtrabhasha bt New LJCC 3-1, Government Arts bt HKCC 4-0.

Shrishti wins gold medals in national in-line skating: Shrishti Agarwal of Rachna High School won three gold medals in under-11 road race

and rink race in in-line category of the 58th National School Games Federation of India held in Delhi recently. Bhavnagar's Khushi Rangwani won one silver and Surat's Dhanshree More took one silver and one bronze in the same category.

Meanwhile, Shrishti followed up her brilliant show with three more medals in the 8-10 age category of road race and rink race of the 50th National Roller Skating Federation of India held in Mumbai on January 25. Khushi bagged three bronze medals in the same event.

AN INTENSE BATTLE ON THE CARDS

Strongest Ever Field Assembles For 3rd Edition Of Gujarat Kensville Challenge

Ajit Bezbaruah | TNN

Ahmedabad: An array of champions from European, Asian and PGTTI Tours has arrived in Ahmedabad for the third edition of the Gujarat Kensville Challenge making it by far the strongest the event has seen so far. The event, which has now become the regular season-opener for both the Indian PGTTI and the European Challenge Tours, will for the first time feature a Major champion, Rich Beem, who won the 2002 PGA Championship, ahead of Tiger Woods. The competitive field also includes former European Tour winners — Rhys Davies, Raymond Russell, Jose-Phillipe Lima and Daniel Vansick. There are also several Asian Tour winners, like the 2011 Kensville winner Gaganjeet Bhullar (4 wins), Shiv Kapur, Rahil Gangjee, Himmat Rai and old warhorse Gaurav Ghei (3 wins).

This year both Bhullar and Gangjee exude tremendous confidence on eve of the tournament.

"I am confident and chances are definitely high but in golf you never know," said Bhullar and added: "You have many European Tour winners here this week, so it will be different and a lot will depend on how you play in those four days. I had a very good round today (nine birdies) and I am sure I should be able to take the same form forward into the main tournament."

Gangjee said: "Yesterday and today, I played pretty good. Today I shot four-under. I had a long holiday, but last week was good preparation. The course is playing much better than it did last year, more lush green and I hope to repeat last year's show."

Scott Barr is a surprise entrant, hav-



Gaganjeet Bhullar

ing last played in the Challenge Tour back in 2008. The other player, who makes his maiden appearance in Kensville is Terry Pilkadaris, a former three-time winner on Asian Tour. Two other youngsters who could make an impact on international golf in the near future and return to Kensville after making their debut here last year are An Byeong-hun and Peter Uihlein, the 2009 and 2010 US Amateur champions.

Adding to the excitement is a bunch of young Indians, who are turning pro with this event, led by two-time Indian amateur champion Seenappa Chikkrangappa, Angad Cheema, the reigning Indian amateur champion, 16-year-old Shubhankar Sharma, Khalin Joshi and Honey Baisoya.

Another player hoping the event will do the same for him is Shiv Kapur. He said, "The second half of 2012 was fine with a string of top-10s and I ended the year with my first win in a long time against a very strong field at home."

City trio wins Pro-Am event, Bhullar's praise

Ajit Bezbaruah | TNN

Ahmedabad: It was a memorable outing for three youngsters from Ahmedabad — Varun Parikh, Anshul Patel and Kairav Shah — at the Pro-Am event of the Gujarat Kensville Challenge 2013. They won the Pro-Am event with a combined score of 53 (minus 19) over a strong and experienced field. But more than the awards, the three youngsters will return home richer with the invaluable experience they got by spending time with Gaganjeet Bhullar, one of the best pro golfers in the country.

Even Bhullar was all praise for the trio. "I heard before tee off that they are some of the best juniors from Gujarat and it was a pleasure playing with them because they all are really good," he said.

Bhullar said: "Anshul is left-handed and I have never seen a better left-handed swing in my life. He has got the perfect mechanics and he was in the Hank Hane Academy in the US (one of the finest golf schools in the world)."

About Varun, Bhullar said that "he has a very good temperament and a good overall game."

"There are so many golf courses in Gujarat, hopefully we will see some good golfers coming out of Gujarat. And these three kids might start the golf

revolution Gujarat badly needs," said Bhullar.

The youngsters were so thrilled to play with the champion golfer that they couldn't stop praising how good Bhullar was. "I hardly remember seeing an India pro hitting the ball with such perfection and accuracy. It was the fairway and the green and the putts were right on the middle of the cup, no edges," said Anshul.

"You really learn a lot by seeing such a champion from so close. The way he concentrates before his shots and the way he executes them. And he does that not once or twice but consistently, which shows his class," said Varun and declared: "There is no stopping Bhullar from winning this one."

Whether Bhullar wins the tourney or not, only time will tell but there is no doubt that he was won these kids over.



Parimal Nathwani, group president, Corporate Affairs, Reliance Industries Ltd, gives away prize to one of the winners

Real a divided house, says Iker's girlfriend

Madrid: Real Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas' girlfriend, television sports journalist Sara Carbonero, said Tuesday there was a split between the team's players and coach Jose Mourinho.

"It is the popular opinion that the players don't get on with their coach at all," 28-year-old Carbonero told Mexican television station Televisa.

"Right now, there is a split in the changing room and we will have to wait until the end of the season to see if Mourinho ends up going because he has many fronts open here at Real Madrid," she said.

Spain's biggest selling sports daily *Marca* last week said Casillas and fellow captain Sergio Ramos had urged club chairman Florentino Perez to fire Mourinho before next season. According to *Marca*, they warned that several Real Madrid players would leave if the Portuguese stayed on next season. AFP

A dream come true for fans

Kunaal Majgaonkar & Samidha Sharma | TNN

The world thought it would take nine lives and a little more for anyone who has anything to do with Arsenal to get their hands on the holy grail of European club football: the UEFA Champions League trophy. Season after season has faded away, with the big boys, the also-rans and even the unknowns bouncing with the cherished cup every year while we Gooners, have only just looked on. But Wednesday, in a way, turned that around for two Arsenal fans.

Rolling across Mumbai, the sixth edition of the trophy designed by Jurg Stadelmann, made a stopover at the Times of India office and all the daunting thoughts of squaring up against Bayern Munich in a little more than a fortnight ceased to bother the moment the case concealing it was opened.

There may have been no roar of a stadium possessed, no uncorking of the bubbly or streamers and confetti in red and white raining down on us. But it all played out in the head the moment we got our hands



The UEFA Champions League trophy at The Times Of India office in Mumbai on Wednesday

to something that Arsene Wenger has tirelessly craved for over the last 16 years.

Running our fingers over the list of past winners inscribed on the trophy, somewhere down we hoped we'd come across Arsenal. Instead what we found were obscure names of clubs that had tasted Champions League glory. There were even those names that had us nod in disbelief (the blue half of London), and sprouting sinister thoughts to simply scratch them off.

There wasn't an avalanche of shutterbugs when we lifted the trophy but the ever-believing Arsenal voices inside us spoke of how we were holding something that could be 'ours' this May. Something that Arsene Wenger would cry when he held while his bunch of fighters who were written off stood and applauded. Something that turned our bitterness to empathy for Wenger. We feel you, Professor! We've touched something we want you to hold.

SNAP SHOTS

Lakers hold off Hornets

The Los Angeles Lakers continued to build on their recent momentum with a 111-106 win over the New Orleans Hornets on Tuesday, as the home team stayed off a late rally to register a third consecutive victory.

Kobe Bryant dished out 11 assists and Dwight Howard scored 24 points as Los Angeles, comfortably in control at 98-80 midway through the fourth quarter, almost blew the win when the Hornets put together a 16-2 run in the closing stages.

Nadal keeping expectations low before comeback: Spaniard Rafa Nadal is keeping his expectations low ahead of his long-awaited return to competitive action in early February after seven months out of tennis with a knee injury. The 26-year-old French Open champion has not played since losing to Czech Lukas Rosol in the second round at Wimbledon in June due to a partial tear of the patella tendon and inflammation in his left knee.

Neha moves into four-shot lead, Vani drops: Neha Tripathi played a flawless brilliant back nine of three-under 33 to come up with an even par 72, which catapulted her into the lead at the end of round 2 in the opening event of the 2013 Hero Women's Professional Golf Tour in Kolkata on Wednesday. Playing at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club, Neha, lying second after the first round of 77, has a total of 149. Neha is four shots clear of Smriti Mehra (77-76), who is at 153. First round leader Vani Kapoor plummeted down with an 80 and has a total of 155.

IOC plans to cut one sport in Feb, add another in May: Olympic sport will learn next month that its Games future is in jeopardy when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) meets to decide the shape of the summer Games from 2020. The IOC's executive board, meeting in Lausanne on Feb. 12 and 13, will pick a core of 25 summer Olympic sports that will be put to a single vote at their session in Argentina in September. "The IOC in February is expected to make a recommendation on the 25 core sports to be put up for a vote in Buenos Aires," an IOC official said on Wednesday.

Dortmund boss aims to be Guardiola's 'Mourinho': Borussia Dortmund coach Jürgen Klopp has said he wants to be the Bundesliga's version of Jose Mourinho to rival Bayern Munich's head coach Pep Guardiola for the 2013/14 season. Having won 14 titles in the four years he spent as Barcelona coach, Guardiola often went head-to-head with Real Madrid boss Jose Mourinho in Spanish football's 'El Clásico' rivalry. AGENCIES

HC puts shuttle in Prajakta's court

Rosy Sequeira | TNN

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Wednesday asked badminton player Prajakta Sawant if she is ready to withdraw her allegation of harassment against chief coach Pullela Gopichand after the latter held out an olive branch saying there is a need to move forward in the interest of the sport and the nation.

The 20-year-old doubles player ranked 48 in the world moved

>>>BADMINTON MITIGATION IN SIGHT

court in November 2012 saying she was kept out of national coaching camp at Hyderabad for the China, Hong Kong and Macau series because she requested a change of her doubles and mixed doubles partners. A division bench of Chief Justice Mohit Shah and Justice Anoop Mohta at the last hearing had directed BAI to consider her entry for the up-

coming German Open in February and the All England Open in March 2013.

Sawant's advocate Piyush Shah said she has been allowed to participate in these tournaments but at her own cost.

"The harassment continues till today," he added. The judges questioned why BAI could not send Sawant at the government's expense. BAI's advocate replied the decision to sponsor is on the basis of performance of players and currently Sawant's performance does not merit inclusion in the team. He said there are players without rankings who are paying for their travel and lodging. He said senior doubles player Jwala Gutta, who will partner Sawant, is being sent on behalf of the BAI and Sawant is not part of the core group.

When he sought a longer time to take instructions on whether BAI would sponsor Sawant, Justice Shah asked, "You want her to spend her time in court?" The lawyer then said he shall tell the court during the week.

Doctor Dope had clients in soccer and tennis too

Madrid: Spanish doctor Eufemiano Fuentes, accused of masterminding a doping ring in cycling, told a court on Tuesday he also had clients in other sports including soccer, tennis, athletics and boxing after finally taking the stand in a high-profile and much-delayed trial.

Fuentes and four other defendants are appearing before a Madrid judge almost seven years after

police seized anabolic steroids, transfusion equipment and blood bags as part of an investigation code-named 'Operation Puerto'.

The trial has attracted close international scrutiny because anti-doping authorities, who are represented in court, are hopeful it will finally lead to evidence of wrongdoing by athletes in sports other than cycling being made available. REUTERS

Rangers halt Manchester City's charge

London: Manchester City, poised to sell striker Mario Balotelli, could not crack resilient Queens Park Rangers and in-form goalkeeper Julio Cesar in a 0-0 draw at the Premier League's basement club on Tuesday.

City closed the gap on leaders Manchester United to four points but a frustrating night for Roberto Mancini's side in a wet and windy capital handed United the chance to increase their advantage to seven when they host Southampton on Wednesday.

"Julio Cesar saved everything and we made some mistakes - on another day maybe we could have scored four goals," Mancini, who signed the Brazilian back in 2005

when he was Inter Milan manager, said.

United have 56 points with City on 52.

Aston Villa's season continued to lurch from bad to worse after 2-1 defeat against fellow strugglers Newcastle United. This dropped the free-falling Midlands club into the relegation zone.

Wigan Athletic moved above Villa and out of the drop zone on goal difference after coming from two goals down to draw 2-2 at Stoke City.

Mancini, who left Balotelli out of his squad with the Italy striker set to move back home to Serie A with AC Milan, went for broke in the second-half with his remaining three front-line strikers Sergio Agueiro,

Carlos Tevez and substitute Edin Dzeko all on the pitch.

But they were thwarted by sturdy defending and the irrepressible Cesar.

Lazio edge out Juventus

Rome: Lazio beat Juventus 2-1 after a dramatic finish to a pulsating Italian Cup semifinal second leg on Tuesday to seal their place in the final against either Inter Milan or city rivals AS Roma. With the tie level at 1-1 after last week's first leg in Turin, Lazio took the lead on the night at the Stadio Olimpico when Alvaro Gonzalez headed in a measured Cristian Ledesma cross.

It looked as if that goal would be enough to take Vladi-

mir Petkovic's side through to their first national Cup final since 2009, but then Juve hit back a minute into injury time when Arturo Vidal reacted quickest inside the penalty box to stab the ball home.

Results: Lazio 2 (Gonzalez 53, Floccari 90+3) Juventus 1 (Vidal 90+1), Lazio win 3-2 on aggregate.

Shenhua dispute Drogba's Galatasaray deal

Shanghai: Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba remains under contract with Shanghai Shenhua and his transfer this week to Turkish club Galatasaray is a violation of those terms, the Chinese side said on Wednesday. AGENCIES

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